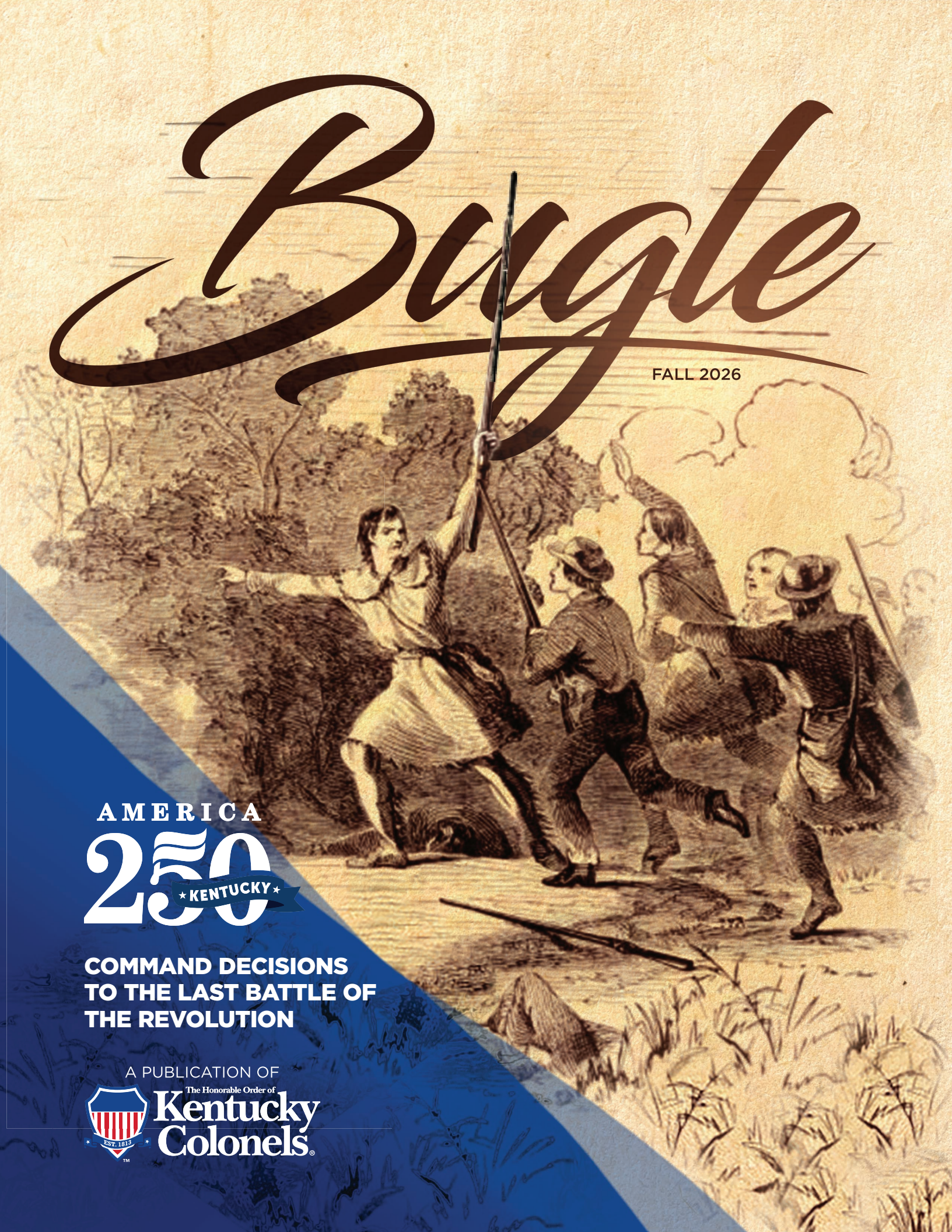
Bugle

FALL 2026



AMERICA 250 KENTUCKY

COMMAND DECISIONS TO THE LAST BATTLE OF THE REVOLUTION

A PUBLICATION OF
The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels®

In this issue...

Colonel Jay Maitland Young **3**
Scientist, educator, and philanthropist Jay Maitland Young demonstrates how lifelong curiosity and generosity can strengthen Kentucky communities for generations.

Colonel Danny Greene **6**
Self-taught sculptor Danny Greene transformed curiosity and craftsmanship into an acclaimed artistic career rooted in creativity, perseverance, and lifelong learning.

