

**Association of the United States Army
Sixth Region**



**2014 SIXTH REGION AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE***

**Presented at the Sixth Region
Spring Meeting
12 April 2014
Portland OR**

***Honoring service and accomplishments during the year ending
31 December 2013. Past honorees may be found in the Appendix.**

GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The General of the Armies John J. Pershing Distinguished Service Award honors the exceptional service of this most distinguished general officer that served as an Army brigade commander in the Sixth Region.

Born and raised in Laclede, Missouri, General Pershing graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York in 1886, where his leadership qualities were first evident by being the First Captain and elected President of his class. Initial assignments were on the Great Plains for the close of the Indian Wars, a tour as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Nebraska where he developed winning "Pershing Rifle" drill teams, and assignment as a tactical officer at West Point. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for combat valor in Cuba during the Spanish – American War.

Still a first lieutenant in 1900, he began the first of three Philippine tours with an assignment in the most southern Island of Mindanao where he learned the ways of the fierce, warlike Moro people. This would prove valuable experience in future years. After promotion to captain and serving in Washington, D.C., to include the Army War College, General Pershing was the Military Attaché to Japan and an observer of the Russo-Japanese War. In 1906, General Pershing was promoted from captain to brigadier general over 862 officers senior to him. Such promotion was recommended by all except one of the Army's serving general officers.

From 1907 to 1908, General Pershing commanded Fort McKinley in the Philippines and then was sent to be the Governor of Mindanao Province. Also, he commanded the Philippine Division. The next four years were spent defeating the fierce Moro warrior clans and bringing peace to the Province. For the most difficult campaign, General Pershing was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his front line leadership. He refused the medal stating the battle was won by the Philippine Division soldiers.

In 1914, General Pershing was assigned to command the 8th Brigade with Headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco, California. Because of trouble on the Mexican Border, he and his Brigade were ordered to Fort Bliss, Texas. Tragedy struck on the night of 27 August 1915, when fire engulfed the family's quarters at the Presidio. Mrs. Helen Francis (Warren) and three daughters perished. Only their 6-year-old son Warren survived. General Pershing was deployed to Fort Bliss at this time.

The family tragedy was followed by General Pershing leading the Punitive Expedition four hundred miles into Mexico. He was promoted to major general. The 11,000 man Punitive Expedition broke up the bandit band and withdrew from Mexico in February 1917, just as the United States was preparing to enter World War I. Now a major general, the highest rank in the Army and with proven combat experience, General Pershing was selected to command the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) and became the only person to hold the United States rank of General of the Armies that gave him equal status with European field marshals.

General of the Armies John J. Pershing served as Chief of Staff, United States Army, from 1921 to 1924 and retired on 13 September 1924. This finest United States Army general officer of his generation died in Walter Reed Army Hospital at 87 years of age, on 15 July 1948. His casket was displayed in the Rotunda of the Nation's Capitol Building followed by a funeral procession generally given for President to burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

The General of the Armies John J. Pershing Award is presented to COL (Retired) George D. Lanning, for his extraordinary service to the Association of the United States Army, the Sixth Region, the Columbia River Chapter, and the many thousands of Soldiers and military family members it serves. COL Lanning has meritoriously held seats as Chapter President for the Columbia River Chapter, State President for the state of Oregon, and the Sixth Region Presidency from 2008-2012. From mentoring to leading to developing, COL Lanning has supported the Soldiers and citizens of the Association of the United States Army. He exhibits the highest standards of integrity and loyalty. His motivational skills develop others into productive members and team players who maximize group potential. He is personable, a developed communicator, remains informed about the Army, is a commendable role model, and successfully leads by example. COL Lanning epitomizes the citizen Soldier and community leader. During his tenure as Sixth Region President, he developed the Sixth Region Executive Committee Guide and established the

Sixth Region Website. As a member of the Columbia River Chapter, he took on the role this past year as a part of the planning committee for the 2014 Sixth Region Spring Meeting. COL Lanning is a force driven by volunteerism and support for the American Soldier. His efforts on behalf of all Soldiers and military families reflects great credit upon himself, the Columbia River Chapter, the Sixth Region, and the Association of the United States Army.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. HEMPHILL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE REGION

The Major General John A. Hemphill award for outstanding contributions to the Region honors the Sixth Region President that served from 1996 to 2000. A 1951 U.S. Military Academy graduate, General Hemphill distinguished himself by conspicuous heroism in Korea and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor among the nation's awards for valor. General Hemphill's awards and decorations for valor in Korea and Vietnam as well as for meritorious service worldwide include the Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and four Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Republic of Korea Chung Mu Distinguished Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Army Distinguished Order, and numerous service medals and other foreign decorations.

