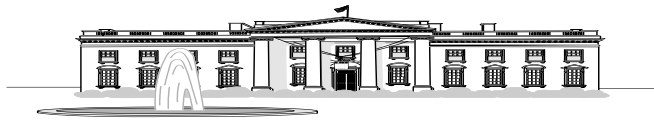


# **"The Aiguillette"**

**The Society of White House Military Aides  
Summer 2021**



## **Chairman's Report – Summer of 2021**

**June 4, 2021**

**Dear members and friends, good day!**

### **"May you live in interesting times"**

is an English expression that is claimed to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. While seemingly a blessing, the expression is normally used ironically; life is better in "uninteresting times" of peace and tranquility than in "interesting" ones, which are usually times of trouble." Wikipedia

I believe we had a good year, given the circumstances, a very good year. We were able to go forward with our Christmas Tour and despite the severe COVID restrictions on just about everything in Washington DC, over 100 of you attended. See the pictures which follow. We had planned for a Spring event aimed at our younger members, but the conditions are not quite right for that yet in Virginia or DC. Perhaps next Fall. I especially thank Advisor and Dr. Kelly Brown (Clinton) for her taking charge of the assembly for the tour, given the absence of our designated team, and Wendy Cooper (Reagan) for the fabulous pictures which you will see following.

**We have elected a new director and that is CDR (Ret.) Robert (Bob) Kettle who served as a Social Aide to President Clinton. An interview follows with Bob and some great pictures of CDR Kettle when he**

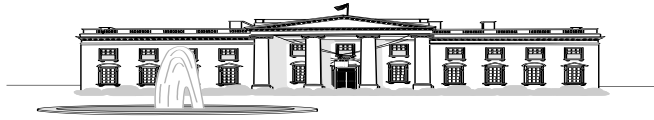


We pay tribute to the President's love and respect for soldiers.

# **"The Aiguillette"**

**The Society of White House Military Aides**

**Summer 2021**



served in the US Embassy in Russia, a priority assignment for attaches as you know. Bob also deployed with the Iraqi Survey Team who sought to investigate the presence of WMD, which I was also involved with under SEC DEF Cheney, and Bob later represented the Navy on Capitol Hill. He has formed a Communications Committee with our Outreach (Paige Young) and Facebook (Kathy Ireland) coordinators, using LinkedIn (Art Gorman) as a hub, to see what we can do to assist those looking for mentors or employment. This is a worthy project!

I should also recognize Advisor Jim Barry (Reagan/Bush) who has studied our newsletter the last year and now becomes Editor, bringing for the first time a new look and interviews with a few of our amazing younger aides, many of whom have had 3 and 4 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, such as Advisor LT COL Paige Young (Obama). You will also find LT Stephanie Young (Obama), who works for Facebook, and LT Brian Higgins (Obama), who works for McKinsey and Company. Good job Jim, Semper Fi!

I do regret to announce the loss of COL (Ret) Gene Deatruck, husband of Zane Deatruck for which I am every so grateful to have counted as friends. Gene, a West Point graduate and contemporary of Chuck Yeager, proved himself as one of the top pilots in the Air Force, and commanded the USAF Test Pilot School, counting as friends Medal of Honor and WWII hero, USAF General Jimmy Doolittle, and Barry Goldwater, Senator and USAF MAJ GEN (Reserves). It was Zane who continued to insist I apply for the Social Aide program when I resisted, but one day I tried and my life as yours changed. Gene was also fast friend with our 100-year-old most senior aide COL (Ret) Jack Koser (Truman) and Sr. Army Director LTG (Ret) Tom Montgomery. I miss both, like my parents, Gene's picture follows. We also note the passing of Steve Bain (Reagan) and LTC (Ret.) Ivan Kelly, both longstanding Society supporters.

Well, I guess I could on for 2 more pages but am most proud that despite the cataclysmic events rocking this country, we have persevered and stand as an example for all that we are friends, that we support our Presidents, and that we love our country! That is quite a bit to stand for in the America of 2021.

*God Bless America, Defender of Freedom, of Equality, and of Democracy!*

*Kenn Riordan, Jr.*

**The Society of White House Military Aides**

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



*Kenn Riordan, Jr., USA (Ret)  
Founder and Chairman (Reagan)*

# White House Christmas Tour 2020

*By Kenn Riordan Jr (Reagan)*

Dear Society Members, Merry Christmas!

We are happy to report that by proceeding with the White House Christmas tour despite the difficulties, over 130 responded and 128 attended the event on December 5th. Please see pictures below. We very much thank Society Advisor Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush '43) for marshalling the troops in a very professional and charming away! Here are a few thoughts about the tour by two attendees:

Kathleen Ireland (Bush '43) who runs the Society's Facebook page had this to say:

"The Society of White House Military Aides attended the White House Christmas tour on 5 December 2020. 128 of WHMSA members and their guests attended this tour and were treated to the beautiful decorations, themed "America the Beautiful". The East Wing was dedicated to the military with the Gold Star Family Tree and with urns holding foliage representative of the official tree of each state and territory through the East Colonnade. The official White House Christmas tree stood over 18 feet tall decorated with children's ornaments that depicted what made their state beautiful. The room and tree were decorated in yellow ribbons and ornaments. Throughout the White House, the President's own Marine Corps band played to the delight of the guests."

Sarah Chapman, who is our Administrator and daughter of Nancy, Sarah's predecessor for nine years, had this view:

"On December 5, 2020, I was able to partake in my first Christmas tour to the White House alongside the Society of White House Military Aides. Although a bit cold outside, we quickly made our way inside thanks to the help of the White House security staff and Kelly Brown. As we were walking up to the White House entrance, we heard music in the distance. Little did we know that we would enjoy live music from the Marine Corps band throughout the entire tour. Once inside, we were given a "Christmas At The White House 2020" booklet with information on each room. This year's theme was "America the Beautiful". Each room was elegantly decorated with Christmas trees and decorations. Upon exit, we were given a small box of chocolate – all these small details made for a special experience. Thank you to Kenn and the Society for a once-in-a-lifetime event. "





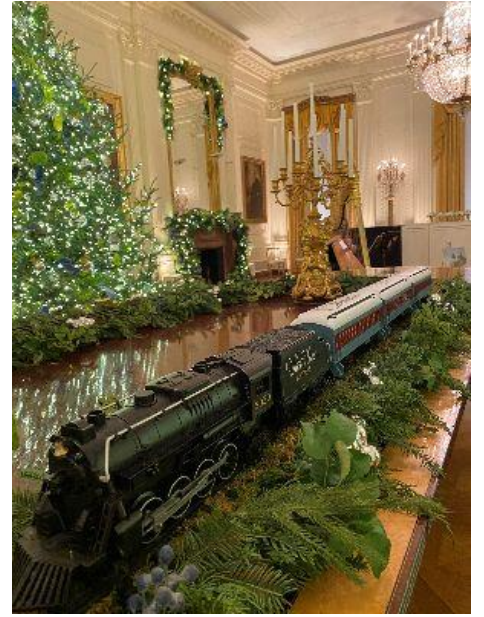
I would also like to call to your attention to the extraordinary 2020 Christmas Ornament featuring the portrait of President John F. Kennedy, commissioned by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Here is what I related to Ann Stock, who along with the current Social Secretary Anna Cristina Niceta Lloyd, made this tour happen:

“A story for you - that picture of JFK - was on the State Floor just outside the State Dining Room, on the left as you exit. As I have shown people many times, if you looked at it from a 45 degree or so angle from the left side only, the president’s head and only his head would fade and disappear as you were looking at it, the rest of his body did not change. I have shown this to at least 15 - 20 people. I believe that they moved the picture to another location. It still gives me chills when I think about it.”

