



- Michigan Gazette -

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

MICHIGAN SOCIETY WINS PHELPS AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!

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Your OFPA Michigan Society was presented the J. Michael Phelps Award for 2018 at the recently concluded 123rd OFPA General Court. This award is bestowed annually to the "Society with less than 50 associates demonstrating the best overall performance in accomplishing the objectives of the Order." The winning Society is determined by points scored for activities conducted throughout the year.

Governor Tom Smart was pleased to accept this award on behalf of the Michigan Society from Governor General Richard M. Wright, Jr. at the General Court Banquet. This is the second year in a row that we were presented this award and it is a great reflection on the work we did to host the 2018 General Court in Dearborn.

Way to go, Michigan Society! It is great to have this recognition for two years running!

REPORT FROM THE 2019 GENERAL COURT

- by Tom Smart

This year's OFPA General Court was held in Richmond, VA on May 23-25, based at the downtown Omni Richmond hotel. It was my pleasure to attend both as your Governor and in my national role as Deputy Secretary General.

Following the traditional Cocktail Reception on Thursday evening, the Associates attended the Executive Council and General Court sessions on Friday while their ladies toured the Maymont Mansion and Gardens and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Dinner on Friday evening was at the historic Commonwealth Club, established in 1890. The club

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Michigan Governor Tom Smart (left) receiving the Phelps Award from Governor General Richard M. Wright, Jr.

2019 GENERAL COURT - CONT'D

is located in the building that was originally the Custom House in Richmond. Our speaker after dinner discussed the history of the Jamestown Colony, founded in 1607, as a prelude to our Saturday tour.

The entire group traveled on Saturday to the Jamestown Colony site for a tour led by one of the docents. Excavations continue to reveal new finds at this site and it was a fascinating tour. We then had lunch along the York River in Yorktown and afterward, toured the American Revolution Museum there. It combines static displays with live reenactments for an interesting look at the Revolutionary War.

Saturday evening featured the Governor General's Reception followed by the annual procession of flags from all the attending state societies. The White Tie Banquet was accompanied by many toasts. After a wonderful dinner, it was my pleasure as the Awards Committee Chairman to present the State Society awards. In addition to Michigan winning the J. Michael Phelps Award, the Virginia Society won the H. Carroll Parish Award (similar to Phelps but for societies of 50 or more members) and the Nevada Society won the Hinckley Cup for greatest combined percentage and numerical growth.

Next year's General Court will be held in Plymouth, MA to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Landing there. The 2021 General Court will be in New Orleans, LA. Make your plans to attend now!

OFPA MILITARY ACADEMY AWARDS

The OFPA presents awards each year to Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine cadets and midshipmen at the Nation's military academies. The timing of this year's Naval Awards Ceremony at Annapolis allowed Governor Smart to attend on his way to Richmond in order to present the OFPA Award. Annapolis has many events during Graduation Week and one day featured a fabulous show by the Blue Angels. This was followed by an Organ Recital in the beautiful Main Chapel.

The following morning featured the Color Parade and Troop Review with lots of pageantry from the drill team, bands, etc. Then came the Awards Ceremony where Gov. Smart presented the Admiral Dewey Sword Award to Midshipman 1C Yair Abramhoff, shown below.



*Vice Admiral Ted Carter, Capt Robert Chadwick II, MI
Gov. Tom Smart and Midshipman 1C Yair Abramhoff*



WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Michigan Society OFPA joined the Michigan Sons of the Revolution plus DAR, SAR and CAR Chapter representatives in a joint celebration of George Washington's birthday. This was held on February 23 at the Big T Restaurant in Lawton, MI. It was a nice gathering that gave us the opportunity to connect with those in other heritage societies in Michigan. We heard award-winning recitations from youth in the local CAR chapter as well as many toasts to George Washington.

We were disappointed that more associates from the Michigan OFPA Society did not attend this event. We will continue to seek opportunities for joint events with the other heritage societies in Michigan and encourage all OFPA associates to come out!

ANNUAL FALL MEETING SET FOR SEPT. 21

The annual Fall meeting of the Michigan Society OFPA has been scheduled for **Saturday, September 21**. We will again meet at the Mitchell's Restaurant in East Lansing, MI that has worked well for us in the past. We have invited our sister organization, the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Michigan Chapter to join us at this meeting. Arrangements for a speaker are presently being pursued with details to follow.

