



# THE SCA eNEWS

**September 2014**

## *Table of Contents*

- SCA New Members
- Congratulations to the New SCA Leadership
- SCA Past President Expresses Gratitude
- Check Out What Is Happening In the SCA
- SCA 2014 Reunion Synopsis
- Scheduling Locations for SCA Reunions
- Earl & Betty McSwain Receive SCA Achievement Award
- The Silver Caduceus Association has a Facebook page!
- SCA is LinkedIn
- Recruiting New SCA Members
- COL Vandy Miller Receives Honorary Doctor of Humanities
- A Thought to Ponder
- Project Vigil: D-Day
- SCA Salutes Our Country's Tallest Flagpole
- Wreath Laying Ceremony
- In Memoriam

Dear Fellow SCA Member,

*Silver Caduceus Association, Inc.*  
PO Box 39514  
San Antonio, TX 78218

### SCA New Members

We were pleased to welcome the following new members in August;

- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LTC, (Ret) Henry Bellinger            | CPT, (AD) John P. Rumble    |
| COL, (Ret) Catherine J. Benham        | COL, (Ret) Michael P. Ryan  |
| COL, (AD) Rafael E. DeJesus           | COL, (Ret) Duane N. Hill    |
| COL, (Ret) David (Dave) L. Schroeder  | LTC, (Ret) Brian P. Thiel   |
| CPT, (AD) Karmon D. Dyches            | LTC, (Ret) Lawrence E. Shaw |
| LTC, (Ret) Spurgeon A. (Alan) McAdams | LTC, (Ret) James O'Kieff    |
| LTC, (Ret) David (Dave) L. Williams   |                             |

### Congratulations To the New SCA Leadership:

During the Business Meeting at the SCA 2014 Reunion, the following members were elected to lead the Silver Caduceus Association;

- Linn Danielski-----President
- George, (Chuck) Adams---Vice President
- Garrett Barron-----Secretary
- Tom Barker-----Treasurer

### Board of Directors:

- Dudley Brown
- Mary Garr
- Ed Haraguchi
- Tammie Jones
- David Rubenstein
- James Vinci
- George Waters, Jr.

### Appointed Officers:

- Doug Braendel -Chaplain
- Jim Whitmire - Membership Coordinator

### SCA Past President Expresses Gratitude:

It has certainly been a pleasure to serve as your SCA President for the past four years. When I accepted the position as SCA President, I stated that my major focus would be to "Grow the SCA" and "Embellish the SCA Brand". I am pleased to say, much has been accomplished to increase the SCA membership, and to enhance the image of the SCA. A report of the SCA accomplishments over the past four years that were discussed at the recent SCA General Membership meeting has been posted to the SCA Website.

***Camaraderie Is A Passion That Makes Friendships Endure***

**President:**

*Linn Danielski*

**Vice-Pres:**

*George, (Chuck)  
Adams*

**Secretary:**

*Garrett Barron*

**Treasurer:**

*Tom Barker*

**Board of Directors**

Dudley Brown  
Mary Garr  
Ed Haraguchi  
Tammie Jones  
David Rubenstein  
James Vinci  
George Waters, Jr.

**Appointed Officers****Auditors:**

Ken Lingle  
Jim Van Straten

**Chaplain:**

Doug Braendel

**Membership:**

Jim Whitmire

**Editor:**

Vacant

**Historian:**

Dick Ginn

**Editor, Catch-up****Corner:**

Don Helin

**Publisher:**

Steve Sheridan

**Scholarship:**

George Hammond  
Ernie Sylvester  
Jim Hayes

Additionally, I am most appreciative of the assistance from the SCA Board, Staff, Committee Members, etc in order to attain these accomplishments. Thanks for electing me as the SCA President; moreover, I also say "Thank You" for your membership and your support.

Check Out What Is Happening In The SCA:

SCA: [https:// www.silvercaduceusassociation.com](https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.com)

LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/?](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/?orig=SPCK&keywords=silver+caduceus+association)

[orig=SPCK&keywords=silver+caduceus+association](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/?orig=SPCK&keywords=silver+caduceus+association)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Silver-CaduceusAssociation/287265814776102>

SCA 2014 Reunion Synopsis:

A good time was had by all with 150 registered for the Reunion. The 2014 SCA Reunion was held this year in the Washington DC area, at the luxurious Renaissance Capital View Arlington Hotel; moreover, it gave our members and their guests an excellent opportunity to see the Nation's Capital and spend plenty of social time reminiscing about the past. The reunion began with healthcare administrators, comptrollers, pharmacists, operation officers and logisticians/biomedical maintenance officers holding Social Gatherings/Dinners at restaurants and homes of local SCA members for specialty meetings that provided an excellent opportunity to fellowship. Throughout the week, attendees took part in tours of the Pentagon, a bus tour of the DC monuments, a tour and wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, and a tour of the new hospital at Fort Belvoir. Despite the 94 degree temperature, some also enjoyed a challenging golf game on the fairways and greens of the East Potomac Golf Course. On Friday evening, ninety attendees enjoyed a BBQ dinner held at the golf course.