Historic Holt Home **8**
Discover how Kentucky Colonels grants are restoring Joseph Holt's historic home while preserving heritage, expanding education, and strengthening community pride.

Command Decisions to the Last Battle of the Revolution **10**
Explore the political rivalries, leadership decisions, and tragic consequences behind Kentucky's pivotal Battle of Blue Licks in Revolutionary history.

General Hal Sullivan Beekeeping **14**
Former Commanding General Hal Sullivan reflects on civic leadership, Kentucky Colonels service, and discovering purpose through the fascinating world of beekeeping.

Little Loom House **16**
The Little Loomhouse preserves Kentucky's textile traditions while inspiring new generations through restoration, education, and America250 programming.

Colonel Helen DePrima **18**
Kentucky-born novelist Helen DePrima draws upon family history and Commonwealth traditions to craft mysteries rich with authentic Kentucky character.

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

The Ralston Building
943 South First Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40203
502-266-6114
KyColonels.org

From the Commanding General

Thank You, Colonels!

The Good Works Program grant review process has now been completed, marking another meaningful step in our shared commitment to strengthening communities across the Commonwealth. This year, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels received grant requests totaling $4.1 million. Following careful review, 318 grants were approved, awarding $2.6 million to organizations serving Kentuckians in countless ways—from funding drug interdiction dogs and adult swim programs to helping cancer patients travel for treatment. We are especially pleased that 55 grants were awarded to first-time applicants, extending the reach of the Good Works Program even further. Remaining funds will be reserved for emergency grants throughout the year. We thank our volunteer reviewers and the generous Kentucky Colonels whose support makes this work possible.

As we continue this important mission, we also celebrate America250, a milestone that invites us to reflect on the values of service, sacrifice, and community that have shaped both Kentucky and our nation.

In this issue of *Bugle*, we feature Kentucky Colonel Jay Maitland Young, whose distinguished career as a scientist, educator, medical writer, and philanthropist demonstrates a lifelong commitment to curiosity, learning, and service. His enduring support of the Good Works Program reflects the thoughtful stewardship that defines Kentucky Colonels.

We spotlight two remarkable grantee organizations preserving Kentucky's heritage. The Little Loom House in Louisville continues its nationally recognized work in textile arts education and historic preservation, while the Friends of the Holt Home in Hardinsburg are restoring the historic Joseph Holt Home as a center for education and community engagement.

Also featured is an article from the Kentucky Historical Society commemorating the Battle of Blue Licks, reminding us that Kentucky's frontier story remains an important chapter in America's founding.

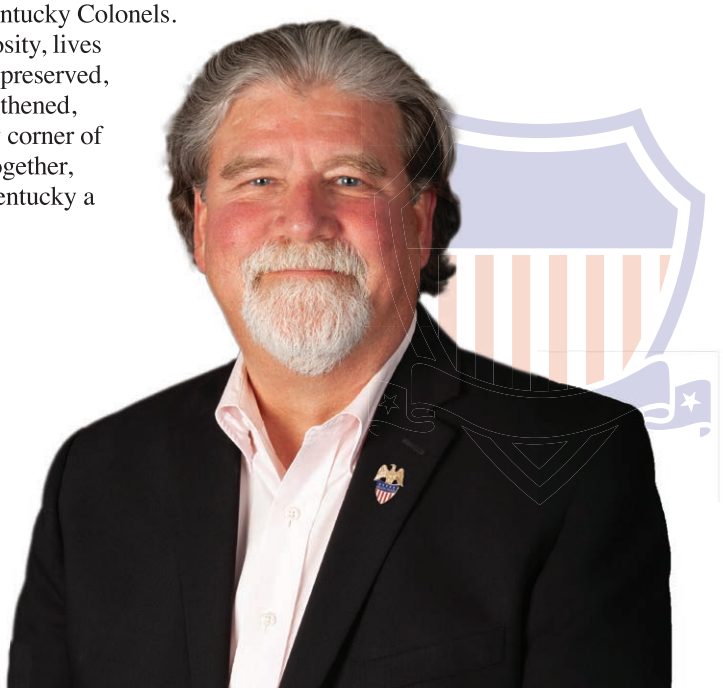
Finally, we celebrate Kentucky Colonels Helen DePrima, Danny Greene, and Hal Sullivan, whose passions for creativity, service, and discovery continue to inspire long after their primary careers. Their stories remind us that purpose and curiosity endure throughout life.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Because of your generosity, lives are enriched, history is preserved, communities are strengthened, and hope reaches every corner of the Commonwealth. Together, we continue making Kentucky a better place.

