



# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

Harrisburg Chapter #76 — York Camp, Heroes of '76



## President's Message

Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 News  
CW5 Darwin Gaston, President

Please plan to join us for our April's meeting. Our guest speakers for the evening will be the three 2024 Essay Contest winners. The theme for this year's contest was "State Three Causes of the American Revolution". It is always great to hear these young students present their essays and see them receive their awards. Let's have another big turnout in April and show our support for these three Essay Contest winners. The three winning essays from Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 have been submitted to National Sojourners for further judging at a national level.



## 2024 Essay Contest

Issue #40 April 2024

At the April 11 Sojourners meeting, we will host the three winners of the 2024 Essay Contest and their parents. They will present their essays to the group and receive their awards. The three winning essays from Chapter 76, have been submitted to national for further judging at a national level. National prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place include a plaque and cash prizes of \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000, respectively. Hint: all three winners are from the same high school!

Glenn R. Kurzenknabe, PP  
Essay Contest Chairman

I want to thank everyone for coming out for our March meeting and recognizing all our Vietnam Veterans! We had over 90 members present that evening and I hope we can continue those kinds of numbers every month. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those that are unable to physically be with us at our meeting. Continue to support our former and current armed forces members, law enforcement and first responders for their service and sacrifice for us all.



*This is a depiction of the Battle of Guilford Court House, in Gen. Nathaniel Greene's southern jurisdiction. Brother Jon Vickery's ancestor Marmaduke "Duke" Vickery, alongside his son John Vickery, fought in that battle.*

## Web Site links for you;

National Sojourners - <https://nationalsojourners.org/>

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania - <http://www.pagrandlodge.org>

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge - <http://www.freedomsfoundation.org>

Military Order of World Wars - <http://www.moww.org>

Copy and paste the link to your browser for more information

## Scheduled Guest Speakers

11 Apr 24 - The Three Youth Essay Contest Winners

9 May 24 - Commander Steve Funck, Ret USN

13 Jun 24 - Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe, PP, Installation of 2024-2025 Chapter Officers

### HEROES' Bivouacs

25 Apr 24 - Bivouac/Encampment and Hero Initiation 6:00pm

23 May 24 - Bivouac/Encampment and Hero Initiation 6:00pm

## Harrisburg Chapter #76 MEMBERSHIP

As of February 29, 2024

Primary Members-In-Perpetuity	241
Annual Active Members	39
Honorary Members-In-Perpetuity	34
Annual Honorary Members	4
Multiple Members-In-Perpetuity	26
Total Chapter Membership	344

York Camp Heroes of '76 165

The Chapter also has 197 Inactive Members-In-Perpetuity who laid down their working tools.

## Toast to the Flag by Brother Ben Hoenich





### **Education & Training**

#### **by Brother Secretary Tom Gordon**

##### **A Short History ...**

About 1876, Brother E. B. Jones, a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, composed a ritual for a side Degree and called it the "Heroes of 76." Its innocent and enjoyable nature made it most popular with the Craft. A notice in the newspapers announcing a meeting of Heroes after the close of the Lodge always brought out a large attendance.

During the lifetime of Brother Jones, no one conferred the Degree but himself. Before his death, he gave a copy of the ritual to Brother Thomas J. Flournoy, a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky. After Brother Jones' death, many craftsmen insisted that Brother Flournoy revive the Degree. This Brother Flournoy did, conferring the Degree upon selected Masons of many states.

Brother Flournoy passed to the Great Beyond at Rockmart, Georgia, on September 5, 1925. Sometime before his death, he gave a copy of the ritual to Brother Colonel Christopher Van Deventer, his nephew, with authority to confer the Degree upon selected Masons.

Brother Van Deventer, an active Sojourner, considered that the National Sojourners was the logical organization for the custodianship of the ritual as it is most appropriate to our membership. The Degree was therefore instituted in Chicago Chapter in July 1922 and the first Camp organized there. In June 1923, George Washington Camp was instituted by Brother Van Deventer and several Heroes from Chicago.

Since that time, Camps have been organized in nearly all of the Chapters of National Sojourners and form an enjoyable part of the Chapter activities. The Degree has never been commercialized and its founders never intended that it should have any other purpose than to give enjoyment and innocent pleasure to Brother Masons and Sojourners. It has never had any initiation fee or dues. To receive and retain the Degree you must be a Master Mason and a Sojourner in good standing.

*Refer to the work Heroes of '76: History of the Order by Clarence M. Nelson, Captain, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired National Historian, for a more detailed history of the order.*



### **Scottish Rite Spring Reunion of the Valley of Harrisburg**

If you have a desire to continue your Masonic journey, you need to consider joining the Scottish Rite. That opportunity will be available at the Spring Reunion of the Valley of Harrisburg.

It will be held on May 17 and 18, 2024 (Friday evening - arrive at 4:00 PM for dinner and registration) There is a full day on Saturday and the Valley closes by 5:00 PM. All degrees are conferred in a "class setting", if that concerns you. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be served.

You will see nine meaningful and inspiring degrees and become a 32nd Degree Mason! The cost is \$290. Make checks payable to the "Valley of Harrisburg". ***I need your petition and check by May 10, latest!***

You can ask another member to sign it, or I will take care of getting it signed. Call or e-mail with questions or to request a petition.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Bro. Glenn R. Kurzenknabe, PP  
Phone: 717-774-1728  
E-mail: k3swz46@gmail.com

### **This month in military history**

#### **April 1862**

Pittsburg Landing, TN - Confederate forces composing the Army of the Mississippi under the command of General Albert S. Johnston launch a surprise attack against the Union Army of West Tennessee commanded by General Ulysses S. Grant.



To buy time as he hastily organized a defensive position around a small church called "Shiloh Meeting House" near the Tennessee River. Grant ordered some of his brigades to hold the outer perimeter at all costs. One such brigade, composed of the 9th, 12th and 15th Illinois Volunteer infantry regiments made a stand along a tree line beside a field soon to gain fame as the "Peach Orchard." For more than an hour this brigade blunted numerous Confederate attacks before finally being compelled to withdraw. Though it suffered heavy losses, their sacrifice allowed enough time for northern commanders to hold back the rebel attacks.

With reinforcements arriving by steamboats the night of the 6th Grant went on the attack on the 7th. After a second day of bloody combat, Grant won a clear and decisive victory, the first major Union success of the war. He would continue to win victories until finally accepting the Confederate surrender at Appomattox in 1865. Grant, who early in the war served as a Brigadier General in the Illinois militia, was elected as 18th President of the United States in 1868.



# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

Harrisburg Chapter #76 - York Camp, Heroes Chapter #76



## Our Brothers who served during the Vietnam War

Issue #40 April 2024



Harrisburg Chapter #76 members that attended our meeting Thursday, 14 March with boots on the ground and Navy veterans who served within 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam. The three ribbons (National Defense Service Ribbon, Vietnam Service Ribbon and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon) that servicemembers received during that time-frame.



E-5 Paul Fulton	1961-1962	U. S. Army
1LT William Hayes	1964-1965	U.S. Air Force
E-2 Daid Brunner	1965-1966	U.S. Air Force
LT/CPT Ronald Adams	1966-67 /1969-70	U.S. Army
E-6 Richard Shultz	1966-1967	U.S. Marines
E-4 James Carl	1966-1967	U.S. Air Force
LTC Jack Heinze	1967-68/1971-72	U.S. Army
ENS/LTJG/LT Timothy Frend	1967, 68, 70, 71, 72	U.S. Navy
LTJG Rolland Foor	1968-1969	U.S. Navy
E-5 David Christy	1968-1970	U.S. Navy
1LT Alan Fry	1969-1970	U.S. Army
SP4 Darwin Gaston	1969-1970	U.S. Army
E-4 Thomas Campbell	1969-1970	U.S. Army
CPT Barry Hitchcock	1970-1971	U.S. Army

## Scenes from our March Meeting



## Special Announcement !



It is my sad duty to report that our National President, SSgt (Ret) Charles Earl Warren, Sr., 33 degree, passed away on Easter morning. Please keep their family in your prayers.

