

GREAT WAR COMMEMORATION ON NOVEMBER 14, 2018

The Society and Supreme Court Will Honor Judges and Governors Who Served

By David A. Furlow

“At two minutes to eleven, opposite the South African Brigade, at the easternmost point reached by the British armies, a German machine-gunner, after firing off a belt without a pause, was seen to stand up, take off his helmet, bow, and then walk slowly to the rear. There came a second of expectant silence, and then a curious ripping sound, which observers far behind the front likened to the noise of a light wind. It was the sound of men cheering from the Vosges to the sea.”¹

— John Buchan, *The King's Grace* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1935).

The Texas Supreme Court and Texas Supreme Court Historical Society will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I, honor the seven Supreme Court Justices, two Court of Criminal Appeals Judges, and three Governors who served in the Great War, and celebrate Veterans Day during a program on November 14, 2018.



Left: Judge Mark Davidson. Center: Great War Commemorative Pin.
Right: Supreme Court of Texas Justice Paul Green.

The Commemoration will include a formal program in the historic Supreme Court Courtroom in the Capitol as well as a World War I-themed reception in the Texas Law Center. To open the program in the historic Courtroom, Justice Paul Green, the Society's liaison with

¹ The Western Front stretched from the Vosges Mountains near Switzerland to the North Sea.

the Texas Supreme Court and a steward of Texas courthouse history as well as his own family's history, will introduce Society President Marcy Hogan Greer.

President Greer will discuss the Society's role in preserving, protecting, and disseminating the history of the Texas Supreme Court, Texas's judiciary, and Texas law, including the history of the Great War, and then introduce the Commemorative Committee's Chair, Judge Mark Davidson.

Judge Davidson will then honor the judges, justices, and governors who served during World War I. Before becoming Chair of the Committee this past March, Judge Davidson researched the Great War at America's only museum dedicated to World War I,

the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. He has researched, spoken, and written about lawyers and judges who served in the Great War, for example, in "Houston Lawyers Who Made a Difference: Lieutenant Calvin B. Garwood," *The Houston Lawyer* (July/August 2017), 66, 1, 36.

Other speakers will discuss the Great War's impact on Texas, the Governor's office, and the courts. I will speak about the battlefield experience of those honorees who passed through the Great War's storm of steel, a crucible of front-line machine-gun fire, concentrated artillery, and poison gas. Over 198,000 Texans served in the war, most notably in the Navy, Marines, Air Force, the Army's 36th and 90th Infantry Divisions, and the Texas National Guard. Some 450 Texas women served as nurses. At least 5,170 Texans died during the war, including 7 "Gold Star" women from the U.S. Army and Navy Nurse Corps. Congress awarded four Texans the Medal of Honor. Training camps sprang up throughout Texas.

Excerpts from biographies of the Great War veterans will be shared during the Courtroom ceremony, along with other stories from the Great War era in Texas. Judge Davidson will present the published biographies to Justice Phil Johnson and the Court in a special issue of this Journal dedicated to remembrance of the Great War (see below).

Justice Johnson, a 1965–72 Vietnam War U.S. Air Force fighter-bomber pilot and recipient of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (twice), the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Air Medal, will present the Court's Response to Judge Davidson's Commemoration.

Great War Commemoration Program and Reception



Wednesday, November 14, 2018

- 1:30 p.m. **Formal Commemoration Program**,
Historic Supreme Court Courtroom,
State Capitol, 3rd Floor.
- 2:30 p.m. **Commemoration Program concludes.**
- 2:45 p.m. **Reception and Display of Artifacts
and Records from World War I**
Hatton Sumners Conference Room,
Texas Law Center, 1414 Colorado St.,
Austin, TX 78701.
- 4:00 p.m. **Reception and Display of Artifacts
and Records concludes.**

Judge Davidson and the other committee members and volunteers are now preparing biographical essays about each of the twelve judges and governors who are known to have served in the War: Supreme Court Justices Few Brewster, Frank Culver, Wilmer St. John Garwood, Meade Griffin, Robert Ham-ilton, Gordon Simpson, and Charles Slatton; Court of Criminal Appeals Judge A. J. Folley and Commissioner George Christian; and Governors James Allred, Beauford Jester, and Dan Moody.



Above left: Texas Supreme Court Justice Phil Johnson, a 1965–72 veteran of the Vietnam War. Above right, left to right: the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Following the program in the Historic Courtroom, participants will meet in the Texas Law Center’s Hatton Sumners Conference Room across from the Capitol to view contemporaneous records, posters, and artifacts of the Great War.

Full program details will be sent to Society members in October. Information will also be posted on the Society’s website at www.texascourthistory.org.

Seeking Volunteers for Great War-Themed Issue of the *TSCHS Journal*

The Fall 2018 issue of this Journal will be devoted to the Great War Commemoration. Its release will coincide with the November 14, 2018 program.

The issue will include short biographical articles about each judge, justice, and governor who served in the Great War. Committee Chair Judge Davidson, one of the Society’s Trustees, is leading by example. He volunteered to write a biographical article about Governor Beauford Jester’s service. Another Trustee, Fourteenth Court of Appeals Justice Ken Wise, will cover the role of Camp Leon Springs southwest of San Antonio as an officers’ training center for Texans who joined the armed services. Society Trustee Stephen Pate will write about Governor (and, later, U.S. District Court Judge) James V “Jimmy” Allred’s role in the Great War. I’ll contribute a brief biography of Supreme Court Justice Few Brewster and an essay about the front-line soldier’s experience of battle on the Western Front.