With gratitude,

Nick Ising

Nick Ising
Commanding General
HOKC





KENTUCKY COLONEL

Jay Maitland Young

A Life of Learning, Philanthropy, and Purpose

Written by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts

For Kentucky Colonel Jay Maitland Young, curiosity has never been simply an intellectual exercise. It has been a way of moving through the world—asking questions, seeking understanding, and then using that knowledge in the service of others.

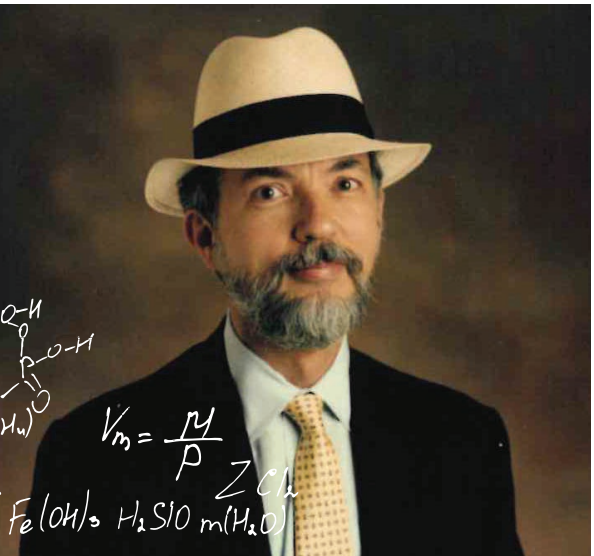
Over nearly eight decades, that spirit of curiosity has shaped his path as a scientist, educator, medical writer, traveler, volunteer, philanthropist, and faithful supporter of Kentucky communities. Whether in a laboratory, a classroom, a recording studio, or through his charitable giving, Young's life reflects a deep belief that learning carries with it a responsibility to contribute.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1944, Young is a fourth-generation Kentuckian with family roots deeply woven into the history of the Commonwealth. His father, Clyde D. Young, served in the Merchant Marines before settling in New Jersey, where he met and married Olive Tyas. Their first two children, Blanche and Robert, were born there before Clyde was transferred by DuPont to Louisville in 1942. Two years later, Young was born, continuing the family's Kentucky story. (That story stretches back generations. His great-grandfather, Lot D. Young, authored *The Reminiscences of a Soldier of the Orphan Brigade*, a Civil War memoir that remains available in print today.)



Young graduated from Seneca High School in Louisville in 1962. Even then, his intellectual curiosity stood out. He served as editor of the school yearbook, with a young Diane Sawyer on his staff. However, science was his focus. Chemistry, he says, felt natural from the beginning. He could balance equations, enjoyed the precision of laboratory work, and had the dexterity the work required. That practical confidence remains with him today—he jokes that it still serves him well in the kitchen, where he can "hold his own" and does not burn expensive steaks.

Chemistry, he says, felt natural from the beginning. He could balance equations, enjoyed the precision of laboratory work, and had the dexterity the work required.



He attended Vanderbilt University, earning a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and mathematics, graduating magna cum laude, in 1966, with honors in chemistry. He was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Education was strongly encouraged by Young's parents, who, because of the Spanish flu and World War I, were forced to leave school at a young age. Colonel Young's academic accomplishments earned him a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, taking him to Yale University, where he completed a Master of Science in biochemistry in 1967, a Master of Philosophy in physical chemistry in 1968, and a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1971. His studies continued abroad as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford from 1971 to 1972. He later received additional support through a National Science Foundation North Atlantic Treaty Organization travel grant for study at the University of Salford in England in 1974.

Before finishing his dissertation, Young joined the faculty at Bryn Mawr College, where he helped launch a biochemistry program. As an assistant professor of chemistry from 1970 to 1976, he taught undergraduate and graduate students while simultaneously finishing his degree, conducting research, applying for grants, and advising honors students. His work was ambitious and intellectually rewarding but demanding. Eventually, a new opportunity led him to work in the healthcare industry.

