

either very senior in years but also in their wisdom, 3 of whom now live in Florida, would be declared as Trustee's Emeritus and retained as part of the Society's family.

Johnson Aides COL(RET) Roger McNamara, AMB Abelardo Valdez, and Nixon/Johnson Aide Mr. Andy Lawrence met with me at the historic Hays Adams Hotel to develop this structure. From that has come a decision to choose 9 "Advisors" including myself, a statement of "Core Ethical Values", and "Organizational and Policies" which have been approved by all Advisors to "Guide us, thy sons (and daughters), aright". The Advisors were chosen in sequence by agreement of all the selected Advisors with COL McNamara, AMB Valdez and I in turn choosing LTC Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush '43) and the four of us in turn LTC(RET) William Sinnott (Carter / Reagan), COL(RET) Veronica Richardson (Clinton), Mr. Dave Pitcher (Nixon), Mr. Rusty Johnson (Carter) and LTC(RET) Art Gorman. All five (5) services are represented, and the Sr. Service Directors remain in place. As I interviewed each of these impressive people, my first question was "Do you agree that the major purpose of the Society should be social, and not professional or political", and without hesitation, they responded "Yes, social". That is a critical component of our original mission statement and of our organization going into the future.

2. Advisor Responsibilities and Brief Resume.

AMB Abelardo Valdez (Honorary Advisor) - Strategic Vision, History of the White House Military Aide.

AMB Valdez is a Texas A&M graduate who joined the Army and served as a Johnson Social Aide. He later became Chief of Protocol for President Carter, and a Special Ambassador to the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. He has had a distinguished career as a legal expert in international law, has graduated from and taught at Harvard University, and has been decorated personally by King Juan Carlos of Spain for improving relations between the 2 countries. He is President Emeritus of the Council of American Ambassadors. I consider him a friend.

COL (RET) Roger McNamara - Ethics and Rules.

Roger is a USMA graduate and Johnson Social Aide. He joined the Air Force and flew air missions around Cuba. During two tours in Vietnam, he flew numerous "Moonshine" missions, dropping flares from C-47's to protect ground troops from night attacks, and O-2 "Covey" Forward Air Controller "tree-top" missions over N. Vietnam, locating enemy targets for fighter aircraft. Later, he graduated from law school and became an AF JAG, serving in Spain and the Pentagon, and later as Pentagon Assistant General Counsel (Ethics), Navy and as the Air Force and NASA top Ethics Counsel. His wife, Sally, is delightful and is a Healthcare Compliance Executive and Chair, Advisory Board of the Ohio University College of Communications, Sciences, Disorders, and Rehab.

LTC (RET) William (Bill) O. Sinnott and COL (RET) Veronica S. Richardson - White House Christmas Tour.

Bill served as a Social Aide to Presidents Carter and Reagan. He was commissioned thru the OCS and had a distinguished career as a logistics officer, serving in the US, Germany, and Korea. He has held various defense related positions in private industry, and served for 2 1/2 years in the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq in a logistics capacity as a civilian. He has been with the Society since its second year and contributed significantly to the execution of many events. His wife Jude is an enthusiastic supporter of the Society.

Veronica served as a Clinton Social Aide. She graduated from Tuskegee University and served in the Army for 29 years and commanded at the 06 level after attending the Army War College. She held the position of Chief Financial Management Officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She was appointed in 2009 as Deputy Under Secretary (Resource Issues) in the Office of Secretary of Defense for the current administration. Veronica has been one of our most loyal supporters and can be depended on to execute any assigned duty flawlessly with minimum instruction, which can also be said of Bill.

I wish I had clones of these two!

Mr. Dave Pitcher and Mr. Walter "Rusty" Johnson - Spring Event and New Event Venues.

Dave was a Social Aide to President Nixon and at the same time served as a military lawyer for Cost of Living Council Director Donald Rumsfeld. He graduated from Michigan University with an engineering degree and later became a Navy JAG Officer. He currently specializes in intellectual property law (patents, trademarks, copyrights) for the firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He has hosted no less than 3 events for the Society the last two years which were really enjoyable like the Washington Nationals game. His wife Ainslie achieved the rank of CAPT in the USPHS and enjoys attending our events.