We are planning on sponsoring a unique Spring event when the nation has overcome the virus, stay tuned for that, so until then:













# CDR (Ret.) Robert Kettle (Clinton) Interview

By Kenn Riordan Jr (Reagan)



CDR (Ret.) Robert Kettle and President Clinton



Robert with his wife Sarah & daughter Evelyn

1. Provide us a brief history of your upbringing and what you are doing now.
  - a. **I am a son of immigrants; raised in rural Western NY between Buffalo and Rochester. I attended Boston University and joined the Navy afterwards through OCS. I am currently a stay-at-home dad. I volunteer on the boards of the World Affairs Council Seattle and Queen Anne Community Council and am active with the local VFW post.**
2. What are the highlights of your military service?
  - **Naval deployments ISO Bosnia/Balkans ('92), GWOT ('01-'02), Iraq & Afghanistan ('11); in country in Iraq ('03-'04) and Russia ('07-'09); and on HQ USEUCOM staff for Kosovo ('99). Another highlight was the combination of being a naval social aide, naval attaché, and legislative liaison. In the end my career was roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> overseas, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> operational, and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> in DC.**
3. 1 or 2 interesting stories about your White House service:
  - **At the Children's Christmas party in 1996, FLOTUS asked for their cat, Socks, to join the reading of A Visit from St. Nicholas/'Twas the Night Before Christmas by POTUS. When POTUS asked if the kids wanted to pet Socks he was suddenly rushed by dozens of kids. As aides tried to reclaim calm from the chaos, I slightly, ever so slightly, stepped on a little girl's finger. Thank God she didn't scream just feet from POTUS. All the while, my friends in SECSTATE's office watching on C-SPAN were thinking how nice they're handing out presents to the children.**
  - **At the Florida Gator national football championship event in 1997 that included Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wueffel, the team's trainer gave POTUS some crutches since he had recently injured his knee at Greg Norman's place in Florida. POTUS handed me his brace which I held throughout the rest of the receiving line in the Cross Hall outside the Blue Room. All the while standing not far from me was a bunch of very nervous White House therapists/doctors!**

4. What did you take away from your White House experience?
  - **As Bill Murray once noted looking out from the Blue Room and seeing the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, and the sun off the river, “It’s real that thing. It’s the idea of America.” That is something tangible, not just words on a page. I also took away that the POTUS and other senior people, while of great importance, are people working and doing their jobs just like everyone else. If you can operate well around the President, you can be great moving forward in anything you do.**
5. Looking back on your military and White House service, what advice would you give to our junior aides?
  - **Take jobs that interest and challenge you; it will be make for a richer experience. Take the confidence you gain from the military social aide experience of working at the highest level in the land and use it moving forward in other chapters in your life and career.**
6. What are you goals and objectives as our newest Society Director?
  - **My goals and objectives as the newest Society Director are to help the team by leveraging lessons learned/gained from working with/for non-profits. I also want to reconnect better with the society team and family after many years away from DC. I look forward to introducing my wife Sarah and our daughter Evelyn to everyone and for them both to experience the White House Christmas tour and other society events.**



Russian cemeteries are fascinating to visit with laser images on gravestone which look lifelike, and many large and small statues of saints, Jesus Christ, and the Virgin Mary, not what you would expect in a Communist country, more like a museum.



# LT Stephanie Young (Obama, Trump) Interview

By Jim Barry (Reagan/Bush)



Medal of Honor winner Sgt 1st Class Morris meeting President Obama in the Oval Office as Stephanie escorted him

1. Where do you live?
  - a. **Just outside San Francisco**
2. Where are you from?
  - a. **A lot of places! My father was in the Navy -- so I was born outside Seattle, then lived in Orlando, went to high school in Chicago, and then attended the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut.**
3. What did you do in the service that would be most interesting for others to know?
  - a. **In almost all of my roles, I found myself serving as a “first.” Whether standing up the Command Duty Officer program in Los Angeles-Long Beach, as a Social Media Officer in our public affairs office, or being a plankowner of the Commandant’s Advisory Group.**
4. Wow – why were you the first?
  - a. **A combination of luck and relationships.**
5. Which President(s) did you serve under?
  - a. **I served in the program from 2011 -- 2017 so served under both Presidents Obama and Trump.**
6. What's one great memory of serving in the White House you can share?
  - a. **What's fascinating about serving in the White House is there are hundreds of seemingly simple moments that all add up to something extraordinary. If I had to pick one that was most meaningful, it would be a 2014 ceremony where 24 Medals of Honor were awarded and I had the privilege of escorting Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Melvin Morris. The ceremony was a result of a review to examine past discrimination in Medal of Honor decisions and it was really profound just to play the smallest of roles that day.**
7. Why did you get out of the military?
  - a. **I know a lot of people talk about getting out as transitioning. But anything outside the military is inherently a transition. Instead, I like to think of it more as evolving your career. And that's what I was looking for. I wanted to evolve my career.**
8. What are you doing now?

- a. **Three days after departing the Coast Guard I was at Facebook! For the first two years I worked in executive communications and I'm now a business lead. It's a fascinating role that involves looking at a leader's priorities, strategy, relationships, deliverables, scheduling, communications, and so much more -- it's an amazing opportunity to get a high-level view of our impact.**
- 9. What can you tell us about Facebook that you can share?
  - a. **It's been a unique opportunity to build on my past experiences at a company that really has a meaningful impact on people and communities across the world every day.**
- 10. How is what you're doing today different than what you thought you would do when you left the service?
  - a. **It's only been a few years! But I am on the path to what I set out to do which was evolve my career.**
- 11. If you could achieve one great achievement, what will it be? What would you like to achieve professionally?
  - a. **For me, it's less about what I'm doing and more about how I feel doing it. I always start every morning and want to sprint to the "office." If I could keep that feeling throughout my career – then I'd feel successful.**
- 12. What advice would you give to your 25-year-old self?
  - a. **Don't second guess yourself. You have so much to look forward to – more than you can imagine.**
- 13. What advice would you give to others as they are leaving the service?
  - a. **Get comfortable figuring out who you are and what you want -- everything in the process will start and end with you.**
- 14. What do you like most about the SWHMA?
  - a. **I LOVE Kenn's newsletters – and any experiences on presidential yachts! But also, the experience of serving as an aide is so unique, so it's really great that we have this community and getting together is very special.**
- 15. Who are you?
  - a. **I'm a third-generation servicemember who believes in a mission "bigger than ourselves" and it's important that the people I'm working alongside believe it too.**



A photo with the Obamas and social aides at the last holiday photoline of the 2012 season.



