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General Orders

Walker's Brigade

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OCTOBER 2026 MEETING **Thursday, October 15, 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 **Paul Brueske Speaking On:**

"The Battle of Mobile Bay"

The engagement famously known as the Battle of Mobile Bay culminated on August 5, 1864, resulting in combined land and naval engagements to secure the capture of this strategic Confederate position, guarded by three Confederate forts: Morgan, Gaines and Powell. Following the loss of New Orleans in 1862 and Vicksburg in 1863, Mobile Bay was of vital importance to the Confederacy, primarily due to its blockade running operations. By 1864, with William T. Sherman advancing ever closer to the city of Atlanta, the stage was set for a clash of forces to secure this final position on the Gulf.

The Union navy proved too powerful against their foe--Confederate forts Gaines and Powell eventually surrendered--beginning a siege that would last until the surrender of Fort Morgan on the 23rd of August. The battle saw 115 men awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions at Mobile Bay, and left popular memory with one of the most memorable quotes in military history: Admiral David Farragut lashed to the mast of the USS *Hartford*, ordering his fleet, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" The result paved the way for Sherman to begin his famous "March to the Sea," and would help sway public opinion in securing Lincoln's re-election in November.

Mr. Brueske's talk will discuss the political, social, and military significance of the Battle of Mobile Bay as one the final turning points in the war.



Paul Brueske

About Paul Brueske

Paul Brueske recently completed his master's degree in history from the University of South Alabama, where he successfully

defended his thesis *Alexander Asboth: Hungarian Separatist and Union Civil War General*. He is the author of *"Digging All Night and Fighting All Day: The Civil War Siege of Spanish Fort and the Mobile Campaign, 1865"* and *"The Last Siege: The Mobile Campaign, Alabama."*

Paul serves as the President of the Mobile Area Civil War Round Table and is a member of the Mobile Historical Society.



President Agnew and last month's speaker Scott Mingus

President's Comments *By Walker Agnew*

What an incredible start to the campaign year! We kicked off with Scott Mingus talking about his book *The Second Battle of Winchester* which he co-authored with Eric J. Wittenberg. The Houston Civil War Round Table posthumously named Eric the recipient of the HCWRT 2026 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. Scott was able to explain how this battle had an impact on what happened at Gettysburg just a couple of weeks later. He also showed us how decisions made (or not made) by just one or two people can change the entire outcome of a battle. One could easily observe all the

extensive research that went into the writing of this book.

Please be sure to join us this month, as we'll be hearing from Paul Brueske who will discuss the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Treasurer's Report *By Thaddeus Fine*

At our September meeting, which was the "kickoff" meeting for this campaign year, we had a total of 27 people in attendance. Thanks to Rita Campbell for organizing the monthly book raffle, as well as setting up a silent auction for an 18-volume set of Time-Life books. Rick Mumey placed the winning bid for this set; the proceeds will go towards support of our round table.

Be sure to sign in as you enter our meeting room this month, and be on the lookout for an informal poll asking whether you'd like to take a field trip and, if so, to what location.

We always welcome payment of dues at the door, payable with either cash or check. Dues are still \$50.00 for an individual membership, and \$60.00 for family. You may also send your checks to the address on the last page of this newsletter.

Civil War Consortium

Sam Houston State University recently announced that its second annual Civil War Consortium will be held on their Huntsville campus June 18 and 19, 2027. This conference takes as its theme the war in our region—the largest (and yet least studied) of the war's three operational theaters. Studying the war in the trans-Mississippi allows us to illuminate critical aspects of the conflict, from irregular violence and "extreme" environments to the experiences of Native Americans, prisoners of war, the formerly enslaved, loyalists, and women.

The theme of this consortium will be “A Dark and Bloody Ground: The Civil War West of the Mississippi River.” Speakers will include Brian Matthew Jordan, Evan Rothera, Neil Chatelain, Fay Yarbrough, and M. Jane Johansson. There will also be a panel discussion entitled “Did the Trans-Mississippi Matter?”

The conference is open to anyone in the interested public—from students to life-long learners, from those with a strong background in Civil War history to those who are merely novices.

Conference registration is just \$150.00, which includes admissions to two days of lectures, two lunches, a SHSU Civil War Consortium t-shirt, and coffee service throughout the event.

For additional information, contact Brian Matthew Jordan at bmj018@shsu.edu or (936) 294-4460.

October Book Raffle

By Rita Campbell

October is “DVD Month” for our book raffle this month! We have a **complete seven series DVD** by History Channel, a three-series **CIVIL WAR BATTLES** by Timeless Media Group, and a **150-year anniversary collector’s edition** (10 DVD;s).



This month’s books are **BEST LITTLE STORIES FROM THE CIVIL WAR: MORE THAN 100 TRUE STORIES** by Brian Kelly and **THEY FOLLOWED THE PLUME: THE STORY OF J.E.B. STUART AND HIS STAFF** by Robert J. Trout.

Special thanks to Rick Mumey for placing the winning bid on last month’s silent auction! And thanks to all of you for purchasing our raffle tickets!

October Quiz

By Jim Godlove

What Federal later wrote: “I had tried for more than two years to have an expedition sent against Mobile...it finally cost lives to take it when its possession was of no importance.”



HTBAR Scholarly Seminar

Hood’s Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated (HTBAR) will be sponsoring their 17th annual Scholarly Seminar on November 13 and 14, 2026 at Seguin, Texas. This event includes a Friday tour of Seguin with Dr. Richard McCaslin, Ed Cotham, and Robert Jones, Jr. serving as tour guides. Saturday’s speakers include Dr. McCaslin, Jeff Hunt, Ed Cotham, and Richard Selcer.

The seminar features a Friday afternoon tour of Seguin and a Friday night Dutch treat dinner at the 1838 Grill. Saturday’s seminar is from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the historic Stephen and Mary Birch Texas Theater at 425 N. Austin St. in Seguin. Registration, which includes Saturday’s lunch, is \$90.00. HTBAR asks that everyone register for this event by November 1st.

For additional information, visit the HTBAR website: hoodtexasbrigade.org. You may also contact Thad Fine at tthdfn4@hotmail.com.

2026 - 2027 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Oct. 15, 2026	Paul Brueske – <i>“The Battle of Mobile Bay”</i>
Nov. 19, 2026	Dr. Jared Peatman – <i>“A Hell of a Regiment: To Gettysburg and Beyond with the Twentieth Maine”</i>
Dec. 10, 2026	Reserved for 2026 Gary L. Chandler Graduate Student Award Recipient
Jan. 21, 2027	Ed Cotham – <i>“Rockets, Tanks, and Submarines: The Ingenuity of Civil War Texans”</i>
Feb. 18, 2027	James R. Hessler – <i>“Dan Sickles”</i>
March 18, 2027	John Michael Priest – <i>“Reynolds, Iverson, Buford at Gettysburg: New Interpretations”</i>
April 15, 2027	Dr. Timothy B. Smith – <i>“The Iron Dice of Battle: Albert Sydney Johnston”</i>
May 20, 2027	Reserved for 2027 Vandiver Award Recipient

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