Retiring from the Army in 1985, General Hemphill and his wife Peggy again became active in AUSA's Fort Lewis Chapter. In 1990 he became chapter president, rebuilding a moribund chapter and reestablishing AUSA at the Army's premier West Coast installation.

In 1996, General Hemphill was elected Sixth Region President and *ex officio* Trustee of the national organization. As Region President, General Hemphill gave his attention to rejuvenating chapters, to major expansion and organization of the Region's awards program, and to mentoring and coaching current and potential AUSA officers. He created AUSA's Gem State Chapter, centered on his hometown of Boise. He was the sparkplug for chapter improvements throughout Sixth Region and for fostering development of chapter officers to prepare AUSA's Far West for the many changes needed for a new century.

His revamped and expanded regional awards program was recognized as AUSA's most comprehensive and became a model for other regions' programs. In particular, his creation of the President's Medal as the Sixth Region's "knighthood" has become an inspiration to all. Among the officers he tirelessly mentored and coached have been three future Region presidents and countless current and future chapter officers. It is for these reasons, and others too numerous for this brief sketch, that a successor President and Executive Committee renamed the former "President's Award" in John Hemphill's honor.

Upon expiration of his term in 2000, General Hemphill became a Fort Lewis Chapter vice president. He chaired the Committee for the 50th Korean War Anniversary Commemoration that held events for POWs and other veterans and raised funds to purchase the newly authorized Republic of Korea Service Medal for presentation to 1200 Korean War veterans. He chaired the Committee for the 200th Anniversary of the epic Lewis and Clark Expedition. His committee bears the primary credit for Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Captain Meriwether Lewis Memorial Park with its sculptured bronze monumental statues honoring Captain Lewis and the Corps of Discovery. He also sparked a highly successful program to expand the Chapter and increase public support by creating subchapters in local municipalities. He also was the prime instigator and organizer of the regional Pacific Northwest National Security Defense Forum in Tacoma.

In 2008, the Association recognized and honored General Hemphill's uniquely dedicated and effective service to AUSA, Soldiers, and Families with its General Creighton W. Abrams Medal, presented annually to that member contributing the most to the advancement of the Army. The Abrams Medal is AUSA's highest internal award recognizing distinguished AUSA members and their accomplishments. Sixth Region is incredibly proud of Major General John A. Hemphill and his contributions to the Army, the Region, and the Association.

The Major General John A. Hemphill Award for Outstanding Service to the Region is presented to Major General Retired John T. Crowe, for his many years of service to the Association of the United States Army and the Sixth Region. The former Commanding General, 63d Regional Support Command has served in leadership roles in a multitude of civic, business and professional activities. In each of his military and civilian assignments, he was known as a trainer and mentor to all with whom he served. He exemplifies the role of the citizen-soldier. He served as the Chairman of the Army Reserve Forces Policy

Committee, where he fought tirelessly to improve understanding between the three components of the Army. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the recommendation of the approval of a third star for the Chief, Army Reserve and the Director of the Army National Guard. In 2003, he was inducted into the Senior Army Reserve Commanders Association Hall of Fame. His contributions to SARCA are numerous and he has been a stalwart on the Executive Committee and currently co-chairs the SARCA Issues Committee. His constant dedication in supporting the Sixth Region Presidency and his continuous service as the Sixth Region Vice President have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Sixth Region's success. His commitment to service, family, and volunteerism is unparalleled. He has had the staying power and determination required of this daunting position and has always fulfilled his obligations to the highest degree of proficiency. His doggedness in handling the Sixth Region Awards Program is the key to its success. His efforts on behalf of all Soldiers and military families reflects great credit upon himself, the Sixth Region, and the Association of the United States Army.

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY WILLIAM G. BAINBRIDGE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Sergeant Major Bainbridge was a native of Galesburg, Illinois. Drafted in 1943, his first unit of assignment was the 423rd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division, the last unit organized for WWII. Captured in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, Sergeant Major Bainbridge spent the remainder of the war in a German POW camp. Upon returning to the United States, he left active duty and joined the Army Reserve, but returned to active duty for the Korean War. Continuing on active duty, he was a Battalion Sergeant Major by the Vietnam War. Deploying to Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division, he became the Sergeant Major of II Field Force, a lieutenant general level command. Returning to the United States, Sergeant Major Bainbridge would be one of the Army's first Command Sergeant Majors. Subsequently, he was selected to be the first Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss Texas. In 1975, he was selected to be the Command Sergeant Major of the Army, serving in that position until retirement in 1979.

Sergeant Major of the Army Bainbridge's awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-North Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Combat infantryman Badge (Second Award).

Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge died 29 November 2008 at age 83 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on 29 January 2009.

In 2000, the Association of the United States Army established their Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge annual award to an active duty, Reserve Component serving or retired noncommissioned officer for a lifetime of selfless service to the Army and Nation. Since the Sixth Region already had its annual award to a noncommissioned officer named in honor of the Sergeant Major of the Army Bainbridge with the Sergeant Major's concurrence, the Sixth Region continues its annual Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Award for Excellence.