Rusty Johnson served as a Carter Social Aide. He is a Texan and 3/8ths Cherokee Indian, graduating for the US Coast Guard Academy, and serving on an ocean going Buoy Tender in Alaska, among other tours of sea duty. He has served for 3 and 1/2 decades as a Financial Advisor, currently for Wells Fargo LLC, and over 25 years as an officer manager which must be a record. He and his wife Jennifer also maintain a 600 acre farm in Sykesville, MD and hosted one of our best summer events. His wife Jennifer and Rusty are both lovely people and have been very loyal, longstanding members.

LTC (RET) Arthur V. Gorman, Jr. - Professional Networks.

Art Gorman graduated from St. Francis College and served as a Reagan Social Aide. He commanded a Marine Battalion, with combat service in both Operation Desert Storm and Somalia. Art also attended the Executive Education program at the Harvard Business School. He is currently Chief Operating Officer for Public Finance / Municipal Markets at Bank of America / Merrill Lynch in New York City. His wife Eileen McAleer is a Cardiologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. They have 3 adopted children whom they are very proud of.

LTC Kelly Brown - Outreach to Younger Aides.

Kelly or "Blackhawk" as she is known to some, is a USMA graduate who served as a Clinton and George W. Bush Social Aide, while also serving in the President's Emergency Operations Center. She flew Blackhawk helicopters, with combat service in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. She is a National War College graduate and is pursuing a Doctorate degree in the area of Homeland Defense. Kelly currently commands a battalion at the Mission Training Complex, Ft. Leavenworth and then will be re-assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense soon. Her performance of anything you ask her to do is remarkable, and a very fine example to the younger aides of what can be done and why they should join our Society.

3. Duties of Chairman and Annual Meeting.

My duties as Chairman and Founder will continue as I coordinate these various activities listed above, supervise administration, collect dues, and update the website, in addition to planning and executing our annual meeting in December. Assisting me is COL (RET) Gary Smith (Reagan) as Treasurer, a position held since 2001, and Ms. Nancy Chapman as Administrator since 2011, who are both in Colorado Springs, our mailing address. CAPT (RET) Sidney Rodgers (Reagan) has been appointed to the position of Executive Secretary, recording minutes of the meetings and assisting in execution of same. Gary was an Army Air Defender who commanded at the 05 level, and is currently with the Boeing Company. Sid was a Navy Medical Service Corps officer, commanding at the 05 level, and served as Executive Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General for 4 years in various capacities. Nancy is the best and most dedicated Administrator I have ever seen, period.

Our first meeting was held courtesy of Rusty Johnson at the legendary Congressional Country Club in Bethesda. Veronica led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Kennedy Aide Don Kentopp related the James Bond like activities of OSS (predecessor of the CIA) agent Walter Mess, our Regimental Colonel, beginning with his night jump into Czechoslovakia in 1938, and then the meeting began as spouses/guests toured the club. Each Advisor summarized his background, highlights as White House Military Aide, and vision in their area of responsibility for the next 2 years. Chairman Riordan concluded with lessons learned (primarily that administration has to be done by a permanent professional staff, not volunteers), an update on interviews of members for a documentary, and a sincere thanks to those stepping forward to move this incorporated entity forward, an initiative which he and his mother created from "Ground 0" twenty-five (25) years ago.



Chairman Riordan presents Lifetime Service Award To Trustee Mary-Stuart Montaque Price, whose idea it was to form the Society in 1990

It was the most important day the Society has had and it went flawlessly, which is what one expects from this extraordinary group of former White House Military Aides. Well done Advisors! If you are willing to perform at a high level, commit to a minimum of 3 years of service, and embrace sincerely our social mission, contact the Advisors above to see if they have space available on their committees (six have been selected, and two are pending approval). They are our future Advisors!

The Society of White House Military Aides

**“AN ASSOCIATION OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDES
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION'S PRESIDENTS”**



Kenn Riordan, Jr.

Kenn Riordan, Jr., MAJ USA (Ret)

Founder and Chairman

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