In 1977, Abbott Laboratories recruited him into exploratory research. That role became the beginning of a distinguished career in healthcare product development and diagnostics. Over the next two decades, Young held numerous leadership roles in research, project management, science affairs, quality assurance, and product development. His work focused on diagnostics involving fertility, pregnancy, thyroid disease, cancer, and noninfectious diseases. He served as a research biochemist, project manager, international clinical specialist, and product manager for healthcare products—relying on his scientific expertise and ability to communicate across disciplines.

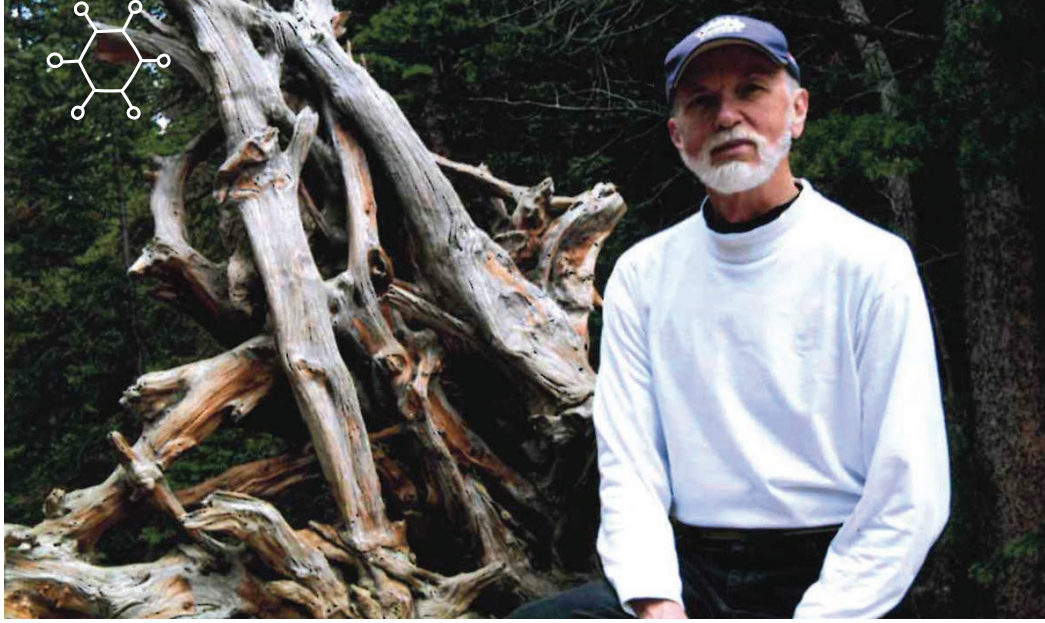
Young often managed clinical trials with hospitals and universities before the products reached the market. These projects required close coordination among scientists, physicians, regulatory teams, and colleagues across Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Translating complex scientific findings into presentations, publications, and government submissions became a specialty of Young's and laid the groundwork for his later work in medical writing.

Later, after consulting positions within Abbott, Maitland established his own medical writing company in the mid-Atlantic region, supporting major healthcare and medical companies.

Young's curiosity has always extended far beyond science. He has traveled extensively and says with pride that all 50 states have had his footprint. Maitland's love of travel began in childhood, when his family packed into the car to visit relatives in New Jersey, Texas, and California or traveled south for his father's deep-sea fishing trips in Florida. Those early road trips became the beginning of a lifelong fascination with geography, architecture, and culture.

State capitols especially captured Young's imagination. Their design and symbolism still stand out in his memory—especially Denver's gold dome and Lincoln's distinctive tower, and, of course, Kentucky's Capitol in Frankfort, whose likeness to the United States Capitol has always impressed him.

His travels eventually carried him well beyond the United States, beyond the time spent in England during his postdoctoral work and in



Japan and throughout Europe on work assignments. Personal adventures took him across the Middle East, North Africa, South America, and South Asia. He describes some of those destinations as “faraway places with strange sounding names” —Kathmandu, Marrakesh, and Ouarzazate among them.