The reunion's general session began on Friday morning with the Honor Guard, of the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) presenting the colors. Following a welcome by COL, (Ret) George Waters, SCA President; Brigadier General, MSC, Patrick Sargent, the MEDCOM G3/5/7, our Keynote Speaker, provided an inspiring update on how the Army is focusing on improvement of the health of our military force, families, and workforce. BG (Ret.) Creighton Abrams delivered a virtual tour of the planned US Army museum at Fort Belvoir. On Friday the SCA Chaplain, COL (Ret.) Doug Braendel led a solemn and impressive memorial service that highlighted the names of our fallen Medical Service Corps officers since the last SCA Reunion. Mrs. Susan East Sturch, daughter of COL, (Ret) Gilbert East attended the memorial service to honor her Medical Service Corps father, touching all of our hearts. And, Susan also made a generous donation of \$2,000.00 to the SCA Scholarship Fund. COL (Ret.) Dick Ginn presented a short history of the Medical Service Corps and highlights of famous Medical Service Corps officers. COL John Spain, Pharmacy Consultant for the Army Medical Department gave an excellent overview of TRICARE and the TRICARE pharmacy benefit program, how it has evolved over the years and where it is headed in the future. The final

**Nominating:**

Vacant

**Webmaster:**

Doug &amp; Cindy Stephens

**Memorial Services:**Jim Vinci  
Doug Braendel**SCA & SCS****Partnership:**

Vacant

**Recruitment &****Marketing:**

Vacant

presenter was COL (Ret.) Mike Barron, from the Military Officer's Association of America. Mike enlightened us on the threats to our benefits and the efforts that MOAA and others are making to keep our retirement and health benefits off the chopping block for future cuts. The Reunion included a very productive General Membership meeting, and we concluded our Saturday general session with the election of four new board members and a new SCA President, COL, (Ret) Linn Danielski and Vice President, COL, (Ret) George, (Chuck) Adams.

The SCA Reunion was culminated with our final activity which was the banquet/dinner dance at the Renaissance Capital View Arlington Hotel with 127 in attendance. MAJ (Ret.) Tom Barker led the attendees into the dining room from the reception area while playing the bagpipes. The dinner was delicious, and the musical entertainment was an excellent mix of jazz and rhythm & blues provided by the Mavis Waters Band, with Mavis' outstanding vocal talent. The success of our top quality banquet is due to the impeccable planning of COL, (Ret) Lisa Weatherington; she is commended for her efforts and hard work. The camaraderie and fellowship were robust; it demonstrated that, "In the Silver Caduceus Association, camaraderie is a passion that makes friendships endure.". We look forward to seeing you at our next SCA Reunion that is tentatively scheduled to be held in San Antonio.

COL, (Ret) Mark Lyford and the SCA 2014 Reunion Committee are commended for their superb efforts in orchestrating an outstanding Reunion.

#### Scheduling Locations For SCA Reunions:

The SCA Survey that was conducted in 2012 validated San Antonio, Texas as the most preferred location for a SCA Reunion. And, there is also a strong feeling that the SCA Reunion should rotate and be held in other popular locations. The SCA Board considers this information when selecting a location for the SCA Reunion.

The SCA 2012 Survey revealed; "The overall location selected for SCA Reunions/Meetings was San Antonio, Texas. Washington, DC was mentioned many times along with San Antonio. San Antonio was the first choice with the National Capital Region, (NCR) being a close second. Some suggested other locations like Las Vegas, Nevada ; Phoenix, Arizona, Florida, Colorado, Panama City, or military organization cities, etc. And a three, (3) day cruise was also mentioned."

Our attendance at the last three SCA Reunions also support the findings in the survey.

2010-----Colorado Springs, Colorado:--74 Registrations received.\*

2012-----San Antonio, Texas:-----129 Registrations received.\*

2014-----Washington, DC----- 88 Registrations received.\*

\* Does not include guests.

Over half of our members are from Texas with the majority of those members residing in the San Antonio vicinity. In the September 2013 SCA E-NEWS, a paragraph on the SCA Geographical Distribution was included. Texas was the home of 156 of our members. Ninety-six, (96) of our

members resided in the National Capital Region, (Virginia--56; Maryland--28; Washington, DC--12).

Earl and Betty McSwain Receive SCA Achievement Award:  
During the SCA General Membership meeting, COL, (Ret) and Mrs. Earl McSwain were recognized for their outstanding services to the Silver Caduceus Association, and they were presented with the SCA Achievement Award by George Waters, SCA President. Betty is an Honorary Member of the SCA. Earl and Betty were not able to attend the SCA Reunion, and COL, (Ret) Jim Van Stratten graciously agreed to accept the award on their behalf and deliver it to them.

