

Announcement of Candidacy for
ATM Executive Councilor, MOS&B
December 22, 2009

Howard Jones, Commander – California Society
1471 Woodberry Avenue, San Mateo 94403
(650) 572-0461 howardandcathy@hotmail.com

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the office of Executive Councilor for the Army of the Trans Mississippi. I have been very successful in revitalizing both our membership and our organization in California. Now I would like the opportunity to take my organizational skills to the national level.

There is no membership that I value more than my membership in MOS&B. Since becoming a member of the Order I have faithfully attended every national convention. In 2008 I was appointed to the position of Provisional Commander of the California Society by Commander General, Philip Law. My mission in California was to organize the membership and create a new *State Society*. That objective was accomplished in 2008.

While I was organizing the *State Society* I also revitalized Gen. John B. Hood Chapter 89 in Los Angeles. The Chapter had not met in 5 years and needed to be reorganized. Regular meetings were scheduled and our members began to realize the benefits of membership. Since that time our members in Southern California have continued to enjoy the bonds of fellowship and camaraderie through our regular meetings.

My next objective was the creation a second Chapter in Northern California. For years we have had a core of members in the San Francisco area that could not attend regular meetings because of the distances involved. I appointed Stephen Renouf as Provisional Commander of the proposed new Chapter. Working together, Steve and I were successful in creating Capt Alonzo Ridley Chapter 303 in San Francisco. Our Chapter Charter Application was approved this year.

The challenges that face MOS&B are not unique to our organization. I am involved in many other organizations that are that are faced with similar problems. The greatest challenge to face most organizations is a static – or declining – membership base. Frankly, the demographics of most organizations are not favorable for the future. These organizations have a disproportionate number of older members and a near void of younger members. We simply have to reinvigorate our membership base by appealing to a new generation of members. Our efforts must also include member retention.

I favor an outreach program to other organizations that have a similar historical focus. We should encourage our members to become guest speakers for these organizations in order to improve our visibility and forge new alliances. New memberships will follow.

The fiscal integrity of our organization is another concern. Our present all-volunteer head office has helped us get through a difficult period. However, that plan will not work indefinitely. I favor a management system in which certain functions are outsourced at competitive rates. Of course, a successful membership program is in integral part of fiscal soundness.

If elected I pledge to attend every meeting of the General Executive Council. I will work tirelessly and give MOS&B the highest priority in my daily activities. As members of the Order we are charged with the responsibility of preserving the memories of our ancestors and the cause that they fought for. If elected I promise to do my best to be worthy of that trust. *Deo Vindice.*

Howard

BIOGRAPHY

Personal: Married for 47 years to my wife, Cathy. Two married daughters and 3 grandchildren

My Ancestor: Capt Henry Hill Harris, Co G, 8th Arkansas Infantry Regiment

1957-1963 USMC/USMCR

1962 B.S. Bus Admin – University of Oregon

1972-2001 Owner/Pres – Howard Jones Batteries, Inc

2000-2008 Owner/Pres – Western Lead Recycling, Inc.

2007-Present Cdr, *California Society*, MOS&B, and Cdr. Chapter 89 in Los Angeles

1998-Present Commissioner, San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission

2005-2006 President, Peninsula Civil War Round Table

1982-2004 10-term President – Harbor Industrial Association

2002-2003 Pres, Silicon Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution