



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

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Selective Service Welcomes New Chief of Staff



As a Presidential appointee, William M. Christian assumed the duties as Selective Service's Chief of Staff on February 4, 2008. As the senior staff officer, Christian serves as the principal advisor to the Director and coordinates activities of various staff sections under the Office of the Director.

In addition to working in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, the native West Texan served on the staffs of U.S. Senators John Tower, Phil Gramm, and U.S. Representative Tom Loeffler. Christian's last assignment on Capitol Hill was Chief of Staff for Congressman John Culberson.

Before being named Chief of Staff, Christian served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations in the University of Texas System's Washington, DC, office for five years. Mr. Christian has also served as the Co-Chair of the Coalition for National Security Research, on the Executive Committee of the Council of Government Affairs within the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, on the Executive Committee of The Science Coalition, and on the Council of Federal Relations for the Association of American Universities.

Born in 1963, Christian earned a degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin. Christian, a graduate of the Naval War College, is a Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, where he served the Selective Service System as a Reserve Force Officer assigned to Detachment 7-1. His military awards include the Joint Military Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal,

National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, United Nations Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation.

In 2003, Christian returned to his home in Midland, TX, to run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, in a special election to fill a vacancy created by the early retirement of then-Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Congressman Larry Combest (R-Lubbock).

In his spare time, Christian serves on the board of trustees of the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, and he is currently the first vice president of the Texas State Society of Washington, DC, the largest organization of its kind in the national capital region. Christian is also the vice president for leadership in the Texas Lyceum Association, an association of 96 men and women under the age of 46 whose purposes are—among other things—to identify and develop the next generation of top leadership in the State of Texas.

Christian's hobbies include marathon running, coaching The RBIs of Texas (a co-ed softball team), and serving as a commissioner in the U.S. Senate Softball League. He is a founding partner of Rappahannock Timber Frame Company, a construction firm based in Sperryville, VA. SSS

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Annual Wreath Laying at the Hershey Grave Site

With Cherry Blossoms in full bloom, the annual Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada – United States (ANAVICUS) Unit breakfast meeting was held March 31, 2008. Richard Flahavan, Associate Director for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs, and alumnus Mark Wilson, a former senior program analyst in the Operations Directorate, participated in this year's event. Both Flahavan and Wilson are long-time members of ANAVICUS.

Following the breakfast meeting, ANAVICUS members were invited to attend the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the grave site of General Lewis B. Hershey, a well-respected and former president of the United States Unit. The Hershey Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) has co-hosted this event annually as part of the mid-winter ANAVICUS breakfast meeting. Representing the Selective Service System, Flahavan and Wilson are members of the ROA Hershey Chapter.

The Canadian Acting Dominion President Gordon Marsh, the U.S. Unit President John (Jake) Comer, and others joined a convoy of private vehicles and motored to Arlington National Cemetery for the commemorative wreath-laying ceremony.

As is the tradition, the Canadian and U.S. presidents placed the ANAVICUS wreath at General Hershey's grave. Then, Flahavan, Wilson, and an Old Guard escort walked up and placed the Selective Service wreath beside the grave. Once the wreaths were placed, the Old Guard played Taps and a hand salute was rendered.

General Hershey's name has long been synonymous with Selective Service. In addition to being honored as a former ANAVICUS U.S. President, he was also an American

Legion member. Selective Service Director from 1941 to 1970, General Hershey led an agency which enabled tens of millions of men in the U.S. to answer the call to duty and serve their country. Draftees served throughout the Hershey years, in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and all periods in between.

ANAVICUS was formed after World War II to maintain the bond that was established between veterans in Canada and the United States during the war. The organization has a history of distinguished members from both the military and diplomatic professions. Many current and former Selective Service employees and board members are active members in the organization. SSS



ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY — Top photo, Acting Dominion President Gordon Marsh and U.S. Unit President Jake Comer catch up on current affairs. Bottom photo, hand salute rendered during Taps. From left to right are Dominion President Marsh, U.S. President Comer, Richard Flahavan, Mark Wilson, and Old Guard escort.

Camden 28

New Jersey State Director Shares Personal Experience

At the release of a film documentary about an anti-war movement, New Jersey State Director Fred Klepp shared his personal experience surrounding the case of a break-in of a Selective Service local draft board in Camden, NJ. The documentary, "Camden 28," which aired on PBS in September 2007, told the whole story of the break-in and the subsequent arrests.