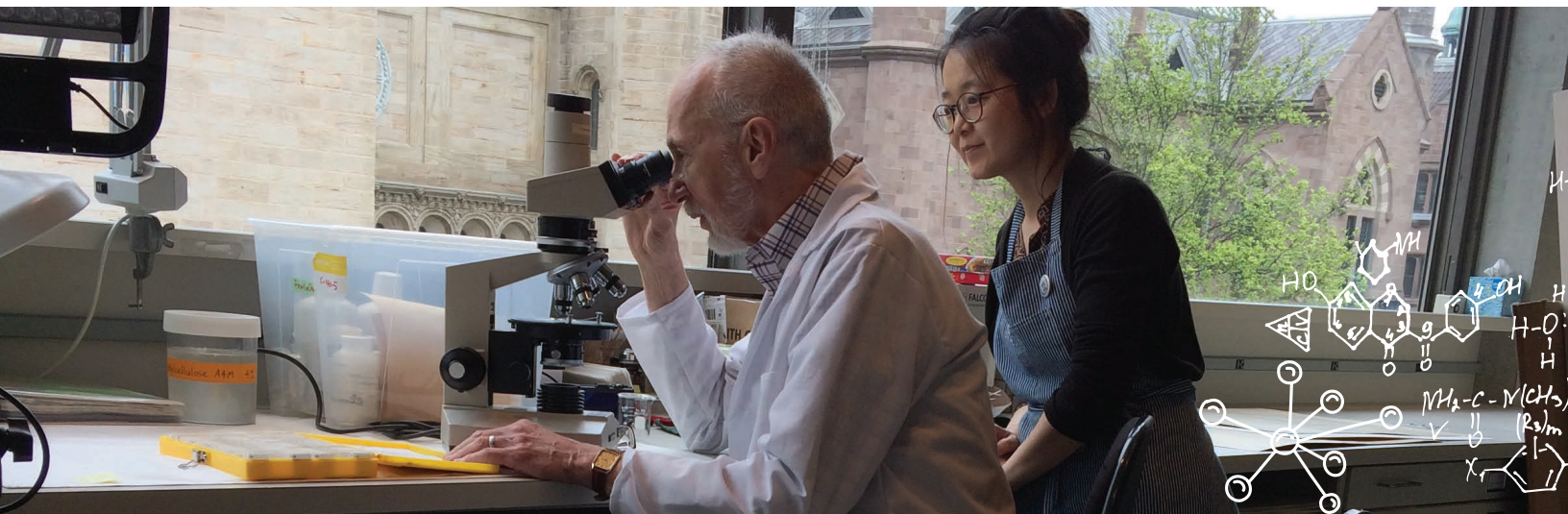
At home, his curiosity continues in quieter ways. He watches Jeopardy! every day and regularly works the crossword puzzle in *The Wall Street Journal*, habits that reflect a lifelong enjoyment of knowledge and mental challenge. He also remains deeply engaged with the arts and community life. He enjoys attending the symphony and visiting libraries, museums, and gardens. Young also enjoys etchings, which he began collecting shortly after graduate school. Young said that Leo, his life partner, has had the acute sense of fine art that was instrumental in choosing these works and, as a librarian, has researched artists and put together a portfolio for their holdings. Young describes this interest as reflecting his "inner self" more than his academic achievements, especially fitting for a scientist, with the connection between chemistry and the intricate processes behind etching.

Young’s commitment to service has also been deeply personal. After suffering impaired vision following a car accident during graduate school, Young experienced firsthand the challenge of temporary disability and recovery. During that time, he became a volunteer reader for Recordings for the Blind in Louisville. That service continued over many years. Because of his academic background, he was often assigned scientific and technical texts. Before the COVID pandemic, he was working with faculty from the University of Chicago, recording chapters of a college biochemistry textbook, before the downtown Chicago studio closed, work that aligned perfectly with both his expertise and his desire to help others.

Young’s relationship with the Kentucky Colonels spans much of his life. He was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel in 1962, beginning a connection with the Order that now stretches more than six decades. His father, Clyde Young, was a Kentucky Colonel, as was his brother-in-law Don H. Shreve, a World War II submarine veteran, and his cousin Herbert Hingley.

For Young, supporting the mission of the Order comes from both tradition and trust. He speaks especially highly of the careful review process behind the Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program. He explained that, in an era when charitable scams and uncertainty can make giving feel complicated, he values the Order’s thoughtful scrutiny of grant applications and what he sees as true hands-on evaluation of community needs. Many of the organizations supported through the Good Works Program reflect causes close to his heart—particularly those connected to healthcare and education. He also cares deeply about supporting music in local communities and preserving access to the arts.