# LT COL Paige Young (Obama) Interview

*By Jim Barry (Reagan/Bush)*



LT COL Paige Young at the NATO summit

1. Where do you live?
  - a. **Washington, DC**
2. Where from?
  - a. **Virginia Beach, VA**
3. What did you do in the service that would be most interesting for others to know?
  - a. **Still on active duty as an (O-5) Intelligence Officer in the Air Force! Served as Director of Operations for 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron. Provided intel from unmanned aerial vehicles to support special operations and identify high-value targets in Afghanistan and Iraq.**
4. Which President(s) did you serve under?
  - a. **President Obama**
5. What's one great memory of serving in the White House you can share?
  - a. **I had the honor of supporting President Obama's second Inauguration (2012) on top of the Capitol Building and the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago. It was surreal to support an event with so many world leaders attending. I also supported the Bush 43 portrait unveiling event. The Bush family did a receiving line and the White House Staff was so excited to see him! It was a testament to the character of the Bush family.**
6. What are you doing now?
  - a. **I work as a military liaison to the intelligence community. I work directly with the Intelligence Community to deconflict and coordinate military and IC targeting efforts.**
7. How is what you're doing today different than what you thought you would do when you entered the service?
  - a. **Started as contracting officer – purchasing and acquisition (hated it)...switched to the intelligence career field and love it. The level of decision- making I've been able to support is beyond what I would have imagined.**
8. If you could achieve one great achievement, what will it be?
  - a. **Like to start working on building a mentorship program for young women. These types of programs didn't exist when I was in high school. I think mentorship can encourage or give people more self-confidence to pursue their dreams.**

9. What advice would you give to your 25 year old self?
- a. **Take more risk** – a lot of people aren't confident enough to start something new... don't be afraid...reach out to people who have a lot of experience...try new things...
10. What advice would you give to others as they are leaving the service?
- a. **Your first job after the military may not be the perfect job...so don't be afraid if the first job isn't your dream job...treat it as a stepping stone to where you want to go**
11. What do you like most about the SWHMA?
- a. **Like that Kenn is trying to make it easier to get know each other. Would be good to find ways to leverage the entire network of social aides especially for professional connections!**
12. Who are you?
- a. **A new Mom. Trying to make a difference for my family and my country.**
13. 25 years from now...
- a. **Still working in some capacity...working on projects with my husband...most likely in non-profit sector. Hopefully will own a beach house!**
14. Haven't asked – but you would like to share...
- a. **I've participated in several triathlons – great runner – endure the bike and swim! – even practiced in Iraq!**



2012 Inauguration with aides LT COL Paige Young and LT Stephanie Young on the far right.



LT COL Paige Young at the NATO summit

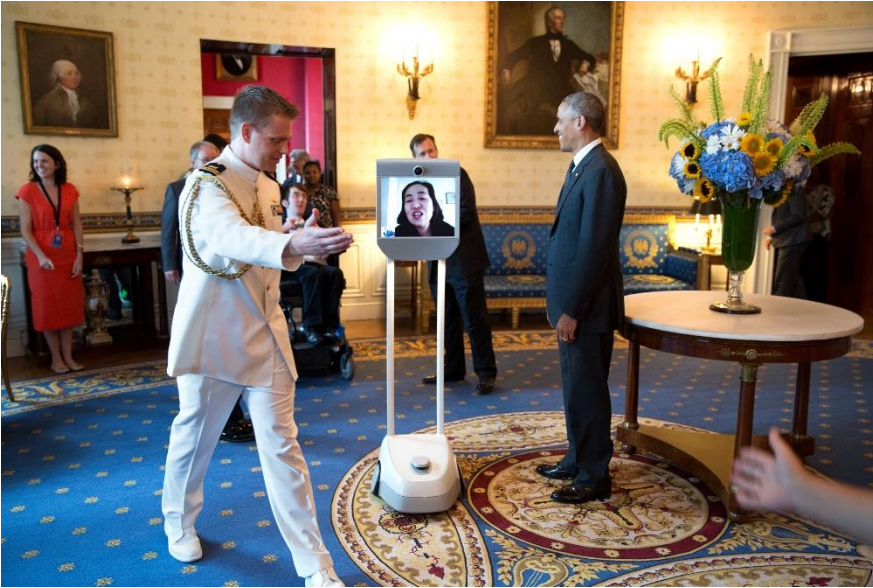


Recent picture from Paige's promotion. Her husband is an Army Green Beret and they both pinned on Lieutenant Colonel on a joint ceremony.



# **LT Brian Higgins (Obama) Interview**

*By Jim Barry (Reagan/Bush)*



Brian with his wife and 2 children

1. Where are you from?
  - a. **Cape Cod, MA – and where I’m living today**
2. Specialty in the Navy:
  - a. **Supply**
3. Which President(s) did you serve under? What service? Where are you living now?
  - a. **Obama**
4. What's one great memory of serving in the White House you can share?
  - a. **Seeing regular citizens meet POTUS/FLOTUS. There is magic in watching someone experience a moment they know they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.**
5. Why did you get out of the military?
  - a. **Met my wife and neither of us wanted me to be gone for long stretches once we started a family – moved back to Boston.**
6. What are you doing now?
  - a. **I am a management consultant with McKinsey**
7. How is what you're doing today different than what you thought you would do when you left the service?
  - a. **I miss the comradery of the service. There’s nothing like it.**
8. If you could achieve one great achievement, what will it be?
  - **Help get enough people vaccinated by this Thanksgiving so we can all enjoy the holiday we did 2 years ago.**
  - **To be invited to the White House as a guest!!!**
9. What advice would you give to your 25-year-old self?
  - **Stay on the path you’re on and trust it will work out**
  - **Know that it takes a while to build up the instinct to trust yourself, but your own judgement must be half decent if you’ve made it this far.**
  - **Find great mentors build mutual trust – try to do as much for them as they do for you. You won't be able to, but they will appreciate that you are trying and reciprocate**

- **Read more, drink less**
10. What advice would you give to others as they are leaving the service?
    - a. **Be humble: Despite all you've learned and done in the service, understand that, you have a lot to learn from others.**
  11. What news source do you read every day? Can be a newspaper, new site, blog, etc.
    - a. **I have a well curated twitter feed, plus the Boston Globe. Podcast: Econ Talk**  
<https://www.econtalk.org/>
  12. What book has had the biggest impact on your life that you would recommend to others
    - a. **"The Bible" and "Thinking fast and slow" (I met the author, Daniel Kahneman while at the White House and he was flattered I had read his book!)**
  13. What do you like most about the SWHMA?
    - **Christmas tour is amazing**
    - **Like the newsletter and hearing what others are doing.**
    - **Any reminders of my White House experience are great.**
  14. Who are you?
    - a. **Like all of us in the SWHMA, I'm just someone that has had a lot of lucky breaks, especially meeting some influential people that decided to give me a chance.**
  15. What else?
    - a. **If anyone is interested in consulting – or helping in their transitions – let me know how I can help!**
- 

### **The First Mother / Daughter Aides For The Society!**

COL (Ret.) Lucy Hurlbut (Reagan) and her daughter, MAJ Katie Kuc (Clinton), are our first mother/daughter aides for the Society. Katie is currently on the AF/A1 Commander's Action Group at the Pentagon. Lucy owns a short-term rental property at Smith Mountain Lake VA called Liberty Pines LLC.

