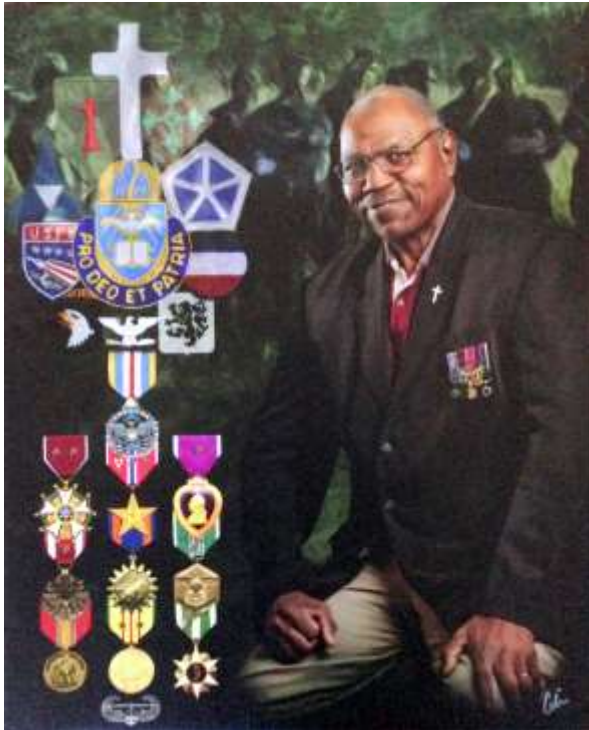


# AUSA

## NORTH TEXAS-AUDIE MURPHY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

### Celebrating the Life of Chaplain Wesley Geary

Spring 2016



Wes Geary passed away after suffering a stroke caused by a brain tumor on February 24, 2016. He leaves behind his wife Bobbye, son Wes Junior, daughter Vanessa and your Chapter. Our flag was in his hospital room as he went through radiation treatment. His memorial service at Trinity Presbyterian was attended by many AUSA members including Regional leaders as well as hundreds of those positively affected by his ministries. Four different ministers spoke about the good work Wes did in different churches and the VA Hospital in Bonham. Your Chapter President told how Wes, Dickie McKinney, Howard Hazlett (who also passed in February), and Morris Paulk saved the Chapter from extinction in the years 1998 – 2006. Richard Kaniss also told about how active Wes was at the Region and National levels, meeting old and young friends while demonstrating the value of AUSA as the Voice for the Army and Support for the Soldier. Kaniss saluted Wes for successfully completing his mission and led the congregation in a shout of “Hooah!” The reception and receiving line after were a time for friends to be together and remember a great friend.

#### Highlights from a life well spent:

- **Wes was born in East Texas but moved to West Texas at a young age. He graduated HS in Pampa. With the help of the Methodist Women, he was one of the first blacks to graduate from the SMU School of Divinity. After serving in several congregations, Wes and Bobbye joined the Army and reported to Fort Sill.**
- **Wes was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (The Big Red One) in Vietnam’s III Corps area north of Saigon. He served with three infantry battalions of the Black Lions Regiment. He received two Purple Hearts because he “was too big to hide.” Wes then became chaplain at the R&R Center in Hawaii where he told our waiting wives “if you can’t find your guy, just pick the best looking one.”**
- **His other noteworthy assignments were: Brigade Chaplain, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Ft. Carson; Assistant V Corps Chaplain, Frankfurt, Germany; Staff and Faculty, U. S. Army Chaplain’s School; Division Chaplain, 101st Airborne Division; Command Chaplain Ft. Riley, KS; Command Chaplain, U. S. Forces Korea, 8<sup>th</sup> Army; and Corps Chaplain, III Corps, Ft. Hood.**
- **He retired at Fort Hood with all the awards shown in the picture above. He continued his ministry by running the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter in Plano. Since retirement he has been active in religious, military and civic organizations, including pastoring several Presbyterian churches and a United Church of Christ congregation.**
- **In addition to his leadership in AUSA, Wes served the Military Order of the World Wars, the Dallas Veterans Day Parade, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment as Chaplain.**

**Benediction: And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand. Go in peace and may the good Lord bless and keep you ‘til we meet again. Amen.**

## Passing the Torch Leader Development



Our leader development effort has been in high gear this winter. We conducted our first Vicksburg Campaign Battlefield Leadership Experience (VCBLE) in March. This was an in-depth 5-day examination of the entire Vicksburg Campaign of 1863, focused on how the tenets of Mission Command affected both US and CSA forces. Participants were able to fire black-powder muskets and we had a group of Civil War re-enactors join us at the site of the Battle of Champion Hill. Cadets from UT-Arlington, Baylor, UNT and TCU participated. And a team from Gearbox Software also participated in the event---our first civilian business team.

COL (R) JP Hogan also assisted the Houston Chapter in conducting a "Passing the Torch" like event for cadets from the University of Houston and then a BLE like event at the San Jacinto Battlefield for cadets from the University of Houston, Prairie View A&M and Sam Houston State. COL Hogan and CPT (R) Ron Mcelroy conducted a Pre-BLE classroom session at the University of Texas main campus in Austin, our first event in support of that program.

Finally, as this newsletter is published, our leader development team is again at Vicksburg, this time with 75 cadets (our largest event to date) for a traditional 3-day Vicksburg BLE. This event meets the US Army Cadet Command requirement for graduating seniors to participate in a "Capstone" training event and all MS IV cadets from TCU, Baylor and UNT are participating. As we ramp into summer our team is scheduling events for this coming fall with all supported SROTC programs and we're coordinating events in support of OPD/NCOPD programs with in the 300th Sustainment Brigade USAR organization.

If your interested in participating in future Passing the Torch events contact COL (R) JP Hogan at [jp@norhtexasausa.org](mailto:jp@norhtexasausa.org)

***WALK WHERE THEY FOUGHT....AND LEARN LEADERSHIP***

## Chapter President's Message – Rich Kaniss



*Miss Texas Pageant Representatives Visit AUSA*

### Upcoming events this year:

1. Army Birthday Party- 14 June 2016 - In Conjunction with Town of Fairview – Noon event.
2. Grand Prairie Air Hogs Baseball game – July 23, 2016 – We plan to have over 30 charities involved in this year's Military Appreciation Day. The Oath of enlistment will be performed by LTC Adam Kimmich – Army Recruiting BN Cdr. Miss Texas is scheduled to attend this year.
3. August 9, 2016 Wounded Warrior Golf Classic – This year the golf tournament will be played at Brookhaven Country Club. We will have registration start at 7:30 am to 9:00 and tee off at 9:00
4. Housing Summit –Arlington Convention Center for 29 Oct 2016 North Texas Veterans Housing Summit. The Credit Union of Texas is our Presenting Sponsor – Alberto and Devon Reyes is our Co-Chairman's for the event. Our VIP party is the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of October at the Sheraton Hotel next door. Both Secretaries of HUD and the VA are expected to be in attendance.

### Chapter President's Comments:

We have placed the chapter into an aggressive year of events. Our Grand Prairie Air Hogs day, the

Annual Wounded Warrior Golf Classic and now the Housing Summit will stretch our chapter into a bigger organization. The vast majority of the effort this year is the new Housing Summit. We expect that event to become the largest affordable housing event in the US annually.

We have donated a check to Miss Texas Pageants Organization for \$1,000 Scholarship to fund their STEM scholarship again this year. The presentation will occur at their Miss Texas pageant on the 2th of July.

We have donated a \$2,000 check to the Ft Worth ISD JROTC to help fund travel expenses for the leadership trip to Gettysburg. We will also be participating in the 100 year anniversary of founding of the JROTC program on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2016.

The building of our Leadership portal and our expansion of our Leadership program is ongoing and we are seeing interest from several other AUSA chapters in our region and outside our region to help expand the Leadership program in 2016 and 2017.

