



THE WAR THEY WON

Companion Lt. Hobart Kistler (No. 22536)



Lieutenant Hobart King "Hobie" Kistler (USNA 2012) was an active and enthusiastic member of the Loyal Legion. At his untimely death in 2021, he was serving as Chancellor-in-Chief, while navigating a Naval career of increasing responsibility and prominence. He is greatly missed.

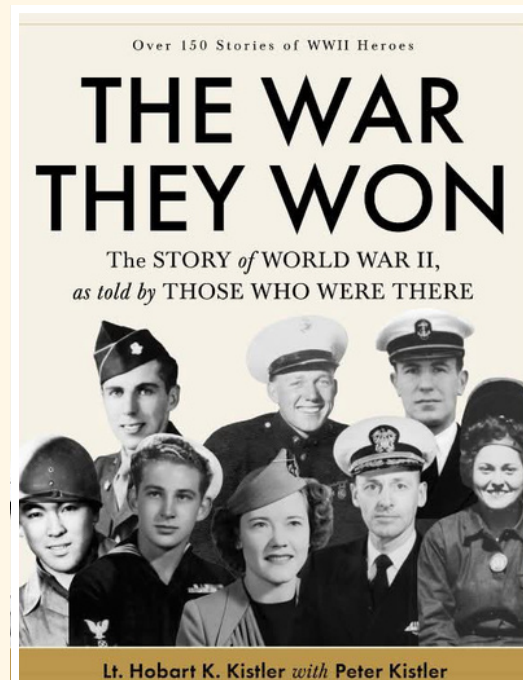
When 14 years old, young Hobie began a 17-year passion project of interviewing and preserving the wartime stories of World War II veterans. He began with his Grandfathers, evolved to members of

his church community, and eventually spanned out across the USA seeking veterans with stories to tell. After more than 200 interviews, he began the process of weaving their first-hand narratives into a comprehensive tale of WWII from Pearl Harbor, through VJ Day.

After Hobie's death, his family took up the completed manuscript, and added over 200 photos (many of the vets themselves) and maps to complete the presentation. The collected observations, stories, horrors, and often humor of more than 150 of those veterans have now been published as *The War They Won*.

Within its 400 pages are preserved the stories that can no longer be told in person, and would have been lost.

The book launched on July 4th. The web site for more information, and to order the book, is: thewartheywon.com. Military historians wishing to gain new insight into the sacrifices of those who served, or wishing to introduce others to military history, will treasure this presentation. From bomber pilots, to submariners, to artillerymen, and others, we witness the struggles and triumphs during that time of world conflict. The fellowship and commitment of every veteran is in evidence on every page. Their collected stories are a testament to Hobie's own commitment and vision.





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The Loyal Legion Historical Journal is a quarterly publication of the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, in support of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). The Journal welcomes submissions of relevant materials from members of the Order and from the public, and should be directed to the Editor, Jeffry Burden, at richburd6165@yahoo.com.

Written content must be formatted in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically. Photos and artwork must be of adequate resolution (at least 300 dpi jpeg or TIFF files), and must be accompanied by a description and/or suggested caption. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted material for length, content and style.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

February 15 (Spring issue), May 15 (Summer issue),

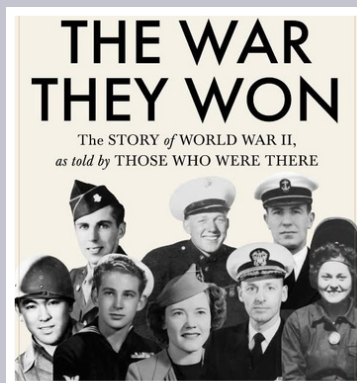
August 15 (Fall issue) and November 15 (Winter issue).

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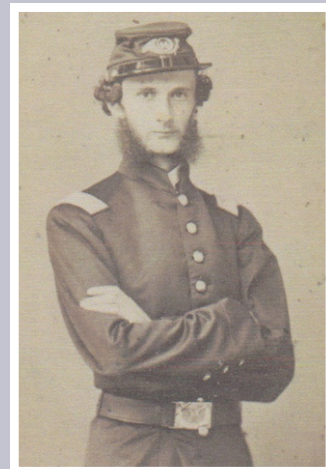
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LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL / FALL 2026

Welcome New Members

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1LT Andrew Q. Mountz, 11th WV INF

Andrew Robert Novak 23004 (TX)