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Dennis R. Bowers (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Award for Excellence is presented to Command Sergeant Major Dennis R. Bowers, United States Army Retired, for exceptional service in support of soldiers and families on Joint Base Lewis-McChord and for over thirty years of faithful service to the Association of the United States Army. As member, vice chairman, and now chairman of the Captain Meriwether Lewis Corporate Member 555th Able Soldier and Family Fund, CSM(R) Bowers is responsible for improving and sustaining the effectiveness of the non-profit organization which cares for the families of the 555th Engineer Brigade's fallen and its wounded warriors, and has been the principal driver of its very successful fundraising efforts. Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Dennis Bower's exemplary accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself, the 555th Able Soldier and Family Fund, the 555th Engineer Brigade, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Eastside Subchapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

SERGEANT PATRICK GASS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Sergeant Patrick Gass award is named for one of the four sergeants of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Army task force that explored the Missouri and Columbia River systems in 1803-06 searching for a water route to the Pacific Ocean. He was born on 12 June 1771 in Falling Springs, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Gass was a carpenter in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania when he answered the call in 1799 to join the Army that was expanding from three to seventeen regiments because of expected war with France. The Quasi War emergency ended in 1800; however, the Army recruited those with promise that wanted to stay on for the pay of four dollars a month. He joined Captain Daniel Bissell's Company of the First Regiment of Infantry and was a private at Fort Kaskaskia, Illinois Territory in November 1803, when Captain Meriwether Lewis arrived looking for recruits. Captain Lewis was especially interested in the carpenter skills and got Private Gass released to join the Corps of Discovery.

When one of the sergeants died of natural causes in April 1804, the soldiers of the Corps of Discovery by vote selected Gass to fill the vacancy. Sergeant Gass became a favorite of Captain Lewis because of his carpenter skills that proved to be a needed, valuable asset.

When the Corps of Discovery disbanded at the end of their mission in September 1806, Sergeant Gass went home to Pennsylvania. When the War of 1812 began, he again enlisted at the age of 41 years. He did fight at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. During the war he lost an eye in an accident and was given a total disability discharge on 10 June 1815. In 1831, at the age of 59, he married. They had six children that lived to adulthood. He tried to serve in the Civil War, but was turned down because of age. He died at the age of 99 years on 2 April 1870.

Sergeant Gass kept a journal during the Corps of Discovery's epic journey of exploration. This journal was published in 1807. Because Sergeant Gass' children were alive at the time of the 100 year Commemoration of the Corps of Discovery epic exploration, historians were able to gather much information about Sergeant Gass. A Boise State University historian, Dr. Carol Lynn MacGregor, published an excellent book in 1997, titled "The Journals of Patrick Gass, Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition." In addition to the Gass Journal, the book covers what is known of the life of Patrick Gass including his account book detailing living expenses.

The Sergeant Patrick Gass memorabilia is on display at the Army's former Fort Canby, located near Ilwaco, Washington, and operated by the State of Washington as the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Museum.

Sergeant Jacob R. Valderrama (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Sergeant Patrick Gass Award for Excellence is presented to Sergeant Jacob R. Valderrama in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious service to the United States Army. During a military career of just four years, his dedication to the mission and ideals of the U.S. Army has been widely recognized. His success and accomplishments during his career as a junior enlisted heavy equipment operator were a testament to his competence and potential for greater responsibility. His dedication to duty and remarkable performance during all levels of U.S. Army competitions earned him a reputation for excellence, culminating as the FORSCOM finalist in the All Army Best Warrior Competition. Sergeant Valderrama's superior performance reflects great credit upon himself, the 864th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION EXCEPTIONAL CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Alecia R. Grady (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Exceptional Civilian Service Award is presented to Alecia R. Grady, Chief of Armed Forces Community Services at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Ms. Grady began her Army civilian service career in 1989 at Tobyhanna Army Depot, as Morale, Welfare and Recreation Secretary and ultimately became its Director. In 2001 she earned Army Installation Management Command Accreditation, and subsequently was selected as program manager for Army Community Service's Northeast Region. Only one of its twenty-one installations were then reporting at standard, but in just one year she brought them all up to standard; and she was then appointed to lead the Installation Management Command's Army Community Service Accreditation Team. In her present assignment, she has revitalized the Armed Forces Community Services organization at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, while also reaching out to the civilian community to find new ways to support the military. She has been active in AUSA since 1994, and is currently the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter Secretary.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ERIK S. McCRAE MEMORIAL AWARD

The First Lieutenant Erik S. McCrae Memorial Award is named for this platoon Leader of E Troop, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard killed in action on June 4, 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 25 years of age.

