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General Orders
Walker's Brigade

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MARCH 2026 MEETING
Thursday, March 19, 2026

Saltgrass Steak House
8943 Katy Freeway
5:45 pm - Dinner
7:00 pm - Program Begins

*****No Reservations Required for this Meeting*****

There is no cost for dues-paid members.
$10.00 charge for visitors.

The HCWRT Presents John Michael Priest Speaking On:

"Reynolds, Iverson, and Buford at Gettysburg: New Interpretations"

This presentation will reexamine the death of Union Major General John Reynolds in the opening moments of the battle of Gettysburg, what really happened during Brigadier General Alfred Iverson's disastrous assault on Oak Ridge, and a closer look at Brigadier General John Buford's actual defense of Seminary Ridge against Confederate Major General William Dorsey Pender's Division. John Priest's research indicates that the traditional stories describing these three incidents did not occur exactly as they have been popularly portrayed. It is a genuine case of the "Emperor's New Clothes." Reynolds did not die at the hands of a sharpshooter, Buford did not defend the Union line south of the Fairfield Road, and Iverson's assault took much longer than previously believed.

John Michael Priest

About John Michael Priest

A retired high school history teacher, John Michael Priest has been interested in Civil War history since an early age. He is a graduate of Loyola College in Baltimore and Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and has written extensively about the Civil War.

His many books include *Antietam: The Soldiers' Battle* (1989); *Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain* (1992); *Nowhere to Run: The Wilderness, May 4th & 5th, 1864* (1995); *Victory Without Triumph: The Wilderness, May 6th & 7th, 1864* (1996); and *Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (1998). Praised by

legendary historian Edwin C. Bearss as the “Ernie Pyle” of the Civil War soldier, Priest has appeared on Civil War-related episodes of the Discovery Channel’s *Unsolved History* program.

President Agnew with February speaker Danny Sessums

President’s Comments

By Walker Agnew

At last month’s meeting, we heard from Danny Sessums, who spoke about Hiram Granbury and his Texas Brigade as well as Patrick Cleburne. The brigade saw extensive fighting and was always in the thick of things. Granbury rose from captain all the way to brigadier general. Patrick Cleburne was born in Ireland and served in the British Army before moving to America. These men had the brigade well trained. Tragically, both of these men were killed on the same day, November 30, 1864, during the Battle of Franklin.

There are several upcoming seminars for our members to attend as we are always ready to learn more about the Civil War. Sam Houston State University has a program in June (see article in our December newsletter). Also, the Hood’s Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated is sponsoring a battlefield tour of Virginia this April (see article on page 3 of this newsletter). Future newsletters will keep you apprised of upcoming events.

Please let any of our officers or directors know of your interest to serve on a committee for our Round Table, such as membership or programs.

Eric Wittenberg

Eric Wittenberg to Receive HCWRT Vandiver Award

We are pleased to announce that author, tour guide, historian, preservationist, and longtime friend of the HCWRT **Eric J. Wittenberg** has been posthumously awarded the 2026 *HCWRT Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit*. Mr. Wittenberg's expertise, generosity, professionalism, and warm personality made him an obvious choice to receive this year's award. His absence is greatly felt and our only regret is to have not had the opportunity to honor him with this selection during his lifetime.

His published works have focused especially on the Civil War cavalryman and the cavalry battles of the Civil War, with emphasis on the Army of the Potomac Cavalry Corps.

Each year the Vandiver Award recognizes the outstanding contributions to Civil War scholarship or preservation efforts by an

individual or an institution. That individual or a representative of the institution is invited to our Round Table to receive the Award. Lynda Crist, Editor of the Jefferson Davis Papers at Rice University, was the first recipient in 1982. Other past winners include Ed Bearss, Frank O'Reilly, Ed Cotham, Don Troiani, Dr. James I. Robertson, Dr. Richard Sommers, Gordon Rhea, and Dr. James McPherson.

This year, we have invited Scott Mingus, who co-authored several books with Eric, to speak about Eric's accomplishments and body of work. That presentation is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

March Quiz

By Jim Godlove

At Gettysburg, John Reynolds commanded the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac. What was the popular name given to the First Brigade of the First Division of the First Corps?

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Membership Report

By Michael Clennan

Our 2025 - 2026 campaign is charging straight ahead with great speakers, fellowship, and tasty dinners at Saltgrass Steak House on the Katy Freeway. Why not bring a new member or guest and enjoy our dinner, which begins at 5:45? At 7:00 pm, we begin our meeting and move on to our Civil War quiz, book raffle and presentation by John Michael Priest. We will learn about the performances of Generals Reynolds, Iverson and Buford at Gettysburg. Please remember that new members who join in March will receive all this through May as well as the next campaign (2026 - 2027) for a bargain price of $50.00 for an individual member! If you have any questions, please reach out to me at (713) 864-1204. See you at the front door!

Monthly Book Raffle

By Rita Campbell

We will have some special books available in this month's raffle. We start off with **THE BLUE AND GRAY ALMANAC: THE CIVIL WAR IN FACTS & FIGURES, RECIPES, & SLANG** by Albert Nofi. Next up is **CIVIL WAR COMMANDO: WILLIAM CUSHING AND THE DARING RAID TO SINK THE INVINCIBLE IRONCLAD CSS ALBEMARLE** by Jerome Preisler. Another naval-related book being offered is **LINCOLN TAKES COMMAND: THE CAMPAIGN TO SEIZE NORFOLK AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CSS VIRGINIA** by Steve Norder. Rounding out the selections are **DIVIDED WE FALL: ESSAYS ON CONFEDERATE NATION-BUILDING** by John Belohlaver and Lewis Nicholas Wynne and **TRAVELLER** by Richard Adams.

HTBAR Virginia Battlefield Tour

Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated is sponsoring a battlefield tour entitled "Valor on the Battlefield" to Virginia from April 14 - 18, 2026. The tour will cover 1st and 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania.

Guides and speakers include Greg Mertz, Scott Patchen, Melissa Winn, Rick Eiserman, and Geoff White.

The fee for this trip is $650.00 per person, with payment due by April 4th.

Full details, including a downloadable registration form, can be found on the HTBAR's website, which is hoodstexasbrigade.org. Interested persons may also contact Thad Fine at (502) 475-3923 for additional information.

2025 - 2026 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

March 19, 2026	**John Michael Priest: "Reynolds, Iverson, and Buford at Gettysburg: New Interpretations"**
April 16, 2026	**D. Scott Hartwig (2025 Vandiver Award Recipient): "I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Antietam Campaign"**
May 21, 2026	**TBA**

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