MAJ George F. Wightman II, 2nd TN INF

Andrew Douglas Stevenson 23005 (PA)

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Michael Lee Mankin 23006 (TN)

CPT John Edward Detrich, 22nd IL INF

Paul Steven Bobenhausen 23007 (TN)

1LT Richard Elias Hooghkirk, 149th NY INF

ASSOCIATE COMPANIONS

A395 James Patrick McGuire (RI)

A396 Michael Harrison Charles (FL)

A397 Ryan Alexander Estes (FL)

LOYAL LEGION MEMORIAL FUND



Trustees' Corner

LOYAL LEGION MEMORIAL FUND



For those over 70 and a half years old, who have an IRA, “Required Minimum Distributions” are a fact of life. The Internal Revenue Code allows transfers — called “Qualified Charitable Distributions” — directly from an IRA to a qualifying 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Depending on one’s situation, such distributions can be a valuable way both to help meet the RMD requirement and to support a worthy organization.

The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund welcomes such distributions, to assist the Fund in meeting its mission to support like-minded historical organizations, publish the Historical Journal, help

organize public events, and defray the cost of placing military markers for Original Companions. Your tax advisor can provide more information about this charitable giving opportunity.

Loyally,
The Trustees of the Memorial Fund

P.S.: Remember, annual giving to the Memorial Fund directly from your checking or savings account can be accomplished any time! Our giving year ends September 30 — make your tax-deductible gift securely online now at:
<https://loyallegion.org/about/loyal-legion-memorial-fund/>



Remembering Companion John Grant Griffiths

John Grant Griffiths, great-great-grandson of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and longtime Companion of the Loyal Legion, died on July 7, age 88, in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Companion Griffiths had both a long professional career, including as Curator of Ordnance at Quantico's Marine Corps Museum, and also deep involvement with historical and hereditary organizations. He joined the Loyal Legion more than 30 years ago, and was a valued member of the Virginia Commandery. He also was active in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and other organizations.

He was perhaps best known to the public-at-large as a reenactor (including as Gen. Grant) at many living history and reenactment events, and as a welcome guest at Civil War roundtables and conferences.

He was proud of his roles as a founder of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and as an early friend and supporter of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), now the American Battlefield Trust.

John's grandfather was Ulysses Grant III, a past Commander-in-Chief of the Loyal Legion, and he was also the great-grandson of Secretary of War Elihu Root.

John was a gentle and genial presence, with a sharp sense of humor, and his interests ran beyond his lineage to vital issues of historical preservation and interpretation. As he said in a 2019 interview, "I'm very interested in the fact that these battles took place and that these battlefields exist. I want to help see that they exist for some time."



Griffiths at the Shelton House on the Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield, Virginia, May 2014.



Griffiths (far right) at a Virginia Commandery meeting, 2000.

BULLETIN: The Sultana Disaster Museum of Marion, Arkansas, near Memphis (highlighted in our Spring 2026 Issue) has announced it will re-open in its new location in Marion on November 14. The Museum's exhibits commemorate the April 1865 Mississippi River disaster in which more than 1,800 returning Union POWs died. See <https://www.sultanadisastermuseum.com/> for more information.

Companions Attend SUVCW National Encampment

By: JVC-in-C Jefferson D. Lilly (No. 22544)

The Loyal Legion was well-represented at this year's Sons of Union Veterans National Encampment, held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from July 30 to August 2, with over twenty Companions participating as delegates from various SUVCW Camps across the United States (two of whom did not make this photo).

Let's never forget that many of our Companions are also Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. That relationship has endured since the SUVCW founding, and the MOLLUS has a dedicated appointed officer whose role it is to ensure continued positive fraternal relations

between the two groups. Did you know that there have been four Companions who served as Commander-in-Chief of both organizations?

If you go to LoyalLegion.org/commanders-in-chief, you can learn about all of the men who have led our organization, including these four double leaders.

Huzzah to our SUVCW Brothers on another National Encampment well done – we will see you in Nashville in 2027!



Image: Ohio Commandery of MOLLUS.

Mark the Date - Remembrance Day 2026

Speaking of Gettysburg: Loyal Legion members will join with the Sons of Veterans Reserve and others for the 70th annual Remembrance Day there on November 14.