Lieutenant McCrae's hometown was LaGrande, Oregon, but his father's service as a Colonel in the Oregon Army National Guard brought the family to Western Oregon. His older brother was also a captain in the Oregon Army National Guard. Lieutenant McCrae graduated co-valedictorian from Tigard High School in 1997 with a 4.0 GPA and earned the coveted International Baccalaureate Degree, where his advanced studies earned him 35 college credit hours. He then went on to graduate Cum Laude from Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, in 2000. He completed college in two and one-half years with dual degrees in mathematics and applied sciences. That same year he enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard as a Cavalry Scout. In 2001, shortly after 19D AIT, Erik completed 'Fast Track' Officer Candidate School. Lieutenant McCrae's civilian employment was with a high technology company, FEI in Hillsboro Oregon where he came up with new ways to improve production and quality. He was lauded by his supervisors and peers at FEI as very smart and fun to be around. He regularly attended the First Baptist Church in Tigard, Oregon. On 27 February 2004, just prior to his deployment, Lieutenant McCrae and Miss Heather Smyth of Portland, Oregon were married at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Some three months after arriving in Baghdad, Iraq, 1st Lieutenant McCrae and his Cavalry platoon responded to the aid of an MP convoy that had been ambushed. Upon arrival at the ambush site, a second IED exploded instantly killing two platoon soldiers and mortally wounding Lieutenant McCrae. He died four hours later in a U.S. Army Hospital. His last words were asking how his men were.

1st Lieutenant McCrae received the Leadership Award and Honor Graduate at the Scout Platoon Leaders Course. Other honors and awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, OIF/OEF Campaign Ribbon and the Draper Leadership Award (Goodrich Riding Trophy) at his Armor Officer Basic Course.

First Lieutenant Hannah Culberg (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region First Lieutenant Erik S. McCrae Memorial Award is presented to First Lieutenant Hannah Culberg, 14th Engineer Battalion, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, for exceptional performance. Lieutenant Culberg distinguished herself as a first-rate Army Officer by understanding the complexities of the operational environment and leading her soldiers to the successful execution of multiple military engineer projects. 1LT Culberg is a natural leader whose attention to detail and devotion to her soldiers reflects great credit upon herself, the 14th Engineer Battalion, the 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

WARRANT OFFICER ONE ADRIAN B. STUMP MEMORIAL AWARD

The Warrant Officer One Adrian B. Stump Memorial Award is named for this Chinook Helicopter pilot killed in action - doing what he loved best, flying his Chinook - near Deh Chopan, Afghanistan on 25 September 2005. He was a member of Detachment 1, Company D, 113th Aviation Regiment of the Oregon National Guard.

Warrant Officer Stump was born on 9 July 1983 and grew up in Pendleton, Oregon, where he graduated from Pendleton High School in 2002. An avid outdoorsman, he was also infatuated with flying. At age 14, he experienced his first airplane and helicopter ride and soon began regular visits to the Army Aviation Facility in Pendleton. When he reached the age of 17, Warrant Officer Stump enlisted in Detachment 1, 113th Aviation Regiment. Many of the Detachment aviators joked that by the time of his enlistment, he had more flying time than they did. Motivated by his love for flying, Warrant Officer Stump was the honor graduate of his Army aviation class at Fort Eustis, Virginia. In summary, Warrant Officer Stump was born to be an aviator.

Chief Warrant Officer Two Derrick T. Favors (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Warrant Officer 1 Adrian B. Stump Memorial Award is presented to Chief Warrant Officer Two Derrick T. Favors for exceptionally meritorious service as an engineer construction technician. CW2 Favors' dedication to duty and technical expertise were absolutely critical to the successful accomplishment of numerous deconstruction and construction missions in Regional Command-East in support of the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the 864th Engineer Battalion, the 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

CSM (Retired) Alan Callanan (GEN William C. Westmoreland Chapter)

The Sixth Region President's Medal is presented to Command Sergeant Major Alan Callanan for his exceptionally meritorious service to the Association of the United States Army and the General William C. Westmoreland Chapter. As Chapter Secretary, Vice President for Membership, and then Chapter President, he has been instrumental in increasing the chapter membership to an all-time high of 191 members. His creation of a poster board with the names and pictures of Nevada's fallen heroes of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars led to his being selected as Nevada's Veteran of the Month in 2013.

