CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH

SEVEN INDUCTED INTO THE CORPS HALL OF HONOR

By Annette Walker ’88
The Corps of Cadets established the Hall of Honor in 1993 to pay tribute to those former cadets who have lived a life that exemplifies the Texas Aggie Spirit. Those chosen also possess the values upon which the Corps was founded: honor, loyalty, service, pride, patriotism, faith, leadership and honesty.


To date, 73 former cadets have been inducted into the Corps Hall of Honor.

We congratulate these gentlemen on this prestigious honor and thank them for their support and leadership.

“Service and sacrifice are part of the Aggie DNA. Each of our inductees today has a story of sacrifice and service and was taught the value of discipline, drive and determination. Each one is a tremendous ambassador for the Aggie Spirit. They are all cut from the same cloth.”

Lupe Fraga ’57, Member, Board of Regents, The Texas A&M University System
“There is an electric current in the air on this campus. Turney felt it—was part of it and a visitor here cannot help but feel it. Turney would’ve been embarrassed to be called a hero, humble but proud of the honor you have bestowed on him.” —Mrs. Karen Anderson, niece of Turney Leonard

Turney W. Leonard ’43 received his bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Texas A&M, graduating at the top of his class. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor — one of seven Medal of Honor recipients from Texas A&M—for his exceptional bravery and valiant leadership in the battle of Hürtgen Forest near Kornmerscheidt, Germany.

During the battle on Nov. 4, 1944, Leonard’s 100-man tank destroyer company, the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and more than 1,000 infantrymen were trapped between two German divisions when he took command. Finding that most of their officers had been killed, Leonard gathered the men together and, walking in front of his tank destroyers, directed fire at the enemy positions. During the battle, his arm was shattered, but he continued directing the assault. Several German snipers were killed and six enemy tanks were destroyed.

Ordered to the aid station where he received treatment, Leonard returned to the battle because he felt the men needed him. His remains were later found and sent to Dallas for a full military burial. His company commander, Aggie Capt. Marion C. Pugh ’42, stated that Leonard was “the bravest man he ever saw.”

In November 2000, Leonard’s Aggie Ring was returned to his family at a ceremony on the Texas A&M campus by German Army Capt. Obit Volker Lossner, whose father-in-law found the Ring more than 50 years prior. It is now on permanent display, along with Leonard’s Medal of Honor, in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

Jarrell Gibbs ’60

“Whether in business, the military or in public service and government, we need the type of character that the Corps of Cadets produces. It’s important to do things right. But it is far more important to do the right thing.”

Jarrell Gibbs ’60 received his Bachelor of Business Administration in finance and his master’s degree in management and administration from Texas A&M. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years, including assignments in Vietnam, serving as unit commander on three continents and artillery battalion commander in the First Cavalry Division. His last military assignment was with the Army General Staff in the Pentagon, working with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for approval of the Army’s annual budget. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

Gibbs served for 22 years in various executive positions for TXU Corp., a Fortune 100 electric company, retiring as president. He also served as director of Nuclear Emergency Insurance Limited, Penn Virginia Corp., a public oil and gas exploration and production company, and Quanta Services Inc., a utility infrastructure construction and maintenance company.

He is the chairman of the board of the Texas A&M Research Foundation, is a director of Texas A&M University’s Private Enterprise Research Center, and serves on the Advisory Council for the Texas A&M Health Science Center, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Development Council and the Texas A&M President’s Board of Visitors for the Corps of Cadets. He was the chairman for the Aggie Spirit Development Council in the One Spirit One Vision campaign.

William B. Heye, Jr. ’60

“I offer two words to remember today to the current cadets—people and doors. Get involved with people. Work with them, understand their capabilities and limitations and motivate them. As to doors—you don’t know what you don’t know. There are doors that open to you as you learn new things. As you progress through life, there are always new doors to seek.”

William B. Heye, Jr. ’60 received his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M and his master’s of business administration from Harvard Business School, graduating as a Baker Scholar. He served in the U.S. Air Force for three years as
Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood '65

“I am so proud to once again stand before the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. Because of the leadership training I received here in Aggieland, my transition to the U.S. Marine Corps went relatively smoothly. Once a young man or woman experiences the Corps, no one forgets it. Truly the time spent here is magical. When I returned as Commandant, I experienced the magic once more.”

