



## L-4 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

[www.L4AA.org](http://www.L4AA.org)

BOARD PRESIDENT'S Message #16

February 1, 2024

Dear Valued Member,

All of my monthly messages have been limited to a single page, except for this one. The previous year was an active one for our association. I've selected some of the most important events during the past year and have combined them into a summary for your reading pleasure.

1. The unit was honored to help sponsor board of directors Thomas Swanson and Teshawn Lee attend the 2023 NATCON gathering of alumni in Chantilly, Virginia. As part of the discussion on alumni affairs, these brothers explained the process of creating a scholarship that serves our purpose so well.

2. As preparations for the upcoming NATCON in Knoxville, Tennessee continue, the past year was celebratory in that it represented seventy years of Pershing Rifles at NC State University. As such, the board of directors voted to create a cookbook/history book as a commemorative gift for each member of the alumni association. The finished product named *Tidbits* was distributed with amazing fundraising results. Fundraising is another topic and will be discussed in more detail below.

3. The alumni association grew in strength to fifty-seven members. This growth is a direct result of the unit's activities that are achieving the desired affect — drawing attention to the Pershing Rifles (PR).

4. During the past year, the Congleton-Etheridge Memorial Scholarship Committee presented two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving active PRs. Due largely to the success of *Tidbits*, funds disbursed for scholarships were quickly replenished. This tax exempt restricted scholarship fund managed by the alumni association received over \$4,150 in donations through December 31, 2023.

5. This past year was also a first for the presentation of the Good Citizenship Award for Community Service. Dr. Thomas Stafford became the initial recipient of our local alumni association's award recognizing volunteerism in the community. Dr. Stafford is retired and served as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at NC State University of many years.

6. Fourteen loyal alumni were recognized during the year for surpassing sixty years of service to the PRs. A certificate of appreciation was designed, printed, signed, and presented to each for sixty years or more of faithful service to L-4.

7. Immediate Past Association President Larry Hancock represented the unit as one of several interested local veterans groups forming a coalition in support of a fallen NC State veterans memorial on the university's campus. Through his many experiences and years of knowledge,

Hancock and the coalition along with Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Rear Admiral Doug Morton, USN (Ret), selected a site on campus at The Court of North Carolina. A dedication ceremony is planned for Memorial Day, 2024.

8. The board of directors acted upon a number of personnel actions during the review period. Rear Admiral Benny Suggs, USN (Ret) and US Army Major Tanya Tersillo were approved as Honorary Pershing Riflemen. General Hugh Shelton, USA (Ret), was approved for a lifetime membership.

9. US Army Major and L-4 PR Roy E. Congleton died in Vietnam on December 4, 1964 from ground combat. The unit's official scholarship is named partially in his memory. The annual Military Appreciation Day (MAD) was supported by both the active PRs and members of the alumni association during a home football game. As part of the MAD half-time ceremonies honoring NC State veterans, six Congleton family members were showcased at midfield and publicly thanked for their sacrifices and recognized for their Americanism.

10. The next reunion will be conducted this fall in Raleigh, North Carolina. Details are forthcoming.

11. Finally, at the most recent executive committee meeting, NC State University Army ROTC Cadet and L-4 Company Commander, Bradly Clardy attended the zoom meeting to update the committee on the present condition of L-4 and to discuss training events on the company's spring calendar. This meeting was the first time between entities outside of a planned social event to share information and to better understand the needs of the PRs at L-4. The L-4 Alumni Association plans to incorporate a representative from the company it supports at future board of directors' meetings.

Fraternally,

Joe