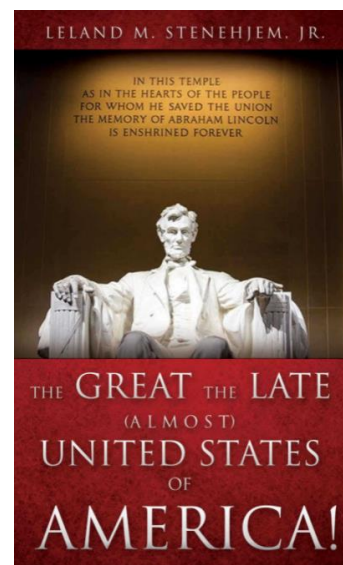




***“I reviewed this book at the request of Leland, a must read for those who love America” - KAR***

## **“The Great The Late (Almost) United States of America”** **By Leland M Stenehjem Jr**

The author was concerned about the future of the United States if Hillary Clinton had been elected president in 2016. If that had happened, and if the Democrats had won the Congress, it was the author's belief that the future of the United States would be in doubt. The tax and spend, heavy regulation and increase in entitlements philosophy of the Obama administration, along with the failure in foreign affairs policies, would have continued. That would lead to economic disaster and the continuing diminishment of the United States' influence around the world. The title was going to be The Great, The Late United States of America! With the election of Donald J. Trump, the United States won a reprieve, hence the title was changed to "The Great The Late (Almost) United States of America!" With President Trump's election and the control of the Congress in Republican hands, the Republicans were able to show the electorate the difference between Democrat and Republican control. This book discusses the philosophy of the Republican party, the contrast with the philosophy of the Democrat party, and what will happen to the country if the Democrats have success in the 2020 election.



Leland M. Stenehjem, Jr., was born in Watford City, ND. He has BSBA and JD degrees from the University of North Dakota and an LL.M degree from The George Washington University Law School. He was a U.S. Army Captain and a White House Military Social Aide. He practiced law and was President/Chairman of banks. He held governor appointed positions as Commissioner of Banking and Director of the Office of Management and Budget for North Dakota. He was President and Chairman of the Independent Community Banks of America. He and his wife Sue have two children and three grandchildren.

---

***“Scott Quozzi (Clinton, Bush '43) never ceases to amaze me, told me he spent a year touring the U.S. and nine Presidential libraries.” - KAR***

## **Scott Suozzi, New President of Operation New Hope**



Scott Suozzi serves as the President of Operation New Hope, overseeing daily operations of the nonprofit organization. Originally from the New York City suburbs, Scott brings broad and seasoned leadership experience in government, the military, the legal profession, nonprofits, and higher education.

Scott served on active duty as a Naval Officer for twenty years, retiring at the rank of Commander. His assignments included service ashore, at sea, and overseas, including the Pentagon, The White House, Capitol Hill, deploying to Iraq with special operations forces, a legal office in Sicily, and aboard the cruiser USS GETTYSBURG based in Jacksonville, Florida. Following his military service, Scott served as the Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives at Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School. Most recently, he served as a member of the Executive Corps at Nonprofits

First, a world class group of executives dedicated to the accreditation and capacity building of nonprofits in South Florida.

Scott is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with Merit. He also holds a Juris Doctor law degree from Catholic University, a Master of Arts degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University, a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Law from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and a Business Law Certificate from The Wharton School.

From June 2014 to June 2015, Scott completed an ambitious personal journey visiting all 48 of the continental United States, seven Canadian provinces, 28 national parks, and nine Presidential libraries, covering over 33,000 road miles in a Winnebago recreational vehicle (RV). From Summer 2017 to Fall 2018, Scott embarked on another epic road trip adventure in a high-tech camper van, covering over 25,000 miles along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts of the United States and Canada, including visiting over sixty lighthouses and all twenty-one of the Spanish Missions in California.

Scott's personal military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In addition, he was qualified as a Judge Advocate (JAG), Surface Warfare Officer (SWO), and Navy Craftmaster for patrol craft command. He is a licensed attorney in the State of Maryland, a Member of the Maryland State Bar Association, a Hall of Fame Member of the United States Lighthouse Society, and Life Member of the Society of White House Military Aides.

---

### **Col. Alfons Bronz, USAF Ret.**



The late Col. Alfons Broz, USAF Ret., was a White House military social aide under Eisenhower and Kennedy. Pictured in the back row second on the left. His daughter Donna Hoffman provided the picture.



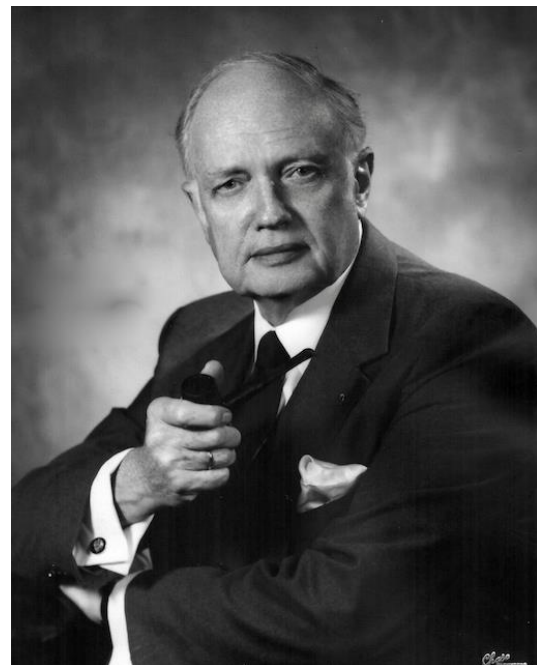
*“A great man with a great wife, America hero, friend, and my hero, I miss them both.” - KAR*

## **Eugene Deatrick, Air Force Colonel Obituary**

Eugene Deatrick, 96, a retired Air Force colonel who played a critical role in the rescue of Navy pilot Dieter Dengler, who escaped from a prison camp in the Vietnam War, died Dec. 30 at his home in Alexandria, Va. The cause was complications from leukemia, said his son William Deatrick.

Col. Deatrick, who commanded an air commando squadron in Vietnam, was on a routine reconnaissance mission on July 20, 1966, when he spotted a figure standing near a river frantically waving a piece of white material in one hand.

In the 1997 documentary film “Little Dieter Needs to Fly,” Col. Deatrick described the fortuitous encounter as a one in a million chance. Col. Deatrick led rescue helicopters to the area, even though he privately worried that the man could be an enemy soldier on a suicide mission.



The man turned out to be Dengler, whose plane was shot down nearly six months earlier during a secret bombing mission in Laos. Dengler’s near-death ordeal was the subject of books and movies, including the 2006 film “Rescue Dawn.”

Col. Deatrick, a Pittsburgh native who grew up in Morgantown, W.Va., and Washington, graduated in 1946 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and early on was an experimental test pilot. After more than 400 combat missions in Vietnam, he became commandant of a test pilot school at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. His final active-duty assignment, before retiring from the military in 1974, was at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., now called Joint Base Andrews.

His decorations included two Legion of Merits, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Bronze Stars. He was recognized by the National Aeronautic Association as one of the country’s top test pilots and was a founder of the East Coast chapter of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

In retirement, he was president of Deatrick & Associates, the U.S. sales and marketing representative of water purification tablets Chlor-Floc.

***“The amazing Bobby Walters, both fellow Social (Reagan) and Presidential Aide (Clinton), what a guy!” - KAR***

## **Bobby “BlackHat” Walters**

Bobby BlackHat, Virginia’s Blues Ambassador, award winning recording artist, harmonica player, vocalist, songwriter, comedian, producer, and actor hails from Cleveland, Ohio and currently resides in Newport News, VA. He has been playing harmonica for over 45 years. Bobby has opened for music legends: B.B King, Taj Mahal, Delbert McClinton, Patty Labelle, Ramsey Lewis, and Maze. He has also performed with Eddie Shaw, Kenny Neal, Ruthie Foster, Tas Cru, Jason Ricci, Slam Allen, Mick Kolassa, and Fernando Jones. Bobby BlackHat is a judge for the International Blues Challenge. Bobby BlackHat blends the influences of Chicago, Memphis, Piedmont, and Delta style blues along with a little Gospel into a Toe Tappin’, Finger Poppin’, Hip Shakin’ blues experience. You Never Know What’s Gonna Happen at a Bobby BlackHat Show!