Heye was with Texas Instruments Inc. for 20 years, responsible for TI interests in Dallas, Taiwan and Japan. In Tokyo, he was president of Texas Instruments Asia Ltd. with responsibility for the semiconductor business in Asia-Pacific. He was vice president and general manager of TI’s Industrial Products Division and later the Consumer Products Division, where he started TI’s electronic watch business. He was president and chief executive officer of SBE Inc. for 12 years. Located in Silicon Valley, SBE supplied data communication products to the cellular, wireline, and Internet markets. Heye is currently chairman of Signalogic Inc. in Dallas.

He has served on the Texas A&M MSC Enrichment Fund Board of Directors, the Center for International Business Studies’ Board of Advisors, and the Chancellor’s Century Council, and he is a past chairman and founding member of the Corps Development Council. Texas A&M University and The Association of Former Students honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1991. He currently serves on the President’s Council of Advisors and on the Board of Visitors for the Corps of Cadets.

While a cadet, Heye served as a Corps sergeant major and Corps commander.

Bill and his wife, Joan, were Aggie Parents of the Year for 1986-87. Their four children, Bill III ’83, Patrick ’85, Kathy ’87, and John ’89, are Aggie graduates.
an ’98 and Michael ’03, both members of the Corps of Cadets. They also have an Aggie daughter-in-law, Carrie ’00, and a granddaughter, Lily.

Neal W. Adams ’68

“I challenge each member of the Corps to accept the meaning of a profound principle, ‘To whom much is given, much is expected’. You’ve been given a wonderful opportunity to be part of the greatest leadership laboratory in the world. It is up to you to do what you will with that, much is expected of you.”

Neal W. Adams ’68 received his Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from Texas A&M University. While in the Corps, he was in Companies D-3 and D-2, served his senior year as adjutant for the Second Brigade and head yell leader, and was a member of the Student Senate. In 1970, Adams obtained his law degree from Baylor University School of Law. He was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served as trial counsel for Headquarters Command in Fort Jackson, S.C., earning the Distinguished Service Medal.

Adams resides in Euless, Texas, has been practicing law in Tarrant County for more than 39 years, and is president of the law firm of Adams, Lynch & Loftin, P.C. located in Grapevine, Texas. He and his wife, Sonja, a retired third-grade teacher, have two daughters: Marti Morgan ’93, certified public accountant with Accenture in Irving, Texas; and Paige Adams, a registered case study nurse at Medical City Hospital in Dallas. Adams is a past president and member of the Board of Trustees of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District; past member of the Board of Managers of the Tarrant County Hospital District; past president of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Chamber of Commerce, and current member and past president of the Mid-Cities Rotary Club.

Adams serves as Chair Elect of the 12th Man Foundation; Chair Elect of the Chancellor’s Century Council for the Texas A&M University System; past co-Class Agent of the Class of ’68; past president of the Former Yell Leaders Association, and currently serves as a member and past chairman of the President’s Board of Visitors for the Corps of Cadets. In 2008, he was honored by the University and The Association of Former Students as a Distinguished Alumnus.

Col. Michael Fossum ’80

“To the cadets, I impart to you three things when you leave Texas A&M. As a leader, you need take care of your people, whether in the field of business or the field of combat. Second, you must have persistence. Nothing that is really worthwhile will come easy. Keep probing, keep pushing, and keep asking. Find a way to unlock your potential. And third, the world is crying out for leaders with the integrity, honor and ethics the Corps teaches you. There are great adventures ahead for each of you.”

Michael Fossum ’80 received his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science in systems engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science in physical science (space science) from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

He was commissioned into the Air Force and detailed to NASA-Johnson Space Center to develop early Space Shuttle flight procedures. After completing USAF Test Pilot School in 1985, Fossum served as a flight test engineer and program manager at Edwards AFB, Calif. In 1992, he resigned from active duty and is currently a colonel in the USAF Reserves.

At NASA, Fossum was a systems engineer on several projects before serving the Astronaut Office as deputy chief for space shuttle. He later worked as lead flight test engineer on the X-38 test program.

Fossum was selected to begin astronaut training in 1998. A veteran of two space shuttle flights, he has logged 636 hours in space, including more than 42 hours in six spacewalks. He is now preparing to serve as commander of a six-month mission onboard the International Space Station.

During his time at A&M, Fossum was a commander of Squadron 3 in the Corps of Cadets. A recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout award, he has remained very involved in the Boy Scouts, receiving the Silver Beaver and Vigil Honor awards. He also currently serves as Scoutmaster. Fossum was awarded the USAF Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and has been honored as a distinguished Military Graduate from Texas A&M University and a Distinguished Graduate from the USAF Test Pilot School.