Greg Hollmann (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region President's Medal is presented to Greg Hollmann for his exemplary performance as President of the Eastside Subchapter of the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter. With no previous knowledge of or experience with AUSA, Mr. Hollmann established the Eastside Subchapter, manned it with caring and passionate executive committee members, and delivered superior support to the 555th Engineer Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, culminating in the 555th Engineer Brigade Welcome Home Celebration on 19 November 2013. Mr. Hollmann's exceptional performance of selfless service reflects great credit upon himself, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

Sandy Merlot (MG William F. Dean Chapter)

The Sixth Region President's Medal is presented to Sandy Merlot, in recognition of her outstanding support of the MG William F. Dean Chapter for over five years. Most recently, she recommended that the Chapter conduct a golf tournament, guided the Executive Committee through all of the steps required, and was the driving force in a very successful event which provided the Chapter with funds to conduct many of its activities in support of Active and Reserve Army units, soldiers, and their families. These accomplishments reflect great credit upon herself, the Major General William F. Dean Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

Amy Tiemeyer (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region President's Medal is presented to Amy Tiemeyer for her exemplary performance of volunteer service as Director of Corporate Membership and President of the DuPont Subchapter of the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter of the Association of the United States Army. Her selfless service combined with her tenacious initiative, drive, and personal determination spearheaded a surge in chapter corporate memberships, sustained the AUSA Single Soldier Project, and provided unparalleled support to all chapter projects. Her superior performance reflects great credit upon herself, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

MAJOR GENERAL (CA) RONALD H. MARKARIAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE SUCCESS

The Outstanding Cooperative Success Award is named in honor of Major General (CA) Ronald H. Markarian, California State Military Reserve, retired, the exemplar of successful cooperative effort within and beyond AUSA Sixth Region. General Markarian's military service commenced in 1949 with the Army National Guard, and continued after college with the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired in 1980 as a colonel. General Markarian served in B-47 and B-52 strategic bombers and as Chief of Air Reconnaissance for USMACV. He flew 116 combat missions in Vietnam.

Following retirement from the Air Force he accepted a commission in the California State Military Reserve, serving in a variety of flag-rank positions culminating as Commander of the State Military Reserve. He retired again in 1985, having served in uniform for 46 years.

In civilian life, General Markarian served on a number of California state boards and commissions. He was appointed by President Reagan as California's Director of Selective Service, a position he continues to hold today and to which his dedication, commitment, and energy are legendary. In addition, he has served with distinction for many years as Army Reserve Ambassador for Central California, and as president of the Military Order of the Golden Bear, the State Military Reserve's support group.

Within AUSA, General Markarian was founding president of AUSA's Central California Chapter, which won numerous Best Chapter awards under his leadership. In 1991, upon the death in office of the Sixth Region President, he accepted appointment as Region President and went on to serve two full elective terms. He then reverted to chapter president and continued to lead the chapter to success after success with his unparalleled dedication and boundless energy. He has received numerous awards at the national level, culminating in the annual MG Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Award for greatest contribution to the Association – AUSA's second highest internal award for meritorious service.

Throughout all his service, General Markarian more than any other member of Sixth Region has exemplified the ideal recognized by this award. In an association where there are strong pressures toward territoriality, he and his chapter have reached out to other chapters both within and outside of Sixth Region, as well as to Army units, veterans service organizations, AUSA's sister organizations, and individuals throughout his huge state (164,000 square miles). He has been the soul of joint and cooperative effort, devoting long hours to helping other chapters and working out mutually beneficial solutions to joint problems.

As a result of Ron Markarian's personal leadership and dedication to AUSA ideals, Central California Chapter was the first recipient of this Outstanding Cooperative Success Award, and his leadership continues to inspire and benefit AUSA members throughout California. He is the epitome of "successful cooperative effort" both within AUSA and in the larger community.

General Markarian's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and Vietnamese Staff Service Honor Medal, First Class. Other awards and decorations include the Order of California Selective Service System Exceptional Service Silver Medal, Selective Service System Meritorious Service Bronze Medal, Army Commander's Award for Public Service, various Army branch honorary societies, AUSA's MG Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Award and extensive other national AUSA recognition, Sixth Region's President's Medal and its MG John A. Hemphill Award — which he is the only person to have earned twice.

Virginia Kinakin (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Major General (CA) Ronald H. Markarian Award for Outstanding Cooperative Success is presented to Virginia Kinakin, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter Treasurer, for her distinguished performance in managing the hundreds of thousands of dollars raised to support large-scale events for eleven subchapters. Ms. Kinakin spends five hours each day, six days a week, completing treasurer responsibilities, monitoring membership reporting, and co-coordinating the chapter's annual golf tournament. Virginia Kinakin's superior performance reflects great credit upon herself, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

Lakewood Subchapter (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Major General (CA) Ronald H. Markarian Award for Outstanding Cooperative Success is presented to the Lakewood Subchapter for its superior service to the city of Lakewood and the soldiers, veterans, and family members of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. The Subchapter's financial backing and coordination with local Lakewood businesses have supported Raider Soldiers and families during their three overseas deployments and numerous training exercises over the past nine years. This exemplary performance reflects great credit upon the Lakewood Subchapter, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

COLONEL DAVID A. APPLING AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RECRUITING SUPPORT

The Colonel David A. Appling Award for Outstanding Recruiting Support is named in honor of Sixth Region's seventh President (2004-2008). Colonel Appling was and remains a staunch supporter and enabler of a strong AUSA focus on Army recruiting for all components and all ranks.