### **Accomplishments & Recognition**

2019 VEER Music Award “Best Blues Band”  
2017 Winner USAA/We Are The Mighty Nationwide Competition  
2017 Featured Artist 50th Anniversary Hampton Jazz Festival  
2017 Selected for the VCA Performing Artists Directory  
2016 Finalist International Blues Challenge  
2016 Blewzzy Award, “Song of the Year” (Please Mr. BlackHat)  
2016 VEER Music Award, “Song of the Year” (HRBT Blues)  
2016 VEER Music Award, “Best Blues Band”  
2015 Semifinalist International Blues Challenge  
2012 Blewzzy Award, "Song of the Year" (I Hear Mama’s Voice)





*"Thank you Sandy, Admiral. I miss seeing you in the POAC pool, what a superb "swimmer"!" - KAR*

**VADM Sandy Stosz (Bush '41)**

SCHEDULE SOME TIME  
TO HAVE NOTHING SCHEDULED

Aug 14, 2020

Dear Kenn,

You've done a super job keeping the Society going all these years. I'm making up a little for my lack of involvement with a life membership.

I retired two years ago and wrote a book on leadership. & etc in the publishing process I also volunteer.

I hope all is well with you.

Love winds

Sandy

***“This is an amazing article, please read.” - KAR***

## **The Secret Life of the White House**

*Jacob, Susannah. The Secret Life of the White House.*

*<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-political-scene/the-secret-life-of-the-white-house>, 24 Feb, 2001*

*The residence staff, many of whom have worked there for decades, balance their service of the First Family with their long-term loyalty to the house itself.*

Before Inauguration Day, the White House residence staff were already exhausted. For several weeks, many of them had worked sixteen-hour days preparing for the transition—the approximately six-hour-long window between when the Trumps would depart and the Bidens arrive. White House transitions typically demand superhuman effort, but this year’s was among the most physically demanding in recent memory. At risk of falling ill with the coronavirus, staffers worked in close quarters to transform the upstairs rooms of the White House, where the windows don’t open and are paned with thick, bulletproof glass, in accordance with the strong preference of the Secret Service.

In previous transitions, the residence staff brought the White House to a state of as-ready-as-possible without making major changes until the new First Family arrived and redecorated. If a departing family took a personal sofa with them, the staff replaced it with one from the White House collection, so that the incoming family need not walk into a bare room. But, under a new White House chief usher, Timothy Harleth, the transition became a far more ambitious affair. Hired by the Trumps, in 2017, Harleth had previously been a rooms manager at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. Early in the Administration, he had hired a “creative manager,” and on Inauguration Day Harleth enlisted that person to make the upstairs rooms look “‘Architectural Digest’-ready,” a residence worker said. In the frantic final hours, the creative manager was laying out guestbooks and new stationery, filling the bookcases with decorative plates and candles, and staging throws on furniture. “They wanted these rooms to look like a high-end hotel,” the worker added.



*The binding ethos of many White House residence workers is discretion and service to the physical structure—and, by extension, to the President who occupies it.*

Photograph by Tina Hager / White House Photo Office

Harleth wanted to make a good impression on Joe and Jill Biden, who could have extended his tenure. But, Harleth told me, shortly after eleven o’clock on January 20th, less than an hour before the official Presidential



changeover, one of the last remaining Trump officials, in the Office of Administration, came to Harleth's office and told him that the Bidens had requested his departure. The Biden White House hedged on the matter, telling CNN that Harleth was "let go before the Bidens arrived." (The Trumps could not be reached for comment.) Harleth was shocked at the time, but a week later he told me, "Every family deserves to have the people they want there."

With or without Harleth, the residence staff soldiered on. The move unfolded at a rapid but methodical pace, with boxes upon boxes stacked and transferred between the historic rooms. "The White House is not big," another career White House employee, whom I will call Jason, said. "The East Room is chock-full of boxes." The White House's two elevators, only one big enough to move furniture, were in constant use. "If you could carry something, it wasn't going down the elevator," Jason said. The move was conducted while keeping up appearances for a nationally televised Inauguration celebration later that night. "Imagine your house is being used for a TV show while you were moving, and no one could know you were moving," Jason said. And, as they always have, the residence staff pulled it off. By the end of the morning, they had set out the Bidens' family photographs and stocked the kitchen with the family's favorite foods.

The full story of the residence staffers' ecosystem is rarely told. Many of the workers have served multiple Presidents, and for that reason they call themselves lifers. Their binding ethos is discretion and loyalty to the White House itself—and, by extension, to whoever is President. They are perpetually insecure in their jobs. Although their employment continues across a transition, it is never guaranteed—they serve at the pleasure of the President. Keeping their jobs requires persuading his staff of their indispensable authority on the arcane methods necessary to operate the old and leaky structure, and of their loyalty and willingness to adapt to a First Family's needs. They balance those requirements with another: to protect the physical White House itself, often from the people who occupy it.

I met the White House lifers while working as a speechwriter for President Barack Obama. For the past four years, I have spoken with dozens of lifers, former and current, about how they survived the Trump Presidency. I came to understand that the White House does not shed the identities of past Presidents so much as it accumulates them, abides them up to a point, and, ultimately, waits them out. By continuing to do their jobs and serve whoever moves in, the lifers embody the White House's independence. Donald Trump was yet another test that they survived.

The residence staff numbers ninety people: butlers, chefs, curators, florists, housekeepers, electricians, and others who work in the bowels of the White House. They not only serve a First Family's use of the White House as a home. They also serve its use of the White House as a stage to advance a political agenda.

Under Trump, that stage grew deathly quiet. On multiple occasions, Trump held events in the White House's grand rooms—the gold-curtained East Room, the Diplomatic Reception Room, the marble-columned State Floor—to advance his chief political cause: himself. Amid a thirty-five-day government shutdown, Trump served hundreds of hamburgers, buffet style, to the Clemson University Tigers, the N.C.A.A. college-football champions, in the State Dining Room. More recently, he held the Republican Party's 2020 National Convention on the South Lawn and an Election Night watch party in the East Room. But the level of publicity that those events generated belied how few of them occurred. Among the lifers, a malaise set in. "Nothing happens. It's a bare-minimum situation," Jason told me, before Biden's Inauguration. "For four years, we've

done two months' worth of events." The Trumps hosted only two state dinners, compared with six that the Obamas hosted during their first term.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the White House's emptiness. "People stayed home. Everything from food service to national security—if it could be done at home, it was done at home," Jason said. Harleth told me that the residence staff took COVID-19 precautions more seriously than others at the Trump White House. "We were the ones wearing P.P.E., pushing to get our folks tested," he said. Still, he conceded, "most of our folks can't easily telework," and by his count seven or eight residence staff workers contracted the virus. Once they recovered, those workers were asked to fill in for others, because of their presumed immunity. "It meant that they could work safely while others stayed home," Harleth said. According to Jason, the lifers were given conflicting advice: stay home; later, come in. "There was lots and lots of confusion, no direction from the top, a complete lack of empathy, sympathy," he said. "The Christmas parties with maskless hordes were catered, but [the staff] would have to be there for this and that. Someone's got to be there, not everyone can leave while the catering crew comes in. There was not a steady message on how to keep you safe."