State Director Klepp wrote of his experience first hand:

Not long after I joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey, in 1970, I was sent to Trenton, NJ, as the Assistant U.S. Attorney in charge of that office. When I arrived, the FBI investigation of the conspiracy and break-in of the Camden Selective Service System Local Board had completed and the arrests had been made. The trial was begun not long afterwards. I was not the prosecutor, but was associated with the trial as a result of speaking with the prosecutor and the FBI agents and other court officials after a day's work.


Camden, located just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, PA, was the scene where 28 "Catholic left" anti-Vietnam War activists attempted to destroy Selective Service records kept in a local board office. The group's members were not stereotypical anti-Vietnam activists. They were young students and "hippies," as well as blue-

color workers, devout Catholics, and four Catholic priests and a Protestant minister.

The raid was planned for the early hours of Sunday, August 22, 1971. It resulted in a high-profile trial against the activists that was seen by many as a referendum on the Vietnam War. According to Courier-Post Staff writer Kim Mulford, in an article announcing the PBS airing, "The religious anti-war movement believed that killing, even in war, was morally indefensible. They were especially angered by the Vietnam War's effects on poor cities like Camden."

After the group's acquittal, Supreme Court Justice William Brennan called it "one of the greatest trials of the 20th century."

One of the 28 acquitted, Reverend Michael Doyle, a Catholic priest in Camden, and State Director Klepp have since become acquaintances. Klepp added they see each other from time to time. Reverend Doyle still serves at Sacred Heart Parish in South Camden.

"Camden 28" is a 2007 "Point of View" documentary film, which was researched, produced, and released by Anthony Giacchino. "Point of View" is a PBS television series which features independent nonfiction films. 

Colonel Izlar Awarded Legion of Merit

Colonel Robert L. Izlar, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.), former Selective Service detachment commander for Georgia, was awarded the Legion of Merit for his dedicated service with the U.S. Army and Selective Service from June 1, 1982, through December 31, 2004. Region II Director Keith Scragg presented the award at a special ceremony at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA, on January 17, 2008.

The award citation commended Colonel Izlar for his pride and professionalism, specifically in Selective Service's board member program. Col Izlar served as an area office coordinator for Selective Service. For 11 consecutive years, every presidentially appointed, citizen volunteer board member in his area attended Selective Service's annual training sessions. Region II Director Scragg said this is a major accomplishment, since no one else in the region had



LEGION OF MERIT — Colonel Robert Izlar, USAR (Ret.), is shown with the Legion of Merit presented by Region II Director Keith Scragg. Pictured from left to right are wife, Nancy, son, Colonel Izlar, Region Director Scragg, Georgia State Director Debbie Rondem, and her husband, Ronnie.

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Major General Tackett Awarded the Gold

Major General Allen Tackett, The Adjutant General for the West Virginia National Guard, was presented with the Selective Service System Distinguished Service Award with Gold Medal for his outstanding support to the agency. West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin presented the award to General Tackett



at a special ceremony at the state capitol on January 30, 2008. Brigadier General Jack Yeager, U.S. Army National Guard (Ret.), Selective Service's State Director for West Virginia, was also on hand during the award presentation.

State Director Yeager reports, "We had a room full of soldiers in the governor's reception room. Our Reserve Force Officers were present, as were two TV stations and the local papers. Both the Governor and Major General Tackett reflected a good deal of knowledge about Selective Service in their remarks."

General Tackett was quoted in the West Virginia MetroNews article, "Draft Registration High in WV" (January 30, 2008), that he hopes there is never a need in the United States for another draft, but the country needs to be ready. "It's extremely important for emergencies or for anything that would happen that would jeopardize our country," added the General. He was noted to brush off the accolades and replied, "I'm basically a figurehead; all of these people, who work for me, make these things happen."

General Tackett was commended for his many years of outstanding support to Selective Service programs. Yeager highlighted that, not only has General Tackett supplied outstanding support for board member programs, the high school registrar program, registration awareness, and recruiting officers to staff the Selective Service National Guard detachment

in Charleston, WV, he also was instrumental in the passage of driver's license legislation. Yeager added this legislation has significantly improved registration compliance in West Virginia.

The award citation reads, "Major General Allen E. Tackett, The Adjutant General for the State of West Virginia, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service from September 11, 1995, to July 1, 2007, in support of the Selective Service System. During this period, General Tackett consistently ensured the Selective Service System State Director for West Virginia received the support he needed to perform the agency's mission. ..."