The Committee seeks volunteers among the Society’s officers, trustees, Fellows and members, as well as historians and genealogists, interested in publishing short biographies of the other judges, justices, and governors who served in the war. Anyone interested in writing a succinct *Journal* article about one of the men to be commemorated should contact me at dafurlow@gmail.com.

Texas Judges and Governors Who Served in World War I

Articles are needed for names below in RED

1. **James V "Jimmy" Allred**
Governor, 1935–1939.
2. **Few Brewster**
Judge, Commission of Appeals, 1941–1945; Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1945–1957.
3. **George Eastland Christian**
Judge, Commission of the Court of Criminal Appeals, 1927–1941.
4. **Frank Culver**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1953–1964.
5. **Alfred Jennings "A.J." Folley**
Judge, Texas Commission of Appeals; Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1943–1956.
6. **Wilmer St. John Garwood**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1948–1958.
7. **Meade Felix Griffin**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1949–1968; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 1969.
8. **Robert William "Bob" Hamilton**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1959–1970.
9. **Beauford H. Jester**
Governor, 1947–1949.
10. **Dan Moody**
Governor, 1927–1931.
11. **Gordon Simpson**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1945–1949.
12. **Charles Stewart Slatton**
Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1945–1947.

In-depth historical research has already begun. Judge Davidson and I conducted initial research about the judges, justices, and governors to be honored. State Bar and Society Archivist Caitlin Bumford has begun preparing a database of information about their descendants, which includes, among others, *Black's Law Dictionary* editor Bryan Garner. And Ms. Bumford has also located State Bar of Texas materials about those who served, including the photo album Justice Few Brewster donated to the State Bar, the source of the photos that appear below.

Texas State Librarian Mark Smith, who curated the Texas State Library and Archives' World War I Centennial Commemoration exhibition in 2017, has pledged to make historic letters, newspapers, and photos available to the Society for the program. And Texas Military Forces Museum Director Jeffrey W. Hunt has already assisted us with useful ideas about how to research the Great War veterans' military records.

And now for a special preview, a few photos from Justice Few Brewster's album reflect his service in the Great War experience and its profound influence on his career.

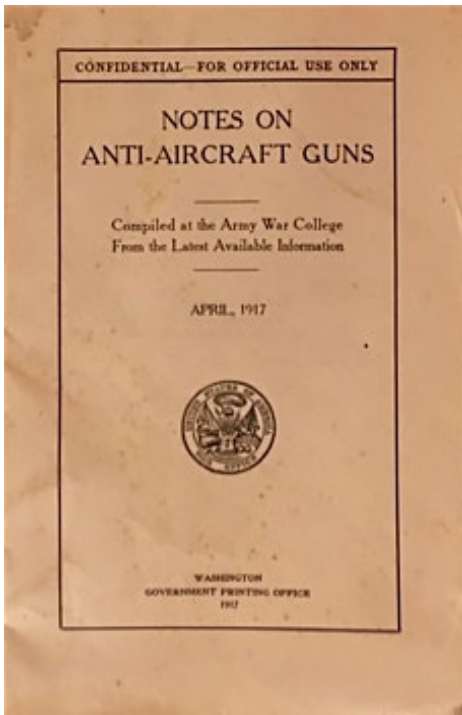


Above left: Texas Supreme Court Associate Justice Few Brewster; photo courtesy of State Bar of Texas Archives. Center: Justice Few Brewster's calendar for the war years 1917 and 1918, from his State Bar photo album. Right: Justice Brewster in uniform as a Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 1918, from his album. Below: Justice Brewster and his U.S. Army identity, both from his album.





Above and below: Texas troops preparing for battle, Western Front, 1918. Photos from the Heritage Society of Houston's exhibition "A View from the Trenches: The Oberwetter World War I Collection."





The Great War Commemoration ceremony will take place in the Texas Supreme Court Courtroom on the third floor of the Capitol. Photo by David A. Furlow.

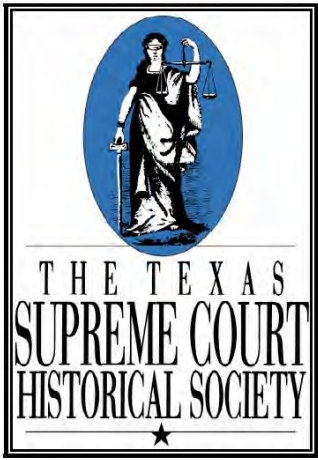
Please consider joining the Justices of the Texas Supreme Court and our Society's Great War Commemorative Committee and Board of Trustees to honor the lives of those judges, justices, and governors of Texas who served in the Great War.



“Sui memores alios fecere merendo.” (By the sacrifice they made they earned the remembrance of others.)

— Inscription on the Memorial Building, Clare College, Cambridge University, quoting from Virgil's *Aeneid*, book 6, line 663.

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The Texas Supreme Court Historical Society conserves the work and lives of the appellate courts of Texas through research, publication, preservation and education. Your membership dues support activities such as maintaining the judicial portrait collection, the ethics symposia, education outreach programs, the Judicial Oral History Project and the Texas Legal Studies Series.

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