When not upstairs, in the family quarters, the staff works in a labyrinth of rooms below the White House's northern steps, a space concealed from onlookers milling about on Pennsylvania Avenue. Their corridor is a covered portion of the original northern driveway, with push-button double doors at either end. As I remember it, between those doors, trucks and forklifts rolled in and out, delivering groceries and carting away trash. An

Adirondack bench under a flapping white awning was a place to smoke when it rained. Inside, carpenters and electricians pushed rolling carts of tools between white linoleum countertops. Fresh flowers filled walk-in freezers that resembled a Costco produce aisle. Plastic storage boxes stacked against the wall were labelled with their contents: "linens and lawn ornaments," "tablecloths and patio-furniture covers," for use on the Truman Balcony. On the occasion of a state dinner, florists laid out thousands of orchids, like dolls, on every available surface, a blinding sea of white. At times, operations men packed the hall with stacks of East Room chairs, backed with bevelled slats painted gold, cream cushions tied to their seats. Around Easter, the Fourth of July, Halloween, and Thanksgiving, lifers filled the hall with enormous craft pumpkins and rabbits, and also red-white-and-blue bunting, for use on the South Lawn.

During Christmas, the corridor was transformed into a canapé-making assembly line, overpowered by the smell of fresh pine needles, bacon, baking bread, and propane from the temporary ovens set up on the drive.



*According to Daniel Shanks, who was an usher for twenty-two years, a shift in relations between First Families and lifers has changed the feeling of the White House.*

Photograph by Tina Hager / White House Photo Office



When I worked at the White House, I walked through the lifers' corridor in the mornings, past a Secret Service officer seated by a telephone, head drooping at the end of a sixteen-hour double shift. Dale Haney, the chief groundskeeper since 1972, who is still at the White House, was often walking through the corridor with the Obamas' dogs, their leashes in one hand and his boxed lunch or breakfast in the other. Butlers and valets leaned against the doorways, talking with chefs. The letter "R" printed on their blue plastic badges granted them access to the upper floors of the house, and they wore expressions of smiling, unyielding discretion. History is etched in the corridor's stone walls. When the British burned the White House in 1814, oxygen-starved flames rushed out, licking them. A few are still unpainted so that passersby can study the charred spots. Hitches for nineteenth-century horse-drawn carriages stick out from the stones. Chiselled grooves, slightly askew, convey the wobble of the hands that carved them. In 1794, Thomas Jefferson helped recruit Scottish stonemasons to complete the White House.

The lifers' constancy is useful in a house where the occupants change every four to eight years. Originally, Presidents paid the staffers' wages, but in the nineteenth century, when the lifers' ranks grew, Congress began paying their salaries instead, solidifying their status as fixed employees of the house. "The President's House," a two-volume history by William Seale, tells many of their stories. A doorkeeper named Tom Pendel began working at the White House in 1864, during the Lincoln Administration. Pendel babysat Lincoln's youngest son, Tad. He fetched Lincoln to inform him of the arrival of guests or of bad news from the front lines during the Civil War. He nailed wood strips and lines of tallow candles inside the White House windowsills to illuminate the building in celebration of Union military victories. On those occasions, hundreds of people would gather on Pennsylvania Avenue and sing to Lincoln, who would stand at a window to address the crowd. Pendel would "draw the curtain back and stand just out of sight against a wall, holding a candle high, so that the President could be seen," Seale wrote. After Lincoln's assassination, Pendel remained at his Pennsylvania Avenue post. Under Rutherford B. Hayes, in a time of particularly high tourist traffic at the White House, Pendel policed souvenir hunters, who would snip tassels from the drapes or pocket inkwells and chandelier pendants. During the Garfield Administration, Pendel repeatedly turned away Garfield's future assassin—a man who had sought a government position and to whom Pendel said, each time, "The President is unable to see you today." Pendel held an umbrella over Grover Cleveland's wife on the rainy Inauguration Day when she moved out of the White House, and he was standing in the entrance hall when news rang out that Cleveland's successor William McKinley had been shot. Pendel died in 1911, at the age of eighty-four, while standing at his front-door post during the Taft Administration.

Before he retired as the White House maître d', in 1983, John Ficklin had been on staff for forty-four years, serving nine Presidents in total. Around the time of his retirement, Ficklin spoke to the *Washington Post* about his career. The son of a slave, Ficklin found work at the White House during F.D.R.'s Administration, through his brother, a White House butler at the time. Ficklin became the head butler under Eisenhower. "You just can't put down on paper everything that a butler would do," he told the *Post*. "Instead of calling someone and saying the President or First Lady wants such and such, you'd just go do it yourself." About the nearly all-Black butler staff, Ficklin told the *Post* that he had interviewed white people for butler positions over the years but few seemed really to want the job: "We got quite a few applications, but when it came down to really working, they weren't very interested."

Historically, many residence-staff jobs have been passed down through generations of Washington, D.C.,'s Black and white families. "It's a long tradition," Betty Monkman, who started in the White House curator's office in 1967 and retired as chief curator in 2002, told me. Those who worked in the residence "were local

people, family members—somebody was always a cousin of somebody else on staff.” When Monkman started, during the Johnson Administration, segregation was still fresh in people’s minds. “I heard many stories about segregated lunchrooms for the residence staff—they were integrated in the fifties,” she told me. “Even when I started, in the late sixties, it wasn’t so integrated in terms of the roles people played. For a long time, African-Americans were butlers, maids, and housemen, versus the engineers, electricians, painters, and carpenters, who were white. Bit by bit, they were hired into the trades.” The distinction meant that white workers often had control of their whereabouts, whereas Black workers had to sit at the ready, to be summoned upstairs at any moment.

For decades, many department heads were white. George W. Bush hired the first Black chief usher, Stephen Rochon. Rochon came from outside the White House, breaking a long tradition of hiring the chief usher from the residence staff. Previously a rear admiral in the Coast Guard, Rochon attempted to bring military efficiency to the staff, but he never gained their full trust, according to those I spoke with. He took great pride in the history of the White House and the role of chief usher, but he gave endless personal tours, a violation of the staff credo to remain behind the scenes. Some of the staff supposed that the tours were Rochon’s undoing; the Obamas reassigned him to the Department of Homeland Security. The Obamas hired or promoted first-generation immigrants and women of color to the roles of head chef and chief florist, and they replaced Rochon with Angella Reid, who is Black. She, too, was an outsider, coming to the White House from the Ritz-Carlton company, where she had worked for twenty-one years. Work was difficult for the residence staff under Reid, who earned respect but also a reputation as a taskmaster, and who ran the White House with the exacting and fear-inducing sensibilities of a luxury-hotel manager. Several people told me that Reid made a point of humiliating workers, disparaging their performance in front of their colleagues. (In a statement, Reid said that working at the White House “was not only a highlight of my career but memories I will hold dear for my entire life. I look back fondly and often think about the residence staff, continuing to root them all on. I wish them nothing but the best.”)