Appointed The Adjutant General for the West Virginia National Guard on September 11, 1995, General Tackett provides command guidance and vision to the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard of more than 6,000 citizen soldiers and airmen. He began his military career in the West Virginia Army National Guard as a Private with the 16th Special Forces Group on January 20, 1963, and attended Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, on June 27, 1967. General Tackett served with the Special Forces 25 years, culminating with his tour as the Battalion Commander, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). SSS



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY — From left to right are Lieutenant Colonel Marvin Morgan, of West Virginia Detachment 2, Governor Manchin, General Tackett, State Director Yeager, and Captain Robert Markley, member of the West Virginia Detachment 2.

Legion of Merit *Continued from page 3*


come close to achieving a perfect board member training attendance of 100 percent. In addition, the local boards in Colonel Izlar's area were 100-percent staffed for 12 consecutive years.

Another example of Colonel Izlar's significant contributions was his support and efforts in showcasing Selective Service's important work to Congress and the United States. In 1998, as executive officer of his reserve unit, Colonel Izlar was asked by the director of Selective Service to come to National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to assist in this key project. He received a commendation medal for his successful contribution.

Colonel Izlar was also recognized for his service with Region II Headquarters. Because of his exceptional speaking abilities and outstanding success with the board member program, Colonel Izlar was routinely called upon as a guest speaker at Selective Service's annual state directors and commanders' conferences. His presentations were well received and improved readiness throughout the Region.


For many years, Colonel Izlar served as the conference director for Selective Service's initial board member training at the agency's annual new officer and state director training sessions. Because of his dedication to excellence, these training sessions were conducted flawlessly.

In his long and distinguished career with the Selective Service System, Colonel Izlar's most stellar accomplishment was the key role he played in passage of state law to require registration with Selective Service when obtaining a Georgia driver's license or identification card. His direct support was vital to this effort, which increased registration compliance of 19- and 20-year-old men in Georgia to nearly 100 percent.

The citation concludes, "The outstanding accomplishments of Colonel Izlar reflect great credit upon himself, the Selective Service System, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense." Selective Service wishes to extend its thanks to Colonel Izlar for a job well done! 

Region III Hosts Board Member Training

Region III hosted an initial board member training in Tigard, OR. Reserve Force Officers from the Oregon detachment led the five-hour training session. At the conclusion of the training, a special presentation was made to recognize retiring Keith Harn, who served 20 years as a dedicated board member.

Selective Service wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the two decades of service. 



LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS — Above: Mr. Keith Harn received a certificate of appreciation after serving 20 years as a board member for Oregon. From left to right are Major John Minarich and Lieutenant Colonel Sharon Banks, Reserve Force Officers from Oregon Detachment, and Mrs. Harn and honoree Keith Harn. Left: Board members review Selective Service regulations and procedures at the initial board member training session.

Award Leads to Another Distinguished Service Award

New Hampshire State Director recognized for his dedicated service

In 2007, Selective Service's New Hampshire State Director Robert Dastin received the Governor Wentworth Achievement Award. The award was presented at the New Hampshire National Guard Association's annual meeting of the State Association. Based on this award, State Director Dastin was nominated for the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Service Medal, presented to him later in 2007, at their annual meeting in Puerto Rico.



Brigadier General Robert Dastin, State Director for New Hampshire

According to the award citation, Brigadier General Robert E. Dastin, U.S. Air National Guard (Ret.), was presented the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Service Medal for:

Meritorious service to the National Guard and the Department of Defense as an active and now retired member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard. General Robert E. Dastin has provided

extraordinary vision, leadership, dedication, and personal sacrifice over the past two decades in his efforts on the Board of Directors of the National Guard Association of New Hampshire (NGANH); Assistant Adjutant General for Air, New Hampshire Air National Guard; State Chairman for Employers Support to the Guard and Reserves; State Director of New Hampshire Selective Service Commission; and Chairman of the Board of the major non-profit organization which was the backbone for bringing the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery into being. His untiring leadership and on-going mentoring of emerging leaders in the NGA NH ensured the organization continues to be viable today. Through his shining example of service before self and visible patriotism, he continues to inspire and motivate leaders in the NGA NH and the New Hampshire National Guard today.