The event, commemorating President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in November 1863, begins with a gathering of Loyal Legion members and friends at 10:00 a.m. for wreath-laying at the monuments to Gen. George D. Meade

and to John Page Nicholson, a Gettysburg veteran and longtime Loyal Legion Recorder-in-Chief. Members of the SVR, the Allied Orders and others next gather at the Albert Woolson Monument, followed by the traditional parade of reenactor units and hereditary groups (including the MOLLUS) through the streets of Gettysburg.

For more information, see: suvchw.org/remembrance-day

Markers Placed — Service Remembered

By Companion Mike Rowley (IA 22729)

A joke I often make is that, of the more than forty organizations to which I belong — from the Loyal Legion to the Jamestown Society — it is the service and actions of others, namely previous family members, that make my memberships even possible.

I am the youngest son of Maj. Denton E. Rowley, a World War II combat medic and Iowa National Air Guard veteran, whose 100%-service-connected death in 1965 at 44 years old impressed on me the importance of remembering those who passed before us.

Years later, around 2005, I was taking a cemetery tour when the guide mentioned that many veterans' graves were unmarked. Finding it unacceptable that any veteran might be forgotten, I decided to see if I could make an impact by helping to ensure that at least the soldiers in my local cemetery were remembered.

What started then, with documentation research, making the application, and installing one Civil War veteran's grave stone, has now expanded into 439 grave stones ordered, installed and marked to date. The goal for 2026 is the marking of 76 veteran graves..

While this Loyal Legion member and his small group of volunteers (who range in age from 4 to 92 years old — it is never too early or late to start marking!) have placed most of the stones in Iowa, we have also traveled, for those from the Revolutionary War to modern day veterans, to seven different states.

The continuing effort to scour cemetery records, old newspaper Memorial Day articles, and county history books, and also searching seemingly-open spaces in old pioneer cemeteries, will lead, one at a time, to more veterans being remembered. A by-product of this work has been the creation the most comprehensive lists of known War of 1812 veterans, Mexican-American War veterans and Civil War veterans of African descent that are buried in Iowa. Of special significance has been the ability to mark the graves of those who have been underrepresented throughout history.

These include Civil War nurses, early black officers and those who have served in a type of auxiliary capacity that makes all in the military better.

An added and important element of marking veterans' graves is the impact it has on their families, and also currently active military personnel. Contacting the families of these veterans is a top priority even if they are seven generations removed.

Pvt. Joseph Aldrich's great-great-granddaughter Nancy Loterbor of Nebraska joined the author and others at Aldrich's marker dedication on July 26 in New Hampton, Iowa.



Markers Placed — Service Remembered (continued)

The message to them is clear: your family's service and sacrifices are important and will never be forgotten...even 150 years from now.

There is an old quote that there are three phases of death: "The first is when life leaves the body. The second is when the body is interred in its final resting place. The third and final phase is when one's name is spoken for the last time." This member of the MOLLUS wants to make it easier for all, to see and speak names that often have been hidden for decades.



The author and retired firefighter Mike Niffenegger, age 92, who has helped install more than 100 markers.



The author's grandsons Mike and Isaac Rowley at Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines.

Commandery News

MASSACHUSETTS



On the gun deck of the U.S.S. Constitution, berthed at Charlestown, MA SVC David Lambert presented the ROTC Medal of Merit on June 18 to Ens. Jillian Parrott. Ensign Parrott is a 2026 graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Commandery's Summer Meeting on June 27 featured a full day of history, camaraderie, and marvelous southern cuisine. The morning saw Companions treated to a private staff ride by National Park Service Rangers at the Fort Donelson National Historic Site in Dover. Overlooking the Cumberland River, the Battle of Fort Donelson handed the Union its first major strategic victory of the war and fundamentally altered the military landscape in the Western Theater. Afterwards, Companions traveled to Clarksville to "Allenwood," the historic home of Companion Dr. Bailey Allen. After a wonderful catered dinner, Dr. Allen and his sister provided guided tours of their homes, on land that has been in the Allen family for seven generations.



Companions Bill Brennan (IN), Scott Holmes (TN), Ray Cassell (TN), Jeff Lilly (IN/TN), Mac Crawford (TN), NPS Ranger Weakley, Companion Jason Boshers (TN), Mrs. Boshers, Companion Richard Blanton (TN), and Liberty, owned by TN Commander Crawford.



Allenwood, home of Companion Dr. Bailey Allen.