Our goal again is to become "Best" chapter at the national convention in October.

"Hooah!"

*Richard*

Richard Kaniss, Chapter President



*AUSA Chapter Members TL Holden, Ross Cox and Richard Kaniss lay wreaths purchased by the Chapter at the National Cemetery.*

## AUSA President Gordon Sullivan Retires



Carter Ham on the left will replace Gordon Sullivan as AUSA President on 1 July. Sullivan has led our organization for 18 years, after serving on Active Duty for 36 years. Sullivan likes our Stetsons - at the Regional Meeting in OK hosted by the Fires Chapter when JP Hogan was briefing our Passing the Torch program he followed by saying... "this is what our chapters should be doing. Telling the Army's story in history and developing our future leaders".

"I've been proud for 18 ½ years to lead a professional organization dedicated to supporting the Army and all of its parts," Sullivan said. "We have an essential mission of the public voice for the Army, including its soldiers, veterans and retirees, their families, the Army's civilian workforce and industry partners."

"Also important to us has been our role in professional development through national and chapter activities and publications," Sullivan said. "I saw my work here as a continuation of my 36 years in the Army, building leaders, supporting the troops, facing whatever challenges the world creates."

Sullivan will be a distinguished senior fellow in AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare after he steps down. He also remains chairman of the Board of Directors of the Army Historical Foundation, where he will concentrate efforts on seeing that the National Museum of the U.S. Army is built.

He also intends to continue working with the Board of Trustees of Norwich University in Vermont, the nation's oldest private military college from which he graduated in 1959.

Sullivan, a Boston native, is a retired armor officer who rose to become the 32nd Army chief of staff before his retirement in 1995 after 36 years of service. He joined AUSA in 1998 as the association's 18th president.

Ham, currently AUSA's executive vice president, is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm, Able Sentry and Odyssey Dawn. He commanded the U.S. Africa Command from March 2011 until April 2013, his final military assignment. He previously was commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, director for operations on the Joint Staff, and commander of U.S. Army Europe.

Chapter President: When I was in the Presidents meeting – he and I chatted briefly and he said that what we were doing is what every chapter needs to do – "Your chapter is doing something that shows a passion for what you do. You focus on something to do well and then do it really well"

*Editor's Note: Most of us who have served this Chapter have met General Sullivan in person at training sessions or regional and national conferences. My first meeting was in his office during a training visit for new chapter presidents. He had a large glass topped display table in the corner with all the military challenge coins he had been given on visits. There were so many of them that their collective weight had collapsed the bottom of the table and the coins were scattered across the floor. That collection was proof that he didn't stay in his office much.*

## Chapter & Army Scholarship Team Continue Partnership in Support of Army Families



*In the picture at left, Jeff Gault stands with PFC Marty Nance and his wife Samantha at the Army Scholarship Foundation fund raising lunch. Samantha is a 2015 scholarship winner. Your Chapter and ASF continue to work together to make funds available to Army dependents and spouses to help them go to college. Jeff and his wife Rose are active in the Chapter and other veterans support organizations. To learn more about the challenges faced by our Army family members in pursuing their educational dreams, or to make a tax deductible donation to the Foundation, please visit the web site for the Army Scholarship Foundation at <http://www.armyscholarshipfoundation.org/>*

- Editor

As we approach Memorial Day, we ask that all take a moment to reflect upon those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. We also ask each of us to think of those who have served in our Army who are no longer with us. As partners with the North Texas Chapter of the Association of the US Army, we work together in seeking to honor those who have departed us as well as those who have served or are serving in our Army.

We do this in multiple ways. Tax deductible donations to the Army Scholarship Foundation made in memory or in honor of an individual or a unit are permanently memorialized on our web site, <http://www.armyscholarshipfoundation.org/> In addition we help to educate soldiers' children as well as spouses of active duty enlisted soldiers. Our North Texas AUSA Chapter generously supports this scholarship effort, both as a chapter and also through a number of individual members who assist us. This past year we were able to award a "North Texas Chapter of AUSA" scholarship to a deserving Army family member student. We also award scholarships supported by and in memory of several prominent Chapter members' loved ones, including the Colonel Urey Woodson Alexander and the Lieutenant J. Allan Green Memorial Scholarships. We will continue to jointly make these awards going forward.