Colonel Appling was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps from ROTC in 1957, serving in Germany, Viet Nam, and Saudi Arabia in addition to CONUS postings. He commanded at the detachment, battery, and

twice at the company level, deploying his company to Vietnam and later serving as Materiel Officer of a 1200-man battalion.

Returning from Vietnam, he served as Associate Professor of Military Science at the University of California, Berkeley. This was followed by a Washington tour on the Main Battle Tank program, and then as senior Army advisor and joint detachment chief in Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

He redeployed to the "tank business" with the Abrams Tank program, leading its International Office in sensitive and complex negotiations with the German Ministry of Defense. He was then selected as Project Manager, Tank Main Armament Systems, where he introduced depleted uranium ammunition into the Army inventory and led transfusion of the German-designed 120mm armament system into U.S. production.

In retirement from the Army, Colonel Appling has worked with FMC Defense Systems Group, SIMCO Electronics, and Allied Aerospace Corporation, as well as consulting activities and outside directorships. While with FMC he was a founding member of AUSA's Silicon Valley Chapter, later serving two tours as chapter president. He became Sixth Region's secretary-treasurer in 2000, and was elected Region President in 2004. Upon completing his tour, he continued his service to AUSA as a State President, and most recently accepted the presidency of the General Stilwell Chapter as well. He continues his strong support to Army recruiting at all levels, for example with the Sacramento Recruiting Battalion's Grassroots Advisory Board.

Colonel Appling's awards include the Commander's Cross of Germany's Federal Order of Merit, the Legion of Merit (2 awards), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), and the Army Commendation Medal. He has also received the California Adjutant General's Commander's Award for Public Service and the National Defense Industrial Association's Firepower Medal.

In 2009, AUSA awarded Colonel Appling its annual Biddle Medal for "contributions to the Association's advancement and mission." Previous AUSA recognition includes the Sixth Region President's Medal, the Region's Hemphill Award, and Silicon Valley Chapter's Daulton Memorial Award.

Washington State Army Advisory Board (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Colonel David A. Appling Award for Outstanding Recruiting Support is presented to the Washington State Army Advisory Board for its distinguished performance in the creation of the Operation Recruit Enlistment Dinner (OP RED). The purpose of OP RED is to increase the retention of senior high school recruits who have joined the Armed Forces and to ensure they remain confident in their decision. As a result, the Seattle Army Recruiting Battalion realized a 30% increase in its recruit retention compared to the previous year. The Washington State Army Advisory Board's superior performance reflects great credit upon the members of the Board, the Seattle Army Recruiting Battalion, and the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Staff Sergeant Mark A. Jones Family (MG William F. Dean Chapter)

The Sixth Region Family of the Year Award is presented to the Family of Staff Sergeant Mark A. Jones, East Bay Recruiting Company, in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments in support of soldiers, military families, veterans, and the youth of their community. In a seemingly endless series of public and private events and activities ranging from collecting care packages for deployed service members to raising funds for needy families and veterans, from organizing parades and car shows to leading Boy Scout and other youth organizations, from participating in parades and radio and television shows to providing toys for needy children, the Jones Family is constantly working to raise public awareness of the contributions and needs of soldiers and military families. Their efforts reflect great credit upon their entire family, the Fresno Recruiting Battalion, Sixth Recruiting Brigade, and the United States Army.

First Sergeant Jeffrey Goodman Family (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Family of the Year Award is presented to the Family of First Sergeant Jeffrey Goodman, 22nd Engineer Clearance Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, and 7th Infantry Division for their superior volunteer service in support of soldiers, families, and the greater Joint Base Lewis-McChord community. Their selfless volunteer service is a tribute to their resiliency as a military family in this era of continuous conflict which disrupts normal day to day family life. Whether it is

supporting family readiness group activities, deployed soldiers and families, youth sports programs, beautification of our local communities, or overcoming unexpected crisis, the Goodman family is there to provide their enthusiasm, energy, and initiative in service to others. Their superior performance as a resilient military family reflects great credit upon their entire family, the 22nd Engineer Clearance Company, the 14th Engineer Battalion, the 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ALEX R. CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL BEST CHAPTER AWARD

Brigadier General Alexander Raphael Cunningham was born 1 September 1936 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began his military service 23 November 1959 when he enlisted in the California Army National Guard as an artillery gun crewman. Prior to attending OCS, he attained the rank of Specialist. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 21 July 1962 and was the Honor Graduate of the California Military Academy Class of 1962. During this period he served in numerous platoon, company and battalion level staff positions, including troop command. Major Cunningham was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in February of 1977 and became Material Officer at CAARNG headquarters. On 1 October 1985 he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Chief of Operations. Later assignments included Director of Plans and Operations, Chief, Education and Evaluation Branch, Chief of Emergency Plans, and Director of Intelligence and Security. In civilian life, he served California's state government in a number of senior positions. Brigadier General Cunningham retired from the California National Guard on 1 October 1989. BG Cunningham served as the Sixth Region President from 1988 until his death on 7 May 1991.