Original Companion Vignettes: CAPT. MAYER FRANK (NO. 10385) and CAPT. FRANK W. REYNOLDS (No. 00924)

By National Historian Adam Gaines (No. 22470)



Mayer Frank is part of the too-little-told story of Jewish warriors of the Civil War. He was born in 1841 in Nordsteten, Germany to Abraham Frank and Yetta Hilb. At the age of 12, Frank joined with his family in the great German emigration to the United States, and settled in Philadelphia.

In 1861, after having moved to Chicago the year before, he tried to enlist in the Union Army but was rejected because of his physical condition.

Frank, still intent on serving his adopted country, turned his attention to recruiting. In the summer of 1862, he joined other Jewish Chicagoans to raise a largely-Jewish unit, Company "C", 82nd Illinois Infantry, with Frank elected Company 1st Lieutenant. As part of the XI Corps, Company "C" and Frank saw action at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In May 1863, Frank was appointed an Inspector General on the staff of Gen. Alexander Schimmelfennig and promoted Captain. He was injured at Gettysburg when his horse was shot and fell on him. Further staff duty took him west, where he fought with distinction at the battles of Wauhatchie and Missionary Ridge, and served on the staff of Gen. William T. Sherman. His lingering injury from Gettysburg proved troublesome, and he resigned his commission in February 1864.

Frank returned to Chicago and entered the wholesale shoe and boot business. He married Celia Newberger in 1878; they were divorced five years later. He joined the 82nd Illinois Regimental Association in 1884, and the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion in 1894. He died on August 17, 1895, and was buried in Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery. His pallbearers were comrades from the 82nd Illinois.



One of the earliest Companions of the Massachusetts Commandery was Frank Wayland Reynolds, a veteran of the 44th Massachusetts Infantry.

Reynolds was born in Boston in 1836. After attending Brown University, he worked for several years in Valparaiso, Chile, before returning to join his father's firm in Boston as a commission merchant, and also volunteering pre-War in

the New England Guards militia unit. He joined Company B of the 4th Massachusetts Battalion of Militia on May 26, 1862, as a Second Lieutenant. The Battalion was soon authorized to enlarge to a full regiment, and was re-formed as the 44th Massachusetts Infantry to serve for nine months. Reynolds was commissioned Captain and authorized to recruit Company K.

The Regiment received orders in October to move to North Carolina. Reynolds and his men marched up Boyston Street to waiting steamships, accompanied by the cheers of thousands of Bostonians. They first saw action at the Battle of Rawls Mill on November 2. The next month, the 44th took part in the Goldsborough Expedition, disrupting Confederate supply lines by blowing up the Goldsborough Bridge.

Reynold's time with the Regiment was short. In late December 1862, he submitted his resignation for health reasons and returned to Boston, where he resumed his business practice.

In 1863 he married Cordelia Frances Weld; they eventually had three children. He joined the new Massachusetts Commandery in 1868. He was active as a Companion, and also as a member of the G.A.R. and of the 44th's regimental association.

Reynolds eventually moved into banking, serving as a vice-president of the Mercantile Trust Company. He held that position at the time of his death on November 10, 1905. His son Robert Duncan Reynolds carried on the family connection to the Order as a Hereditary Companion.

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Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States



LOYAL LEGION MEMORIAL FUND OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES

ORIGINAL COMPANION GRAVE MARKING PROJECT

Commandery Reimbursement Form

Commanderies and individual Companions may submit receipts up to \$200.00 for expenses directly related to the marking of a grave of a previously unmarked Original Companion. Examples of allowable expenses are stone setting, foundation pouring, perpetual care agreements, stone acceptance and storage, flag markers, or other related expenses. Personal expenses such as mileage, meals, or charitable donations are **not** permitted under this program. Please complete the following form and submit it and detailed receipt documentation to the LLMF Treasurer Lee Tryon, 4 Raven Circle, Avon, Connecticut 06001-3317 (leetryon@comcast.net).

Commandery Name: _____

Original Companion(s) & Insignia Number(s): _____

Cemetery Name(s) & Location(s): _____

Amount Requested: _____

Type of Expense(s) Incurred: _____

Check Should Be Made Payable To: _____

Contact Person & Address: _____

Phone Number and Email: _____

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL RECEIPTS ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO ENSURE PROPER AND TIMELY
REIMBURSEMENT. THANK YOU HELPING ENSURE OUR ORIGINAL COMPANIONS ARE REMEMBERED!**