In addition to his annual support of the Good Works Program and contributions to emergency grants, Young has established a Legacy of Honor Fund, ensuring his commitment to Kentucky communities will continue. His giving reflects the same qualities that have defined his life: thoughtfulness, discipline, curiosity, and generosity with lasting purpose.







CARVING A LEGACY

Written by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts





Kentucky Colonel Danny Greene was commissioned in 1995. "A kind man nominated me," Greene reflects, "and, although I never felt I deserved the recognition, it has been a great source of honor and pride." Greene was born in East Tennessee and lived over the years in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Jonesborough, and now Cleveland. Recently, he has taken on what he considers one of life's greatest privileges: serving as caregiver to his parents, who this year will celebrate their 101st and 102nd birthdays.

His journey as an artist began early. When he was only four years old, an elderly neighbor handed him a pocketknife, and, with it, a lifelong calling.

Greene began whittling sticks into shapes, learning quickly not only the possibilities of wood but also the hazards of inexperience. After a few cuts too many, his mother confiscated the knife, placing it just out of reach. Still, the spark had been lit.

While Greene was in Cub Scouts, an arts-and-crafts project became his first public success. Using paper-mache, Styrofoam cups, and dried beans, Greene created a likeness of a local news anchorman—so recognizable that it won first place in competition. Though his formal art education never extended beyond a junior high arts-and-crafts class, his curiosity and determination filled the gap. He studied books, imitated admired artists, and pursued knowledge wherever he could find it.

His professional life, meanwhile, followed a different path. After high school, amid a recession and limited job prospects, Greene took a position at a local paper mill, a job that would span 20 years. Along the way, his employer offered educational support, and Greene earned a Master of Business Administration. Yet even as his career advanced, his artistic instincts never receded. Instead, they evolved.

A turning point came during a visit to Gatlinburg in his early twenties. There, Greene encountered carved faces embedded in firewood—pieces he longed to own but could not afford. Instead, he purchased a book on carving faces in driftwood, setting him on a path of serious wood sculpture. Soon after, a chance opportunity to attend a workshop with master carver John Burke transformed his approach. "He elevated my skills every time we got together," Greene recalls.

From wood, Greene expanded into metal after meeting the artist John Quinn of Dalton, Georgia, whose work

introduced him to the possibilities of casting. Learning the intricate "lost wax" method—where wax forms are melted away and replaced with molten metal—Greene built his own foundry and began working in aluminum and bronze. The process was demanding, technical, and exacting, but it opened entirely new dimensions for his creativity.

As the internet emerged, Greene embraced it as a learning tool, connecting with other artists and discovering new opportunities. A week long course in clay sculpture at a fine arts academy in Colorado expanded his repertoire yet again, adding portrait busts to his growing body of work. Over time, he explored an extraordinary range of media—wood, clay, metal, concrete, glass—never settling on just one. "I enjoy learning new things," he says, "across the spectrum."

For Greene, inspiration rarely followed a formula. His work had no single theme beyond the fact that it was handmade. Some pieces were born from clear visions; others emerged through dialogue with clients. One memorable commission came with only a vague directive: to "knock some ugly off" a large wall. Greene responded by crafting a metal installation resembling sheet music from the client's favorite song—transforming the space into something both personal and artistic.

Though he often created for the joy of giving—producing works for family and friends—his talent did not go unnoticed. Around 2000, a neighbor who directed Cleveland's Museum at Five Points invited Greene to become the museum's first exhibiting artist. That show led to another at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum and, eventually, to a series of private commissions.

By 2002, he had taken the leap into sculpting full-time. One of his earliest major commissions came from a medical college in Tennessee, when he was tasked with creating a piece honoring a former governor—on an impossibly tight timeline. Greene delivered, and the success led to nearly a decade of additional commissioned work, with several pieces now on permanent display.

Yet for all the recognition, Greene's approach remained grounded. Each project began the same way: with a vision. "I can almost always see a finished piece," he explains. From there, the work became a matter of process—planning, gathering materials, and sometimes even fabricating the tools needed to bring the idea to life.

And always, there was music. Before beginning a piece, Greene would don the appropriate apron—one for each medium—and start his playlist, setting the rhythm for the work ahead.