Brigadier General Cunningham was a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth and graduated from the prestigious U.S. Army War College in July 1988. His federal awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal. His state awards and decorations include the Medal of Merit, California Commendation Ribbon, California Service Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, and Drill Attendance Ribbon.

Category 2: CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter

Category 3: Columbia River Chapter

Category 4: SGM Jon R. Cavaiani Chapter

Category 5: GEN William C. Westmoreland Chapter

SIXTH REGION PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT

When applicable, announced at the awards banquet.

SIXTH REGION DISTINGUISHED UNIT COMMENDATION

4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Distinguished Unit Commendation is awarded to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, for exceptional performance of combat and civic duty, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, from June 2006 through March 2014. The superior performance of the soldiers and leaders of the 4th Stryker BCT reflects great credit upon themselves, I Corps, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and the United States Army.

864th Engineer Battalion (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Distinguished Unit Commendation is awarded to the 864th Engineer Battalion for its exceptional service as a member of the CENTCOM Material Recovery Element in support of US Army, US Air Force, and Coalition Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom from February 2013 through October 2013. The Battalion's performance in three of the largest and most dangerous Regional Commands enabled Coalition Forces to execute retrograde operations and shape the battlefield for sustaining

operations in Afghanistan, and reflects great credit upon the Pacemaker Battalion, the 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Detachment 47, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region AUSA Distinguished Unit Commendation is awarded to Detachment 47, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation, for exceptional service in providing electronic warfare and surveillance support to Special Operations Command Central, coalition Special Operations Forces, and other Army units in Operation Enduring Freedom. Its innovative and record-setting performance was crucial to Army leaders on the ground across RC-South Afghanistan in developing situational awareness and visualizing the battlefield. Its singular efforts reflect great credit upon the Detachment and the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

C Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation (FSMT) (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region AUSA Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to C Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation (FSMT) for superior service in support of both United States and Non-US Forces in Kosovo during the period April 2013 through January 2014. In addition to providing medical evacuation support, the Company trained over 2000 Multi-National Force soldiers in such subjects as helicopter safety, patient loading and unloading operations, and rescue operations in mountainous terrain with a variety of equipment.

US Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy Parks (MG William F. Dean Chapter)

The Sixth Region Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the US Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy Parks, in recognition of its outstanding accomplishments during the period July 2011 through February 2014, training over 4,400 Noncommissioned Officers and earning national accreditation as the first Reserve Component and the third NCO Academy in the entire Army to be designated as an *Institution of Excellence*.

SIXTH REGION EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD

Joint Base Lewis-McChord Credit Union Team, Harborstone Credit Union & America's Credit Union (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Exceptional Contributions Award is presented to the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Credit Union Team, Harborstone Credit Union and America's Credit Union, for their distinguished performance in providing both financial and human resources to the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter of AUSA, and its eleven subchapters. These two credit unions assisted the chapter in raising \$295,000 in 2013 and in planning multiple large-scale events. They also supported Operations Turkey Drop, Ham Grenade, and Recruit Enlistment Dinner, which supported junior enlisted families during the holidays and honored high school seniors who joined the Armed Forces. The Joint Base Lewis-McChord Credit Union Team's superior performance reflects great credit upon both credit unions, the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the United States Army.

City of Lakewood, Washington (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Exceptional Contributions Award is presented to the City of Lakewood, Washington, for its service to the soldiers, veterans, and family members of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. The city has supported Raider Soldiers during their three overseas deployments and numerous training exercises over the past nine years. Such support was exemplified with its welcome-home parade and Thornwood Castle Dinner for the brigade on 15 September 2013 and 24 February 2014 respectively. This superior performance reflects great credit upon the people and businesses of the City of Lakewood, and the Captain Meriwether Lewis Eastwood Subchapter of the Association of the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

555th Able Soldier and Family Fund (CPT Meriwether Lewis)

The Sixth Region Public Service Award is presented to the 555th Able Soldier and Family Fund, for exemplary service in support of soldiers and families of the 555th Engineer Brigade. With care and compassion, the 555th Able Soldier and Family Fund consistently provides timely and decisive support to families of the brigade fallen, its wounded warriors, and its units undergoing deployment and redeployment. This superior performance reflects great credit upon the Fund and its supporters, the 555th Engineer Brigade, the Eastside Subchapter of the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter, and the Association of the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Linda Johnston (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region Special Award for Extraordinary Services to the Association is presented to Linda Johnston for outstanding service to the Association of the United States Army, to the Sixth Region, and to the Columbia River Chapter. Her dedication, support, goodwill, and unwavering concern are cornerstones of volunteerism. She is richly deserving of our recognition.