State Director Dastin notes he was very proud to receive the award. Selective Service congratulates State Director Dastin for these special recognitions and is very pleased to have him working on our team as state director. [SSS](#)

Special Recognitions for 20 Years of Service

Two West Virginia board members received their 20-year appreciation certificates and medals from Selective Service. Mr. Richard Kellum was a member of a district appeal board, and Mr. James Clendenin was a member of a local board. A board member's term of service is limited by law to 20 years.

Selective Service, Region II Headquarters, and West Virginia State Director Jack Yeager extend best wishes to these gentlemen. Special thanks for the fine service both have rendered to Selective Service and to their country. [SSS](#)



20-YEAR SERVICE RECOGNITION
— Brigadier General Jack Yeager, U.S. Army National Guard (Ret.), West Virginia State Director, presents 20-year certificates and medals to Richard Kellum (left photo) and James Clendenin (above).

Observing Women's History Month

March was designated National Women's History Month. President George W. Bush stated in his proclamation on Women's History Month, dated March 11, 2008:

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courage, foresight, and resolve of women who have strengthened our democracy.

America has been transformed by strong women whose contributions shaped the history of our country. ...

This year National Headquarters held a special program recognizing and celebrating women of the past. As the agency's Federal Women's Program Manager, Matilda Slagle, Executive Assistant to the Director, kicked off the program with opening remarks providing a background to Women's History Month.

Jennie Nash, manager of Operations' Planning Division, read a famous poem written by John Mitchum and narrated by John Wayne, "America, Why I Love Her."


A special guest from the National Park Service, Park Ranger Jennifer Epstein, followed with a presentation highlighting famous women who have left their mark in history. She told her story, as well as many stories behind the scenes of various historic places.

Park Ranger Epstein is one of 20,000 employees of the National Park Service. She has worked at Gettysburg, Jamestown, and the Adams National Historical Park. Currently, Epstein works in the Division of Interpretation at Washington, D.C. National Mall. Her main duty is education outreach, in which she rotates with other rangers among seven sites on the Mall, giving talks and answering questions.

Selective Service attendees chuckled when Park Ranger Epstein somehow found a way to connect her hero, John Adams, to almost every story she told.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM — Top: Park Ranger Jennifer Epstein tells the story behind the story, just as the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, there is a woman." Center: Matilda Slagle opens with welcoming remarks. Bottom: Selective Service employees (from left to right) Rose Miller, Pat Schuback, and Renee Miller enjoy the presentation.

Within Selective Service, women in the field, the regions, the Data Management Center, and at National Headquarters have played and continue to play an important role in supporting our country's national resolve. Director William Chatfield extends special thanks to all the women of the Selective Service System. 

In Memoriam

Former State Director Phillip Sherman dies

Brigadier General Phillip Sherman, a retired Army National Guard and former Maryland State Director for the Selective Service System, died March 13, 2008. He was 80 years old.

General Sherman served as Selective Service's Maryland State Director from 1987 until 1998. A prominent Baltimore attorney, who maintained his law practice right up to his death, he had numerous interests. General Sherman was a noted and respected authority on Sherlock Holmes and was a member of the Six Napoleons, the Bakers Street Irregulars in New York City, and a founder and member of The Sign of The Four, all Sherlock Holmes organizations.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider said, "Phil knew more about legal history, military matters, and Sherlock Holmes than anyone I ever met." Judge Schneider and General Sherman founded the Museum of Baltimore Legal History in 1984. General Sherman was the longtime historian of the Maryland State Bar Association and edited the newsletter, which he titled Pearls of Wisdom.

In 1944, General Sherman joined the Maryland National Guard at age 17. And during the ensuing 43 years, he held numerous command and staff assignments, including being the commander of a Selective Service System detachment.

He was a natural leader whose dedication and passion for excellence drew followers wherever he went. Because of his vast knowledge of Selective Service policies and procedures, he was called in to train new state directors. Region headquarters personnel would often seek his advice on Selective Service matters. He had a unique ability with personnel leadership and motivation and served as a mentor for numerous former and present Selective Service personnel. Even after he retired as State Director, General Sherman maintained his interest in the Selective Service System and its people by regular calls to the region headquarters. Tom White, director of Region I headquarters, said, "He was a really great guy, and we will all miss him."

He is survived by his wife, Bette; daughter, Lynn Sherman Lyon, of Ruxton, MD; son, Mark L. Sherman, of Jerusalem; a brother Lee M. Sherman, of Wilmington, NC; and six grandchildren. SSS



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The Register welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Send article submissions to Editor, *The Register*, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209-2425.