In lieu of flowers, please make your donations to the National Sojourners Endowment Memorial Fund (SEM).

Please mail checks to:  
National Sojourners Headquarters  
7942-R Cluny Court  
Springfield, VA 22153

With a notation in the memo field:  
In memory of Chuck Warren NP #87 (2023-24):  
SSgt Charles Earl Warren, Sr., 33°

## March Guest Speaker;

**Colonel Charles M. Bechtel, USA**

**Former Director of Logistics, PA Army National Guard, Infantry Platoon Leader in Vietnam (1968)**





### *Procedures for New Memberships Initiation Dates and Membership Dues/Fees*

Applications with Dues/Fees, for New memberships into the Harrisburg Chapter #76 must be received by the Chapter Secretary before the monthly meeting the month prior to the month's meeting in which the candidate is to be Initiated into the National Sojourners.

Candidates seeking membership will be Initiated as New members at the Chapter meetings on April 11th and June 13th. Therefore, Applications with Dues/Fees of Candidates must be received by the Chapter Secretary prior to the monthly meetings of March 14th or May 9th.

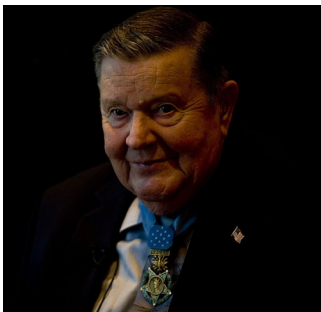
The applications for membership will be voted upon by the Chapter members present at the March and May meetings. Candidates will not be Initiated as Members at the same meeting in which their Applications are received.

New Member's dues for the calendar year 2024 are \$68.00 for those Candidates being Initiated in the April 11th or June 13th meeting. Membership-In-Perpetuity in \$733.00.

Candidates for membership will again be Initiated at the November 14th meeting, so any applications after June need to be given to the Chapter Secretary before the monthly meeting of October 10th. Dues at that time will include the 2025 annual dues, so the application will then require a payment of \$92.00.

Master Masons that wish to experience our Chapter's meetings and Programs are welcome to attend our meetings, as a guest.

If you have any questions concerning National Sojourners membership, please contact Chapter Secretary Tom Gordon at (717) 534-2478.



### *Distinguished Sojourners*

Lt. Col. Joe Jackson, born on 14 March 1923, in Newnan, Georgia, was an avid model aircraft enthusiast in his youth. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in March 1941, a few days after his 18th birthday, in hopes of learning more about aeronautics.

**World War II:** Nine months after he enlisted, the U.S. entered WW II and Jackson was assigned to serve as crew chief aboard a B-25 Mitchell bomber. As a testament to his early flight aptitude, he helped save his fellow crewman by assisting his aircraft's pilot during an engine fire. Soon after, Jackson successfully completed Aviation Cadet Training and became a commissioned officer. He flew P-40 Warhawks and P-63 Kingcobras throughout the war, and ended the war at the controls of a B-24 Liberator bomber aircraft.

**Korea and early Cold War:** During the late 1940s, Jackson returned to flying fighter aircraft. During the Korean War, he successfully flew 107 combat missions in the F-84 Thunderjet.

**Vietnam:** After completing a staff tour in Europe, Jackson was assigned to fly the C-123 Provider over South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. While he flew 298 combat missions, it was his rescue mission on 12 May 1968 during the Battle of Kham Duc that earned him the nation's highest award for military valor. On 16 January 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Jackson with the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony. Also receiving the Medal of Honor that day was fellow Newnan native Stephen W. Pless, a Marine aviator who, like Jackson, had earned the decoration for an airborne rescue operation. Upon realizing that both Pless and Jackson were from the same small Georgia town, President Johnson quipped "there must be something in the water down in Newnan."

#### For Change of address, email address or telephone number

Tom Gordon, Chapter Secretary PHONE: (717) 534-2478  
120 Evergreen Lane  
Palmyra PA 17078-8918 EMAIL: tgordon1951@comcast.net

#### Chapter contact information

National website: <https://nationalsojourners.org>  
Facebook: "National Sojourners Harrisburg  
Chapter #76

"When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen." *George Washington*