



- Michigan Gazette -

The Michigan Society, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

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Michigan Society to Host

Yes, the 2018 General Court of the OFPA will be held at the historic Dearborn Inn with events planned and conducted by the Michigan Society. The Virginia Society had been scheduled to host the next General Court, but decided to defer one year to align with a historic anniversary date at Williamsburg. The Michigan Society was then encouraged to submit a bid at the 121st General Court in Atlanta, and I was pleased to not only do so but to be awarded the honor of hosting in 2018!

This is a great opportunity for our society as we have not hosted a GC in the past. We propose to offer a local resident package at a favorable

price to encourage all Michigan Society associates and their spouses to attend the banquets.

I have already booked the Dearborn Inn as the host venue, but **NEED YOUR HELP** to line up the rest of the agenda. I would like to organize a Planning Committee to gather ideas for where to hold the Friday night dinner and the various tours on Thursday thru Saturday. The nearby Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are obvious choices but there are openings for more, including the ladies tours on Friday. Let me know your interest in helping us plan!

- Tom Smart, Governor



This could be you in 2018!

I N M E M O R I A M

We regret to announce the passing of two long-time Michigan Society associates.

- **Warren Austin Merchant, passed away 21 September 2016 – Order #4713, MI Soc. #80. Warren served the Michigan Society well for many years as our Secretary. He was survived by his wife, Hilda.**



- **LTC Ervan Lloyd Amidon, USAF, passed away 17 March 2017 at age 95 – Order #4669, MI Soc. #77. He was preceded in death by his wife Elinor, shown opposite together on their 60th wedding anniversary in 2006.**



Y O U R 2 0 1 6 – 2 0 1 8 M I C H I G A N S O C I E T Y O F F I C E R S A N D C O U N C I L O R S

The following slate of officers and councilors was nominated, elected and installed at the last Annual Fall Meeting on November 12, 2016. Thank you all for agreeing to serve!

Officers

Governor	Thomas A. Smart
Deputy Governor	Robert M. Sprague
Secretary	Paul Ensign
Treasurer	Douglas J. Rasmussen
States Attorney	Gordon J. Barnett, Jr.
Registrar	Larry L. Blackett

Councilors

Councilor General	David E. Miller
2014-2017	W. Michael Babion James M. Hubbard Paul D. Hodges
2015-2018	Jonathan Leffingwell E. David Ladd Paul C. Lewis
2016-2019	Charles Blackman Matthew M. Lewis Jerry W. Rowland



MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF THE ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Governor requests your presence at the 61st Annual Fall Meeting and Luncheon of the Michigan Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America. We are returning to our traditional meeting date of the third Saturday in September. You, your spouse and family are cordially invited.

Saturday, September 16, 2017 — 12:00 Noon

Mitchell's Fish Market

Eastwood Town Center

2975 Preyde Blvd.

Lansing, MI 48912

Cost will be ~\$25 including Tax/Tip

As always, this meeting presents an excellent opportunity for you to introduce potential members to our Society. Please feel free to invite guests and remember to bring your sons or grandsons!

RSVP by Friday, September 8 with the number in your party. We must provide a final count to the restaurant.

- ⇒ e-mail: tsmart1@comcast.net
- ⇒ Phone: (248) 563-8643



Attendees at 2016 Annual Fall Meeting

2017 MILITARY AWARD CEREMONIES

One of the most important things we do as a Society is to recognize superior achievement by ROTC cadets at universities in Michigan, along with honoring the top Michigan National Guard unit each year. Here are the awards presented in 2017. We thank our officers shown who took the time to make these presentations!

U of Michigan ROTC - April 4 (Gordon Barnett presenting)

- Army Cadet Robert Stitzel
- Air Force Cadet Gabe Wilson
- Navy Midshipman Brandon Reitsma

Michigan State U Army ROTC – April 20 (Dave Miller presenting)

