



# THE SILVER CADUCEUS

Vol. 4, No. 1

Fall 2010

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**Salutations** Happy Thanksgiving and welcome to the newsletter of the Silver Caduceus Association. This is a mini-newsletter...and a Warning Order.

## *The Editor's Desk*

I have resumed the editor's job after a sabbatical since the last issue in the winter of 2008-9. This issue will be a short burst as we organize for a fuller winter version with new features.

- There is a desire by the membership to have a regular newsletter as a way of keeping in touch. We need your input!
- The Reunion in Colorado Spring was a superb event. We'll say more in the next issue, but meanwhile a big HOOAH to **Wendy and Chuck Adams**. They did a terrific job.
- **George Waters**, our newly elected president, has identified as his priority the pressing need to expand our membership. This will involve every member, and you'll be hearing more.
- **We need your input.** What are the things you want in your newsletter? For example, we intend to include a *Catch Up Corner* describing what our retired brethren are doing. **Don Helin** has joined the newsletter for that endeavor, and we've included his story as an example. We're looking for more!
- Send your ideas to [dickginn@aol.com](mailto:dickginn@aol.com) or H/Off 707-912-4326

## *News Notes*

### **Death of Former MSC Chief**

**BG France F. Jordan, USA, Ret.**, Chief of the MSC from 1981-1985, passed away at his home in Hollywood, Maryland, on Saturday, September 4th from congestive heart failure after a prolonged illness with Alzheimers disease. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Jordan; his sister, Betty Hamilton of Star, North Carolina; his son, France F. Jordan, Jr. "Sam"; daughter Martha Angela Jordan; stepsons Ian Goetchius and Wade Christian; stepdaughter Laura Kimberly; and five grandchildren. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at 9 a.m. at the Fort Meyer Chapel Arlington, National Cemetary. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com)

## *From the President*

*September 11, 2010*

Dear Fellow SCA Members,

It is with great honor that I thank the Silver Caduceus Association's Membership for their confidence in electing me as your President. In view of my long association with the SCA as a founder and as a member of the first SCA Board, I welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity with great enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment. It is certainly both humbling and exhilarating at the same time. During my tenure as the SCA President, I will focus on the following objectives as we take the Association to greater achievements.

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- Protect and garnish the Silver Caduceus Association's brand, and to increase the visibility of the Association in such a manner as to magnetize and energize the desire for membership in the SCA.
- Grow the Silver Caduceus Association membership by encouraging SCA members to solicit membership as they contact friends, former colleagues, and fellow associates.
- Strengthen support for the already successful Silver Caduceus Association Scholarship Program.
- Foster and bridge a working relationship and partnership between the Silver Caduceus Association and Silver Caduceus Societies at the various military posts and installations.
- Establish a position of SCA Liaison with the Chief of the Medical Service Corps.

I am asking the SCA Membership to join me as we embrace the theme, *Planting the Seeds to Grow the SCA*. This theme is the role of each member of the SCA; moreover, I solicit your support. I will publish initiatives on how the SCA will market our theme.

The Silver Caduceus Association Scholarship Committee is applauded and commended for its dedication, hard work, and outstanding results. We will keep this scholarship program at the forefront of our operations.

My vision is the appointment of several SCA representatives who will reach out and work with the Silver Caduceus Societies and report back to the SCA Board on activities, mentoring, achievements, and accomplishments. I am asking SCA members to make contact with the senior Medical Service Corps officer at the post near you and indicate your availability for mentoring, speaking engagements, etc. I am also soliciting the names of individuals who desire to serve as a SCA representative to the Silver Caduceus Society at the post near your location. I express a warm and hearty *Thank You* to our esteemed Chief of the MSC, Major General David Rubenstein, and Colonel Dawn Smith, Deputy Chief of the MSC and member of the SCA Board, for their support to the SCA. We will work with and coordinate this program through COL Smith and MG Rubenstein. Jim Vinci, our SCA Vice President, will serve as the SCA liaison to the Chief of the MSC, and will coordinate SCA actions with MG Rubenstein and COL Smith.

I am most appreciative of your congratulatory comments as well as your support, and I will work hard to meet your expectations.

**Plant a seed today to grow the SCA!**

George A. Waters, Jr.

## ***Membership***

Encourage fellow MSCs to join the SCA. Contact Jim Whitmire at [jimcwhit@earthlink.net](mailto:jimcwhit@earthlink.net) First year dues for new members is \$25. Renewal is \$15 per year. Lifetime is \$200 (Lifetime membership enrollment is temporarily suspended). Please send dues to SCA, P.O. Box 39514, San Antonio, TX 78218.

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Please notify **Doug Braendel** of the death of any active, retired or former MSCs. Doug can be contacted at [dcbraendel@gmail.com](mailto:dcbraendel@gmail.com)

## *Catch Up Corner*

We've heard suggestions that we tell the stories of what MSCs have done once they've left the Army. In this issue we feature **Don Helin, COL, MSC, Ret.**, our Catch Up Corner editor. You can reach Don at [DHelin@copper.net](mailto:DHelin@copper.net)

Warning Order: *Note the format when you write your stories!*

### **1. Tell us a little about what you did while on active duty.**

I did the field medical bit with assignments as a platoon leader, adjutant in a surgical hospital and company commander. After a tour with Combat Developments Command and Medical Command in Vietnam, I came back to Washington as an assignment officer in the MSC Career Branch. I served as executive officer in the 7<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion at Fort Ord, then commanded the 9th Medical Battalion at Fort Lewis. After the Army War College, I spent two assignments in OTSG as Assistant Executive Officer, then Executive Officer to The Surgeon General. I closed out my career with a great assignment as the DCA at Fort Stewart.