The Silver Caduceus Association has a Facebook page!  
The intent of this social media outlet is to assist the SCA in sharing information between members, other like-minded organizations, and also to recruit fellow MSC's. We will post relevant information about the Army Medical Department. Please copy and paste this link into your browser and follow the SCA! AMEDD Strong! Link: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Silver-Caduces-Association/287265814776102>

In view of the success the SCA has experienced with LinkedIn, a decision was made to establish the SCA Facebook page that was launched in April. CPT Thomas Tucker is commended for this initiative, and we thank him for his assistance and efforts in designing and setting up the SCA Facebook page.

SCA Is LinkedIn:

Our Association is now represented on LinkedIn as the Silver Caduceus Association

Group. LinkedIn is a secure professional networking WEB site for people in professional occupations now or retired. Founded in December 2002, LinkedIn has more than 200 million users in more than 200 countries and territories. As a member of the Group, you will be able to enjoy the benefits of initiating discussions, posting and searching for jobs, sharing topics of importance to the SCA and keeping in touch with other Group members. Communicating through the Group will also give us another method of instantly communicating with our SCA members. If you are already a LinkedIn member then all you need to do to become a member of the SCA LinkedIn group is to login to LinkedIn and go to the search window and type in "Silver Caduceus Association" and ask to join the group. Once that is done, Our VP, Jim Vinci, who initiated and developed the Group, will receive your request and immediately process it to make you a Group Member. We already have a good core group signed up, and I strongly encourage all of our members to do the same. This action represents "value added" to the SCA membership.

### Recruiting New SCA Members:

A major focus has been to increase our membership which is in keeping with our Theme: "Planting the Seeds to Grow the SCA". Through your efforts, we have been quite successful with this endeavor. Thanks very much for your efforts, and I request that you continue to actively recruit members for the SCA. **Plant a Seed Today to Grow the SCA!**

### COL Vandy Miller Receives Honorary Doctor of Humanities:

An honorary doctorate was conferred upon COL, (Ret) Vandy Miller by West Virginia State University. In the photo, Vandy stands between the President and Vice President of West Virginia State University after being presented with the Honorary Doctorate degree. When Vandy was asked about this honor, he was rather modest and said, "I attended commencement exercises at West Virginia State University as part of the last graduating class from the University when the school was segregated. They asked me to sit on the stage and to my surprise, I received an honorary doctorate".



Vandy's parents, Wade and Mary Miller, welcomed him into the family in Wadesboro, NC as the eighth of their eleven children. They knew he was destined to accomplish much, and he did not disappoint them. At the age of four, his family relocated to Filbert, West Virginia. His numerous accomplishments took him around the world; however, he remained well-rooted in West Virginia, maintaining the family home until his parent's death. He embraced the values his family taught him, and he repeatedly attained high academic grades throughout his elementary education in Filbert and

secondary education in Bluefield. In addition to being a scholar, Vandy was also a well-accomplished athlete. He began his post secondary education on an athletic scholarship and completed West Virginia State College as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Regular Army Commission after which, he embarked on a successful military career. He completed CGSC and was also selected by the OTSG to attend the University of Rochester where Vandy earned a Masters Degree in Radiation Biology. He served in the OTSG as its Expert in Radiological Hygiene and Nuclear Weapons Effects. After retiring from the Army, Vandy managed to keep himself gainfully employed as he launched his civil service career. Vandy later retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-NRC in June 1996, after 41 years of federal service. He also served as the Director of the Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) from October 1993 to June 1996. He recently paid a surprise visit to the NRC by attending the annual Diversity Day celebration which was held on July 30, 2014. The SBCR recognized Vandy for his outstanding achievements along with his honorary doctorate. The SCA also extends hearty congratulations to Vandy on this special honour.

A Thought To Ponder:

When we become more fully aware that our success is due in a large measure to the loyalty, helpfulness, and encouragement we have received from others, our desire grows [exponentially] to pass on similar gifts. Gratitude spurs us on to prove ourselves worthy of what others have done for us. The spirit of gratitude is a powerful energizer. (Wilferd A. Peterson)

Project Vigil: D-Day 2014, The Saluting Boy On Omaha Beach:

If you have not seen this video, it is well done, very touching, and one you must see.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8k9Si28k0Fk>

SCA Salutes Our Country's Tallest Flagpole:

Standing 400 feet tall, it is a remarkable and patriotic tribute to Freedom.

<http://mortenson.wistia.com/medias/tejnwptig>

Wreath Laying Ceremony:

During the SCA 2014 Reunion, a wreath laying ceremony by the Silver Caduceus Association was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery.





In Memoriam:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of the following Fellow Medical Service Corps Officer;

COL (Ret) Robert A. Mays, Jr.

Warmest regards,



George A. Waters, Jr.  
Immediate Past President, SCA

*"In The Silver Caduceus Association, Camaraderie Is A Passion That makes Friendships Endure!"*