In addition, joint volunteers representing the Army Scholarship Foundation and the North Texas AUSA meet annually in the month of June to evaluate the hundreds of scholarship applications received from across the Army and the nation in helping to select scholarship recipients. *This year we will meet on June 4 and 5 to help evaluate; please put these days on your calendar and plan to come help us as we seek to award scholarships to needy Army family members. More details to follow.* The challenges faced by Army family members in pursuing their educational dreams are many, and these family members can use all the support we can provide. We in the Foundation and in the Chapter deeply appreciate the generous support of our members and others. **Remember, you can always make a tax deductible donation of any amount on the web site.** On behalf of Army families, Thank You!

- Rose and Jeff Gault, ASF



*Chaplain Wesley Geary gave the invocation at the ASF fund raising luncheon and preached on the need to give freely to the great cause we were all there to support. As mentioned earlier in this letter, we lost Colonel Geary to a brain tumor in February. After his service that many of you attended, including Jeff and Rose, we discussed donating to the Scholarship Foundation as individuals. Wes and Bobbye Geary worked every year at the Gault's home to evaluate the incoming applications. **My wife and I will be donating this year in memory of Wes.***

- Editor (aka Army Brat)

## JP Hogan Remembers Mobilizing for Desert Storm

*This is part of a continuing series called Members Remember.*

It's the early morning hours (just short of Beginning Morning Nautical Twilight-BMNT) on 2 August 1990 at the National Training Center, Ft Irwin CA. The desert air is cold and the wind is blowing slightly, visibility is good. COL Coffey's BDE TF of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is moving toward the Line of Departure to attack through the WASHBOARD and the COLORADO WADI.

LTC JP Hogan's 3-1 Cav Task Force is conducting counter recon operations for the BDE against OPFOR forces (MAJ John Antal is part of that OPFOR) when word flashes across the BDE Command net that Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces have invaded the nation of Kuwait. The training intensifies a bit, if for no other reason than we spend an inordinate amount of time at MOPP4. The Iraqi's after all have chemical weapons and a history of using them, and the Division may soon be called to deploy.

Fast forward-the 5th ID BDE TF returned to home station at Ft Polk, LA several days later as the National Command Authority debated options and ultimately ordered a partial mobilization of National Guard and Reserve forces to meet the threat.

That mobilization order impacted the 5<sup>th</sup> ID as the entire 256<sup>th</sup> LA National Guard BDE was activated and ordered to report to Ft Polk under 5<sup>th</sup> ID command and prepare for potential deployment to Kuwait. Part of that 256 INF BDE was Echo Troop, 256 Cav and the troop joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (5<sup>th</sup> ID's Divisional Cavalry Squadron).



The squadron then conducted intensive training to (1) complete new equipment training for Echo Troop in the Bradley M3 Cavalry Fighting vehicle, (2) conduct squad and troop level tactical training around the Squadrons Mission Essential Task List and (3) integrate Echo Troop fully into the basic fabric of 3-1 Cav. This last task was simplified to a degree since many of the troopers were familiar with one another either as a result of training support to Echo Troop during the annual training cycle. Many of the troopers had served in active component units.

*Above left, LTC Hogan, the Adjutant, and the Squadron Commander at the Mobilization meeting.*

A few months later, Echo Troop and the entire 256<sup>th</sup> Inf BDE moved to Ft Hood for follow up training certification as part of the deployment plan. In the end, the 5<sup>th</sup> ID remained in CONUS as part of the Strategic Reserve Force and the 256<sup>th</sup> returned to Ft Polk to rejoin the division, ultimately being demobilized and returned to their home armories. Six (6) months after joining the Squadron formation, Echo Troop 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment demobilized (the Troop had fully integrated into the squadron). During that period I had the opportunity to visit each of the Echo Troop home communities and stand on Armory stages or on the flat bed of many trucks to address the friends and families of Echo Troop troopers. Those experiences remain vivid memories. Speaking to hundreds of passionate patriots who were in the throes of watching a new reality unfold---a reality that today sees National Guard and Reserve forces routinely mobilize as part of our nations defense strategy was powerful.