### **2. Sounds pretty busy. What did you do after you retired?**

I spent eight years as the Director of Health, Safety and Product Stewardship for the Chemical Manufacturers Association in Washington. Loved being a lobbyist. Got to wear suits, ties, and colorful shirts after twenty eight years in Army Green.

Before leaving Washington, I attended a seminar sponsored by the *The Washington Post*. Both Elaine and I love to travel and I thought, what the heck, be a travel writer and get paid for it. Enjoyed travel writing, but after four years, switched to the dark side and started writing fiction. My debut novel, *Thy Kingdom Come*, was recently published by Medallion Press.

### **3. What do you do to stay busy these days?**

Write novels and do book signings. I'm a member of International Thriller Writers as well as our local writers organization, Pennwriters. Also, I facilitate a writers group at Borders each month. Elaine and I enjoy hiking, biking, and believe it or not, I still enjoy jogging. We plan a trip to South Africa next year.

### **4. Why did you join the Silver Caduceus Association?**

Being isolated in the hills of central Pennsylvania, I didn't know about the Association until I talked to Jim Van Straten. Elaine and I attended the reunion in Colorado Springs and had a ball.

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Got updated on all of the changes in the Corps and spent time with good friends. We definitely plan to attend the next reunion and stay up to speed with friends.

## *Thoughts on our Military Service*

Thanks to Jim Van Straten for sending this our way.

### **You Can Leave The Military, But It Never Really Leaves You**

by Ken Burger, *The Charlestown Post and Courier*, Thursday, March 4, 2010

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant." Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced; a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds

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everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea. Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

## SCA Leadership

Board of Directors	Elected Officers	Appointed Officers
Dave Bitterman Tom Hill Ed Hollingsworth Earl McSwain Ed Shockley Dawn Smith Doug Stephens	President, George Waters Vice President, Jim Vinci Secretary, Garrett Barron Treasurer, Jim Martin	Audit: Ken Lingle & Jim Van Straten Chaplain: Doug Braendel Membership: Jim Whitmire Newsletter Editor & Historian: Dick Ginn Reunion 2012: Mike McGinley Scholarship: George Hammond, Ernie Sylvester and Jim Hayes Nominating: Jim Van Straten, Web Coordinator: Cindy & Doug Stephens Memorial Service: Jim Vinci, Doug Braendel

## SCA Scholarship Fund

**History:** The Scholarship fund was established at the 2004 Reunion. Col (Ret) George Hammond accepted the Chairmanship of this committee and solicited the assistance of Col (Ret) Jim Hayes and Col (Ret) Ernie Sylvester.

The Scholarship Program is modeled after the Alamo Rotary Club Scholarship Program, with one exception, applicants are not limited to High School seniors. Any relative of an SCA member may apply if recommended by the SCA member.

The Scholarship Program is funded entirely by donations from SCA members. We awarded five scholarships at the 2006 Reunion; three at the 2008 Reunion; three after the reunion; and six at the 2010 Reunion. Awardees are relatives of SCA members, to include a spouse of an Active Duty MSC. Scholarship awards are distributed directly to the awardees to be used for tuition, books, fees, etc. To date the SCA has awarded seventeen \$1,000 scholarships.

**Update:** The response for donations from the SCA membership attending the Reunion in Colorado Springs was SUPER! We received four \$1,000 donations (the amount of one scholarship award), and one donation of \$1,700. And get this! One donation of \$5,000 in memory of COL Ellis Hall (deceased). In addition, there were many donations of \$100 or whatever they could afford...**FOR A GRAND TOTAL of \$13,957, with pledges still outstanding in the amount of \$600.**

In 2010 we were able to award six (6) \$1,000 scholarships (list of awardees is attached)

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This brought the balance of funds available for scholarships to less than \$1,000, the amount of one scholarship.

Based on the amount in the fund our SCA President, George Waters, has authorized opening the scholarship application process up in 2011, from 1 January to 30 June 2011. This is a first in the history of the SCA; in the past scholarships have only been awarded in reunion years. The number of awards will depend on the amount in the fund and the number of qualified applicants.

If you have not made your tax exempt donation for this year, please do so prior to 31 December. Send your donations to:

Silver Caduceus Association  
Attn: Treasurer  
P.O. Box 39514  
San Antonio, TX 79218

The 2011 scholarship application form will be available on the SCA Website in December 2010.

Thanks for your continued support,

Col (R) George E. Hammond, Chairman, Scholarship Committee  
[ghammondeaglesnest@verizon.net](mailto:ghammondeaglesnest@verizon.net) 813-645-8861

## *SCA Scholarship Awards for 2010*

<u>AWARDEE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Ross Marchand	COL (Ret) Robert E. Kleber	H.S. Senior/will attend U. of Mass, Lowell Major: Business
Aulbri L. Little	COL (Ret) Charles Davis	Attending Georgia Southern University Major: Graphic Design
Elizabeth Gore	COL (Ret) Bernard L. Gore	H.S. Senior/will attend James Madison Univ Major: Pre-Med
Brent Weiss	COL (Ret) Joseph D. Weiss	H.S. Senior/will attend Baylor University Major: Accounting
Demetra Kelenis	COL (Ret) Jim Van Straten	Attending University of Texas, Austin Major: Cell & Molecular Biology/Pre-Med
Connor A. Cohick	COL (Ret) Byron P. Howlett	Attending Trinity University, San Antonio Major: Pre-Med

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER:** Notices are being sent out to members with 2010 expiration dates indicating that renewal payments (\$15.00) are due. Members with 2010 expiration dates should mail their payments to SCA, Post Office Box 39514, San Antonio, Texas, 78218. You are encouraged to renew for two years (\$30.00) to help reduce the administrative workload and paperwork.

## **"Planting the seeds to grow the SCA"**