- Army Cadet Emilee Kathleen Tripp

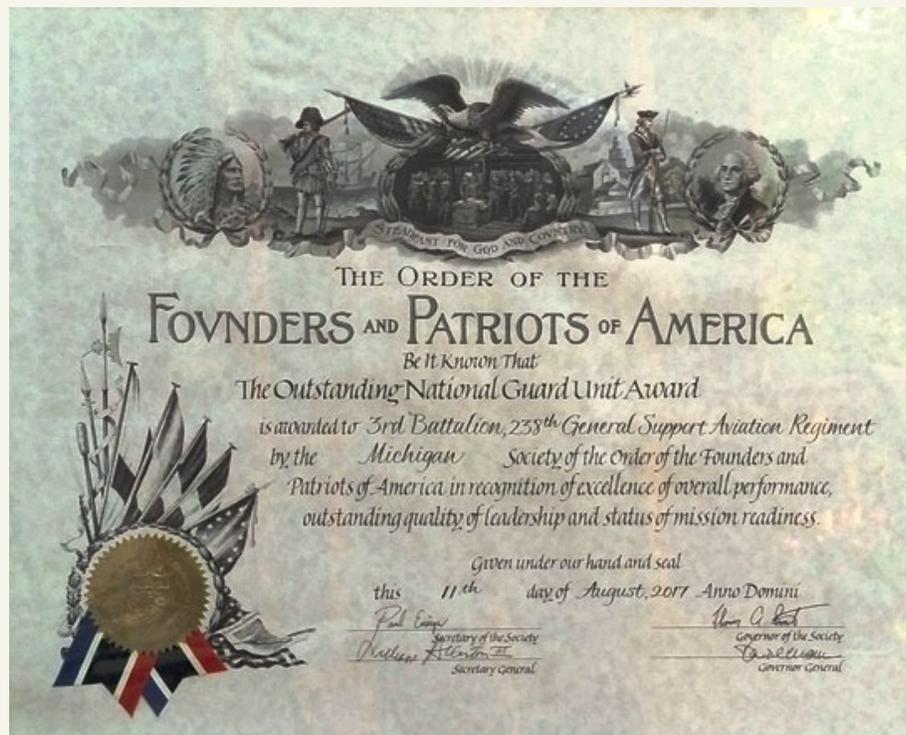
Michigan State U Air Force ROTC – April 20 (Dave Miller presenting)

- Air Force Cadet Corey Lee

Western Michigan U Army ROTC – April 20 (Doug Rasmussen presenting)

- Army Cadet Issac J. Koerner

The Michigan National Guard held their annual Reward and Remembrance Ceremony on August 11 at Camp Grayling, and your Michigan Society was again honored to provide the award to the Outstanding MI NG Unit of the Year. This year's award (pictured below) was presented to 3rd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Regiment. We hope to have the company commander at our annual meeting on September 16 to be recognized by all Michigan Society associates. We are the only private organization to present an award at this ceremony. This is a great event to attend and support our troops, and we encourage all associates to attend in the future.



Dues Increase Needed

Your Executive Council met on June 20, 2017 to review a series of proposed revisions to the Michigan Society OFPA By-Laws. Some of these were to align with recent changes to the OFPA national By-Laws while others were minor correction items. One of the most important topics we addressed was our annual Michigan Society dues which are specified in the By-Laws.

From the dues we collect at the state level, we must pay member dues to the national Order. They raised their dues during 2016 from \$23 to \$30 (after we billed our \$35). Our present dues stand at \$35 annually which has not changed since 2005! This leaves just \$5 per member for all state Society expenses after paying the national dues.

The dues we collect at the state level primarily fund the ROTC and National Guard awards, which cost us \$25 each or \$175 per year for the seven awards we present. Each ROTC award includes a medal and very nice certificate, shown below right (the calligraphy is donated). The National Guard award is larger and we also purchase a quality frame to put it in before presentation, which adds to the cost. Some awards also require shipping, so our awards program runs around \$230 per year.

An additional complication is the number of Life Members we now have and the need to ensure the one-time payments they made will cover present and future national dues, leaving less to fund local activities.

We have checked with other OFPA state societies and most collect \$20– 25 in state dues in addition to the \$30 national dues. We have also compared with other Michigan heritage societies, and found the Detroit Chapter DAR annual dues are \$65.

As a result, the Council has recommended that the Michigan Society collect \$20 in state dues in addition to the \$30 national dues, for a total of \$50 annually. This will be put to a vote of the membership at the Annual Fall Meeting on September 16. We trust you will understand the need for this increase and look forward to your support of this resolution.

Veterans Day & Remembrance Service

Nov. 12 from 4—6 PM

All Michigan Society Associates are invited to attend the annual Veterans Day & Remembrance Service at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. The church is located at 4800 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48201.

This is a moving service that features all branches of the U.S. military, plus many local military and heritage societies such as ours. It begins with a parade of the U.S. and organization flags from all in attendance. The service is followed by an hors d'oeuvres reception.

Please plan to attend!



WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!

Your Michigan Society added three new associates in 2015, one in 2016 and none so far in 2017. We need your help in recruiting! Many of you belong to other heritage societies that are our best potential source of new associates. Please spread the word about OFPA and encourage your friends to apply! Invite them to our meetings as well. We have also contacted the Michigan DFPA chapter to encourage their sons and grandsons to apply.