And today, among other things, I am proud to serve as the Northern Regional Director for the Texas Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (TX ESGR) Program. Although I never served in a Guard or Reserve unit---I certainly served with National Guard troopers. Now I get to thank those who continue to make that commitment to our Nation and to speak to the civilian companies that employ those service members when they are not away training or deployed.

***Editor: COL (R) JP Hogan is a Life Member of AUSA, Past President of the North Texas – Audie Murphy Chapter and a candidate for the AUSA 4<sup>th</sup> Region Presidency (TX, AR, LA and OK).***

*In The March ARMY, there is a column by LTG Bolger about GEN Schwarzkopf accepting the surrender of the Iraqi generals (less Saddam Hussein himself) at Safwan on March 3, 1991. Desert Storm lasted only 42 days thanks to the tremendous force unleashed by the coalition joint air and ground attacks. GEN Schwarzkopf wanted a real surrender unlike what happened after Korea and Vietnam, so he did all the talking. The Iraqis only had one question: In light of road and bridge damage, could they still use their helicopters? The General thought a minute and said "OK". After the coalition ground forces went home, Saddam used the helicopters to kill Kurds and Shiites.*

## Highlights of Chapter Operating Plan

*Each year we have to submit a plan to National of what we are planning do in the operating year and the financial costs. Below of a digest of the current proposals with the financials associated with them. The housing summit stands out!*

- 1. Wounded Warrior Support (Revenue \$90K, Cost \$45K, Net \$45K)**
- 2. Education Programs**
  - a. Passing the Torch Leadership Program (Net \$40K)**
  - b. Army Scholarship Foundation (Net \$5K)**
- 3. Veterans Support Programs (Net \$270K)**
  - a. Veterans Employment**
  - b. Veterans Housing**
  - c. Leadership Awards Breakfast**
- 4. Additional Support Areas**
  - a. Legislative Support (\$1000)**
  - b. Young Professionals**
  - c. Dallas Veterans Day Parade (\$500)**
  - d. Army Birthday (\$300)**
  - e. Grand Prairie Air Hog Day (\$5,000)**
  - f. Miss Texas STEM Scholarship (\$1,000)**
  - g. JROTC Support (\$2,500)**
  - h. Leadership Gladius Awards (\$500)**
- 5. Recurring Activities**
  - a. Meetings: EXCO, General Membership, Regional, National (\$13,900)**
  - b. Membership Drives**
  - c. Regular Operating Expenses (e.g., audit, website, etc.) (\$16,000)**
  - d. Institute of Land Warfare (\$500)**

Looking at financial plans can be boring, but nonprofits must be transparent to their members and the public – just look at the recent headlines about the Wounded Warrior Project.

Even this summary of our six page annual plan shows the depth and breadth of our efforts to serve veterans and future military leaders in North Texas.

AUSA HQ sends the annual financial summary of the entire organization to the IRS (Form 990), but this Chapter has to get its report, signed by the President and Treasurer in to HQ by March 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have to perform an audit and send its results in by May 1<sup>st</sup>. That audit was completed on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please know that your dues and contributions are carefully handled and think about volunteering for some of these valuable Chapter activities.