Please put this on your calendar now! This is an away football game date for MSU so we will not be fighting football traffic. We look forward to seeing all of you on September 21!



Gov. Tom Smart with leaders of other Michigan heritage societies at Washington's Birthday celebration

NEW ASSOCIATE

We are pleased to welcome to our Society Jack W. Haines. Jack is active in other heritage societies in Michigan and is presently the State Registrar for the SAR Michigan Society. We are pleased to have him join OFPA!

Nat # 6302

Election Date:
10 May 2019

Jack Willard Haines
2932 Innisbrook Drive
Portage, MI 49024

Founder: John Eaton at Dedham, MA in 1635
Patriot: Nathan Eaton of Ashford, CT

State # MI 144

2019 ROTC AWARDS

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 ROTC awards we presented in 2019. It is an honor to recognize these young men and women who have chosen to serve our country!

U of Michigan ROTC - April 4

- Army Cadet Gray Woodward
- Air Force Cadet Marisa Perez
- Navy Midshipman Brendan Macklem

Michigan State U Army ROTC – April 18

- Army Cadet Joe Gardner

Michigan State U Air Force ROTC – April 14

- Air Force Cadet Gregory Allen Olsen

Western Michigan U Army ROTC – April 18

- Army Cadet Jack Wittman

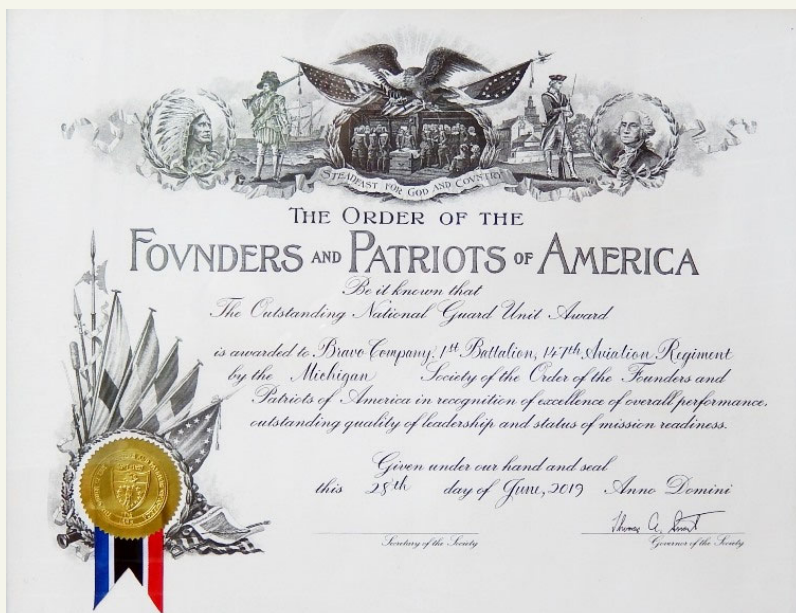


2019 NATIONAL GUARD AWARD

Each year, your OFPA Michigan Society presents our Order's National Guard Award to the top unit in the Michigan National Guard. This happens at the MING Annual Reward and Remembrance Ceremony at Camp Grayling which is attended by Governor Whitmer and top military brass. We are the only outside organization to present an award at this ceremony so this is a great honor.

This year's event will be on Friday, June 28. The unit being honored is Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment.

We highly encourage all of our associates to attend this ceremony! You will gain a greater appreciation for how the National Guard has been called to serve in the Middle East and how much they have sacrificed to do so.



2019 OFPA MICHIGAN CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location
Feb 23, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm	Washington's Birthday Celebration with SR, SAR, DAR, CAR	Big T Restaurant, Lawton MI
May 23–25	OFPA General Court	Richmond, VA
May 27	Memorial Day	Various parades & celebrations
June 28, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	OFPA National Guard Award Presentation + Reception	Camp Grayling – Parade Ground + Officer's Club
Sep. 21, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Annual Fall Meeting – Joint with MI Chapter DFPA	Mitchell's Fish Market, Lansing MI
Nov. 10, 4:00 pm	Veteran's Day Service (Flag procession w/ other societies)	Cathedral St. Paul, Detroit MI