The Obama Administration brought a new set of challenges, from the lifers’ perspective. The family hosted events late into the night and again the next morning. They also had some notions that clashed with the lifers’ sensibilities, including setting up a Nintendo Wii in the China Room for their daughters during a holiday break and holding exercise classes in the East Room. “Lincoln lay in state in that room. Kennedy lay in state in that room,” Bill Yosses, the White House pastry chef from 2007 to 2014, told me. The Internet, or lack thereof, was a problem at first, because Obama, his family, and staff were used to accomplishing tasks online; the lifers lacked Internet in many of their offices, and, in some cases, shared e-mail accounts. Early in the Administration, when he realized that valets were fulfilling his Amazon orders from their homes, Obama ordered the installation of good Internet for the residence workers’ use.

In other ways, the Obama Administration adapted to the residence staff. For decades, the stage built for speeches and events in the East Room left a couple feet of space between the risers and the ground, exposing unsightly cables. So Dale Haney, the longtime groundskeeper, would line a row of potted ferns along the stage to conceal the gap. But Desiree Rogers, the Obamas’ first social secretary, sought to expel pervasive nineties frump. Yosses said, “The ferns became a four-letter word.” As he recalled it, Haney “always had his ferns ready. He’s, like, ‘Oh you need risers? I’ll get the ferns.’ But Desiree was, like, ‘No fucking ferns. I don’t want ferns.’” Rogers left, after just over a year on the job, and the ferns returned. “It was just too easy,” Yosses said. Rogers disputes saying this, and maintains that there was “a wide selection of greenery around the stages at all times.”



The residence staff will tell you that they avoid discussing politics at work, yet in recent years that pact has frayed, as it has elsewhere in America. Tensions surface more than in the past, prompted at times by knowledge of their colleagues' Facebook posts. "Most people know more or less where people stand," the residence worker told me. About half of the lifers are people of color, which raises questions about how they tolerated working for Trump. "We have to be impressed with the idea that a bunch of Black and brown people can survive this daily onslaught," Jason told me. "It speaks to their diligence and loyalty to the *house* itself—they are not really there for the *person*." But they were not impervious to the tone of the Administration. Under Trump, Jason said, Black and brown lifers noted that white people on staff were "saying some real shit . . . meaning they're comfortable to say what they want to say."

A little over four years ago, the lifers awaited the Trumps with nervous anticipation. They knew little about the new President, beyond that he owned hotels and fired people on television. He lived in a gilded penthouse apartment on Fifth Avenue modelled after the Palace of Versailles, the very building that George Washington and Thomas Jefferson deemed the anti-White House. In his stump speech, Trump objected to the routine of holding big state dinners in tents on the South Lawn, and promised to build a hundred-million-dollar ballroom.

There was "an anticipation of radical change and substantial change, because of the whole 'Apprentice' thing, you know—'You're fired!' " Daniel Shanks, who served as the usher responsible for food and beverage at the residence for twenty-two years, and who retired in October, 2017, recalled. "That wasn't dispelled immediately, because there was nobody to dispel it."

Five months in, the Trumps did fire someone: Angella Reid. "It's not uncommon that you might have a transition of staff when a new Administration comes in. And it's simply nothing more than that," Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who was then the deputy White House press secretary, said at the time. After Reid's firing, the residence staff braced for what might come. The Trumps' selection of Timothy Harleth, who was relatively young and mid-career, caused some head-scratching. "He didn't carry the mystique," Shanks told me. "He was someone from down the street." Another lifer remembered Harleth's unceremonious first day, when the new boss wandered the corridor where the workers sit, poking his head around and asking, "Hello, is anybody back there?"

Some workers I spoke with saw Harleth as a kindlier manager than Reid, and expressed respect and admiration for his efforts. But, ultimately, Reid and Harleth shared the same ambitions: to make the White House run more like a hotel, an objective at odds with the philosophy of the longest-serving lifers, who say that a hotel is a place where guests pay to stay. The White House, they will tell you, is a home. According to residence staff workers, Harleth cracked down on overtime pay and led peppy, hotel-staff-style stand-up meetings. As his tenure progressed, he hired former industry colleagues from the Trump International Hotel and the Mandarin Oriental. By the time Harleth left, several workers told me that they believed he was hostile to the lifers. "He saw us as dinosaurs . . . recalcitrant, most likely to complain, most likely to resist change," the residence worker said. "There was a real condescension on his part for the people who had been there a long time."

Harleth told me that he was most proud of overseeing renovations to the White House: polishing handrails that hadn't "been touched in seventy years," redoing marble floors, replacing doors, restoring wood floors and drapery. Renovations in the Rose Garden involved the removal of the garden's ten trees, which one garden historian and Reagan Administration staffer said had left her "aghast." "As politically charged as it was, the

work in the Rose Garden was closest to my heart, because of the effort that went behind that,” Harleth said, adding that plant disease had blighted the garden. It’s a healthier space now as a result,” he said. He also cited innovations that he brought to entertaining, such as synchronized plate service, in which each course is set before all the guests at once. “It’s very easy to criticize and say that this is a home, not a hotel, as opposed to taking an issue and debating the merits of whatever is at hand,” he said. Nevertheless, Harleth, who told me that he supported Bernie Sanders, said that he had deep respect for the residence staff, who taught him “the value and the meaning of service to the country—that’s what they do every day, through their service to the Presidency.”

The former Trump Hotel colleagues whom Harleth hired included Arvind Chadha, who was charged with new authority to oversee the butlers. But the butlers, the consummate lifers and innermost layer of the residence staff, were not easily managed—their proximity to the President gives them independent power that other residence staffers lack. “The butlers don’t like anybody and nobody likes the butlers,” Dennis Hawk, who worked as the head of operations until June of 2020, told me. In the battle between Chadha and the butlers, the butlers easily outmaneuvered him, one lifer told me, over the summer. “Arvind thought he knew what he was doing, but he had no clue,” Hawk said. “He’d tell people he could do things without knowing he couldn’t,” he added, giving as an example the time Chadha promised to fit three hundred chairs in the East Room while also abiding by social-distancing requirements. (Chadha did not respond to a request for comment.)

Shanks told me that he left the White House because he had hit a length-of-service mark that made retirement advantageous, and because, at seventy, he was about to be married. He also felt the staff was changing, and although some of the changes had been positive it was time for him to move on. Other lifers left under Trump for similar reasons. The chief curator, housekeeper, and calligrapher all retired, with eighty-five years of combined service to the White House among them. Also departed: an electrician, a butler, the lead carpenter, a longtime housekeeper (for reasons of illness), a laundrywoman, two florists, and two ushers; one, Jim Doherty, who supervised the trades, died suddenly, in his fifties, and with him went a vast knowledge of the building’s every squeaky hinge. Many lifers who retired did not say that Trump, specifically, caused them leave. Pat Blair, the former chief calligrapher, who retired in 2018, told me, “It just felt like the right time—the end of an era.”

Most of the turnover reflects a broader culture clash that pits old and new ways of running a grand household against each other. Cataloguing the changes of recent decades, lifers point to the shift from hiring through word of mouth across generations of families to recruiting from Washington’s hotels, and to an increased use of outside consultants and decorators. The shift means the staff often takes direction rather than giving it. It also results in more cooled relationships over all between the lifers and First Families. The butlers remained more distant with the Obamas, who had never had a staff of housekeepers and craved privacy. The Trumps treated the residence staff like a “twenty-four-hour concierge desk,” according to Jonathan Lee, who served in the calligrapher’s office until 2017. (He was fired without explanation, though Lee speculates that the cause was Trump officials learning that he had held a political role under Obama.)