- Editor

## Continuing Discussion on Texas' Hazelwood Act

**Editor:** In our last newsletter, Sam told us about the financial challenges to this Act, which provides educational support to Texas Veterans and their families. Here he shares some Talking Points:

1. **Objective:** We accept the reality that the costs of the Hazelwood Act, especially the Legacy portion, have become unsustainable. A solution must be found.
2. **Background:** To put practically the entire burden of the costs of the Hazelwood onto the colleges constitutes an “unfunded mandate” for which the colleges deserve some relief.  
The Hazelwood act is the most significant tribute to veterans and is by far the best of all the states. This is perhaps the veterans' most prized compensation for their arduous duty to and sacrifices for the nation. It also rewards the families who have sacrificed!
3. **Discussion:**
  - This first bullet is the most important statement of the proposed solution in the point paper. It is a **combination** of reducing the numbers of recipients **and** providing increased subsidies to the colleges from state resources. This takes it out of the category of an “unfunded mandate”. This is key to a solution.
  - The benefit is awarded based on service, not monetary need. There are other scholarship programs based on need. The arduous service of a 15 – 20 year military career is unrivaled in sacrifices for both the military member and family.
  - Very short periods of active service (e.g. 180 days) do not justify the same benefits that are awarded for 15 – 20 years of active service. Since the Legacy portion is the most expensive, raising its requirements to 4 years active duty would be reasonable. Six years is far too drastic; it loses 70% of vets. Recent study shows that the numbers of eligible vets will be going down.
  - Restricting the legacy portion to an undergraduate degree is reasonable.
  - The state should take a much greater responsibility in reimbursing the colleges. In the first place, ensuring that the Hazelwood veterans and family can pursue college degrees is a perfect contribution to 60x30TX plan, which is the state's higher education strategic plan for the next 15 years. It contributes to improving the state's workforce which makes Texas's economy tick. Secondly, the state should provide more concrete evidence of its gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans by increasing the funding provided to colleges. The Texas economy is diversified and growing. The state can afford it. It keeps the promises made to our Texas veterans. The Governor proposed \$532 million reimbursement during the 2015 Legislature.
  - The residency requirements stated in the proposal are reasonable and legal.
  - A system to take the load off certain colleges and spread the load of Hazelwood students would seem to be a reasonable course of action.

**Recommendation:** We strongly recommend this as a workable solution! It keeps Texas' pledge to thank and reward veterans for their arduous service.



Sam Wilder serves your Chapter as well as the Military Officers Association of America by keeping us up on current National and State legislative matters. He is our “Voice for the Army”



## Chapter Officers

### PRESIDENT

Richard Kaniss

Email:

[president@ausanorthtexas.org](mailto:president@ausanorthtexas.org)

Phone: 972-644-6496

### SECRETARY

Woody Alexander

Email:

[woodynkath@att.net](mailto:woodynkath@att.net)

Phone: 214-679-2060

### STATE PRESIDENT

JP Hogan

Email:

[jp@northtexasausa.org](mailto:jp@northtexasausa.org)

Phone: 214-471-3289

Chapter Email:

[info@ausanorthtexas.org](mailto:info@ausanorthtexas.org)

## AUSA Chapter Meetings Coming Up

**Executive Committee** meetings, which are open to all, are now being held on the second Tuesday of the month at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House, South Central Expressway in Richardson from 1130 - 1300.



### **Upcoming Events in 2016:**

- ROTC Vicksburg BLE – 1to 3 April
- Navy “Shrederal” Day, 23 April, 0900-1300
- Army Birthday Observance – 14 June at Fairview Town Hall
- Chapter Officer Elections - June
- Army Scholarship Foundation application evaluation – 4 & 5 June at Gaults’ home: 5930 Meletio Lane in Dallas
- Grand Prairie Air Hogs Military Appreciation Day – 23 July
- Wounded Warrior Golf Classic – 9 August at Brookhaven Country Club (7:30 AM Registration, 9AM Tee Off)
- AUSA Housing Summit VIP Party - 28 October – Sheraton Hotel next to Arlington Convention Center
- AUSA Housing Summit – 29 October- Arlington Convention Center

Chapter Toll Free Telephone Number = (866) 608-3336

Extension 1 for President

Extension 2 for Leadership Program

Extension 3 for Housing Summit

Extension 4 for Golf Tournament

Extension 5 for Air Hogs Military Appreciation Day