SIXTH REGION CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Kirsten M. Kler, Bonneville Power Administration (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Commendation is presented to Kirsten M. Kler of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), for her outstanding leadership in the coordination and direct management of the Oregon Veterans Home Christmas Gift Project for the 2013 year. She recruited volunteers, developed the resident roster, identified gift needs, solicited gift donations, organized the gift wrapping and directed the distribution of all the gifts to each individual resident. A total of 144 residents received gifts, with a total worth of over \$10,000. Her efforts to honor and remember Oregon Veterans during the holiday season reflects great credit upon herself, the BPA, and the Columbia River Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Sergeant Major Daniel DeGeorge Family (SGM Jon R. Cavaiani Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Commendation is presented to the Family of Sergeant Major Daniel DeGeorge for their exceptional contributions to the greater Sacramento area's homeless. For more than three years, and on a weekly basis, Sergeant Major and Mrs. DeGeorge have provided meals and personal hygiene items to the homeless, including homeless Veterans, within the Sacramento area. Sergeant Major and Mrs. DeGeorge tirelessly and with their own personal resources, provide more than one hundred meals and "care packages" to the homeless. These care packages consist of clothing, blankets, pet food, shoes, sleeping bags, and toiletries. Working and living the Army Values of Selfless Service and Respect for others, they bring hope to those in need. The DeGeorge's have also been recognized by their church leadership, and been appointed as the directors of Compassion for the Antelope Springs Church, in Roseville, California. Sergeant Major DeGeorge's full-time State active duty position is the NCOIC of the Funeral Honors Detail. He is responsible for the training and equipping of Honors' teams throughout the state, and for the scheduling of more than 1,000 Veteran funerals each month. Retiring from the California Army National Guard on 31 March 2014, Sergeant Major DeGeorge will continue his service and outreach to the community. Their tireless commitment to the Army and their community reflects great credit upon themselves, the California Military Department, the Army National Guard, the Sixth Region, and the Association of the United States Army.

Mary Findlay (CPT Meriwether Lewis Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Commendation is presented to Mary Findlay for her distinguished support to service members. In 2010, she created the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter's "Suits for Soldiers" program, to ensure that 950 "gently used" suits were distributed to service members transitioning from the military to the civilian job market. Since 2007, Ms. Findlay has consistently volunteer support to "Sew Much Comfort", an organization that has distributed 134,000 pieces of adaptive clothing to wounded soldiers; and she continually volunteers in the Town of Steilacoom, where she resides. Ms. Findlay's

superior performance reflects great credit upon herself and the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Brigadier General (Retired) Thomas A. Swidler (San Francisco Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Commendation is presented to Brigadier General (Retired) Thomas A. Swidler for his work over an eight year period. Brigadier General Swidler has distinguished himself by outstanding service to the Association of the United States Army and to the former Mother Lode Chapter (now the SGM Jon R. Cavaiani Chapter) and the San Francisco Chapter as Chapter President to both. Throughout this period, and during challenging circumstances, he worked diligently to maintain and grow these Chapters. His leadership and drive were evident in these pursuits. He is richly deserving of this recognition. This volunteer service reflects great credit upon himself and the Association of the United States Army.

SIXTH REGION CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Bonneville Power Administration Veterans Resource Group (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Appreciation is presented to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Veterans Resource Group for its outstanding efforts in support of the Oregon Veterans Home and the Columbia River Chapter's Christmas Gift Project. The members' efforts to remember and honor our aged Veterans during the holiday season speaks highly of their ongoing dedication to these men and women, especially at a time when so many of them are forgotten. This volunteer service reflects great credit upon the BPA Veterans Resource Group and the Columbia River Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

City Bible Church (Columbia River Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Appreciation is presented to the City Bible Church, Rocky Butte Campus, for its outstanding efforts in support of the Oregon Veterans Home and the Columbia River Chapter's Christmas Gift Project. The parishioners' efforts to remember and honor our aged Veterans during the holiday season speaks highly of their ongoing dedication to these men and women, especially at a time when so many of them are forgotten. This volunteer service reflects great credit upon the City Bible Church and the Columbia River Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1267 (SGM Jon R. Cavaiani Chapter)

The Sixth Region Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1267 of Sacramento, California, for its support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families. During the past year, the post has held a number of events to which members of the Guard and Reserve were invited for a free lunch. During these lunches, various Veterans' service groups provided the service members with such services as employment and education counseling.

Warm congratulations to all our distinguished honorees for their exceptionally well-earned recognition!