According to Shanks, the shift in relations between the First Families and lifers has changed the feeling of the White House. “The Obamas and the Trumps were the first Administrations when the residence was considered the upper floors and not the entire building. For us, it’s always been that the ‘home’ was from ‘basement to the sniper on the roof,’ ” Shanks said. “It doesn’t have the concept of the home of the First Family that it used to, but, again, that’s more societal.” Now it feels more like the public rooms are a museum or a convention center.

In the twenty-first century, Shanks suggested, the White House became a sound set—events are less about the impression they will make on the people attending them and more about the buzz they will create online. Traditionally, Inauguration Day at the White House flows as a series of fixed events orchestrated by the lifers: tea in the Blue Room, move out, move in, and, at night, a party for hundreds of people. “They go out the door and hours later, when a new family walks in, we’re totally devoted,” Shanks said. “We’ve made that split of having served and now serving.”

Between Obama’s departure and Trump’s arrival, the residence staff had just five hours to transform the private quarters. Reid, then the chief usher, stood before the elevator doors, directing the movement of furniture in and out. Lifers darted from room to room, carrying art, hanging drapes, laying out gowns, painting a few walls, unpacking china, and assembling beds. They held objects up to the White House curators, who would reply “ours” or “theirs.” There was a false alarm when someone thought a new mattress was the wrong size. In the frantic final hour, another lifer opened Sasha Obama’s bedroom closet and groaned, because it was still filled with the teen-ager’s clothes.

Four years later, when the hour came for the Trumps’ departure, the staff gathered in a hallway on the ground floor. Donald and Melania Trump each spoke brief words of thanks, and Harleth presented the outgoing family with the flags that had flown over the White House during their time there, a long-standing tradition. That was the last time that many of the staff saw Harleth. Moments before the Bidens arrived, they were told that Harleth had been fired. For some, it was an emotional moment. “He’s been a very strong leader in terms of he’s the one in charge, and to have him disappear on such an important day—we were just reeling from the emotion of it,” the residence worker said. Suddenly, moments before the Bidens walked through the doors, the exhausted staff were once again thrust into uncertainty over what the future held. As the residence worker told me, “Tim wasn’t without his faults, but he was the most competent and least partisan of the last three we’ve had.”

Meanwhile, outside, the Bidens ambled west on Pennsylvania Avenue, in the late-afternoon sunshine. Biden jogged over to greet and acknowledge questions from a trickle of supporters and reporters lining the bike racks, a mainstay of Secret Service crowd control. They turned left and walked up the right flank of the north drive, slowly, amid a noisy Rockwellian jumble of flags, horns, photographers, and advance staff. The Bidens stood on the top step of the North Portico, atop the workers’ main passage, and gazed out, as “God Bless America” played. Joe and Jill Biden embraced, squeezed hands, and turned to enter the White House as President and First Lady for the first time. Some observers noticed that they were made to wait for an awkward moment before the White House’s front doors opened—this, several people told me, was a sign of a departed chief usher. (The Bidens have named an acting chief usher and have not permanently filled the role.)

Inside, the residence staff was staged on the State Floor, ready to greet the Bidens. When they bid goodbye to the Trumps, hours earlier, they had all stood in one room. But now they were spread out in a line, through the entire floor, to put more distance between their bodies. “It’s like night and day,” the residence worker told me, describing the difference between the two families’ concern over social distancing. “The Bidens came in and the first thing they did was make a loop of the State Floor and greet the staff,” the worker said, pausing, and then beginning to cry. “We were all very flattered. Usually we meet them in the first days or first weeks, but never in the first minutes.” The Bidens went down the line, greeting the staff, some of whom spoke brief, deferential words of welcome and said that they were glad they were there. To one of the well-wishers, Biden was heard to respond, “We’re glad we’re here, too.”





# Society of White House Military Aides

## FY2021 (2020-2021) Membership Drive

---

**Washington Area Membership.** I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2021 Directory, and receive one lapel pin **for new members**. Enclosed are my dues of \$40.00. Annual \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00

**Out - of - Area Membership.** I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2021 Directory, and receive one lapel pin **for new members**. Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00. Annual \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00

**FY 2010 Lifetime Membership Extended.** I wish to become a Lifetime Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$300.00

### Memorabilia

1. SWHMA newsletter hard copy mailed \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 each
2. Navy Blue Lapel Pin \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 each
3. Society engraved pen (black/gold or navy/gold) \_\_\_\_\_ \$12.50 each
4. George Elsey's (Roosevelt/Truman Aide) Book, "*An Unplanned Life*" \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 each
5. Michael K. Bohn's (Nixon) Book, "*Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room*" \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 each
6. Alex R. Larzelere, CAPT USCG (Ret) (Nixon) Book, "*Witness to History: White House Diary of a Military Aide to President Richard Nixon*" \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 each
7. David C. Henley, BGEN (NVARNG-Ret) (Nixon) Book, "*From Moscow to Beirut*" \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 each

### Directory Information

Rank/Name/Service \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\***(Please include abbreviated rank/title as you wish it to appear in the Directory)**

***Which President(s) Served? Presidential or Social Aide?*** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ **Re -confirm E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree to release this information for the FY 2021 Directory? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Information

**Assignment / Business Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interesting current activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Missing Aides:** Please list names, address, phone, and email for any "Missing Aides."

---

## **FY 2020-2021 Upcoming Events**

1. Are you interested in attending the White House Christmas Tour?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you interested in a Spring event featuring an accomplished member as speaker?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you be willing to help coordinate the event? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you interested in hosting or coordinating an event?

Picnic \_\_\_\_\_

Wine Tasting \_\_\_\_\_

Sports \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the Society do especially well? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be improved or added to Society events? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to help improve or initiate that event for 2 or more years? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please return this form to:

website: <http://swhma.org>. You must register at the website to gain a Username and password. You can use "temporary" and "Temp-2016" for Username and Password to access the database.

or

email: "lordstrider@earthlink.net"

or

Society of White House Military Aides  
c/o Gary Smith  
15815 Wildhaven Lane  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
Tel: (505) 450-4293



# **SOCIETY OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDE (SWHMA)**

## **CORE ETHICAL VALUES 2021**

*Thanks to COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara Trustee Emeritus and Current Advisor*

1. Members make an ethical difference and always strive to do the right thing. If unsure or in doubt, seek information from others. A list of SWHMA members and their contact information is at the website: <http://swhma.org>.
2. Members will go above mere compliance with laws, rules and regulations and take the high road. Members avoid even the appearance of impropriety.
3. Members are held to the highest standards of ethical conduct to include:
  - Respect for others. Stand in their shoes to get their perspectives.
  - Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.
  - Integrity – having the fortitude to do what is right even when no one is watching.
  - We do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those that do.

### **RELATED COMMENTS**

1. The SWHMA is a social organization. It is not a professional, business or political organization.
2. As with anything, improvement can always be made. Members can contact another member of our group to discuss any changes to these Ethical Values. Do not be timid – speak up. Our society welcomes your views and recommendations for improvement.
3. If you believe any violation of the Core Ethical Values has occurred, discuss it with the involved individual or a member of our group.
4. Violations of Core Ethical Values by members shall be referred to the Board of Advisors for review, discussion and action as appropriate up to revocation of membership if warranted and supported by facts.

Society of White House Military Aides  
c/o Gary Smith  
15815 Wildhaven Lane  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921



Kenn having a good day, happy about our Christmas Tour and wearing his dad's topcoat circa Georgetown 1948!



The gang's all here, our Advisors in 2018 at the Christmas Reception, The Metropolitan Club



Man's best friend and my best friends