Today, Greene has stepped away from the studio, but he views this transition not as an ending, but as a continuation of the values that have guided his life. "Being a Kentucky Colonel means always learning, leading with your best efforts, and looking to the future while embracing the past," he says. In that spirit, Greene has established a Legacy of Honor Fund, an endowed fund that will continue supporting the Kentucky Colonels' mission and provide assistance to the poor and needy for generations to come.

Looking back, he describes his years as an artist with simple joy:

"It was like getting to go to the playground every day. I got to play with my imagination—and that's a pretty wonderful thing."







Restoring a Kentucky Legacy:

The Joseph Holt Home and the Power of Good Works

Contributed by
Colonel Susan B. Dyer, President & Founder, Friends of the Holt Home, Inc.

Along the Ohio River in Breckinridge County stands a testament to Kentucky's heritage—the historic Joseph Holt Home, once the residence of one of the Commonwealth's most consequential yet often overlooked figures. The support of partners such as the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and the Good Works Program has played an essential role in bringing this "hidden jewel" back to life.

Joseph Holt (1807–1894) was educated at St. Joseph's College and Centre College and had a distinguished legal career that carried him from Elizabethtown and Louisville to Mississippi and ultimately to Washington, D.C. Holt served in several key federal roles, including Commissioner of Patents, Postmaster General, and Secretary of War under President James Buchanan. During the Civil War, he emerged as a Unionist. President Abraham Lincoln recognized Holt's importance and appointed him Judge Advocate General of the United States Army. In that role, Holt redefined the office, successfully establishing a structured Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Holt's national legacy is perhaps most closely tied to the tumultuous aftermath of Lincoln's assassination, when he led the prosecution of those accused in the conspiracy. Yet beyond the courtroom, his life reflects the complex and evolving story of the United States. Holt advocated for emancipation and the enlistment of Black soldiers in the Union Army.

The Holt Home was first established on land granted to Holt's grandfather for Revolutionary War service. The current structure has Italianate features, thick brick walls, and expansive rooms. Beyond its physical beauty, however, the home carries the stories of all who lived and labored there, including enslaved individuals whose lives and experiences are central to understanding the site's full history.

Preserving this history in all its complexity is a guiding mission

of the Friends of the Holt Home. The organization, established as a nonprofit in 2013, works in partnership with Breckinridge County Fiscal Court to restore the home while presenting an honest and inclusive narrative of the past.

When the Friends of the Holt Home began their work, the challenges were immense. Years of neglect had taken their toll, and resources were limited. Through the Good Works Program, the Kentucky Colonels have provided critical grants that have transformed both the physical structure and the community's vision for the property. One early grant funded the installation of reproduction chandeliers at a time when the home lacked even basic utilities.

Subsequent grants provided oriental rugs and interior furnishings, enabling the home to host cultural events and educational programs. These additions helped transform the Holt Home from a restoration project into a living community space—one that brings fine arts and cultural enrichment to a rural region where such opportunities are often limited. Additional support from the Kentucky Colonels funded critical infrastructure improvements, including kitchen equipment that allows for hosting and catering, making it possible to welcome larger groups and expand programming. Accessibility was also enhanced through the installation of a handicap-accessible ramp, ensuring that visitors of all abilities can experience the home. Before this improvement, volunteers and even members of the U.S. Army JAG Corps assisted in physically helping visitors into the home.

More recently, grants have supported the installation of historically appropriate tinted windows, protecting artifacts and furnishings from damage while preserving the home's authenticity.

Today, the Holt Home hosts community events such as Christmas at the Holt Home, the Concert on the Lawn, and the annual Community Day, drawing hundreds of visitors each year. Student programs bring history to life, and partnerships with organizations such as the Kentucky Archaeology Survey and the Kentucky Heritage Council expand educational opportunities.

The site has also become an important gathering place for the United States Army JAG Corps, hosting ceremonies and celebrations at Holt's historic home. In 2025, the Friends of the Holt Home were honored to host the U.S. Army's 250th Birthday Celebration, welcoming distinguished guests including former Judge Advocate General Dana K. Chipman.

The restoration of the Joseph Holt Home is a powerful example of what can be accomplished through partnership, perseverance, and generosity. The Kentucky Colonels' Good Works Program has not only funded physical improvements but has also inspired confidence, strengthened community pride, and expanded access to culture and history.



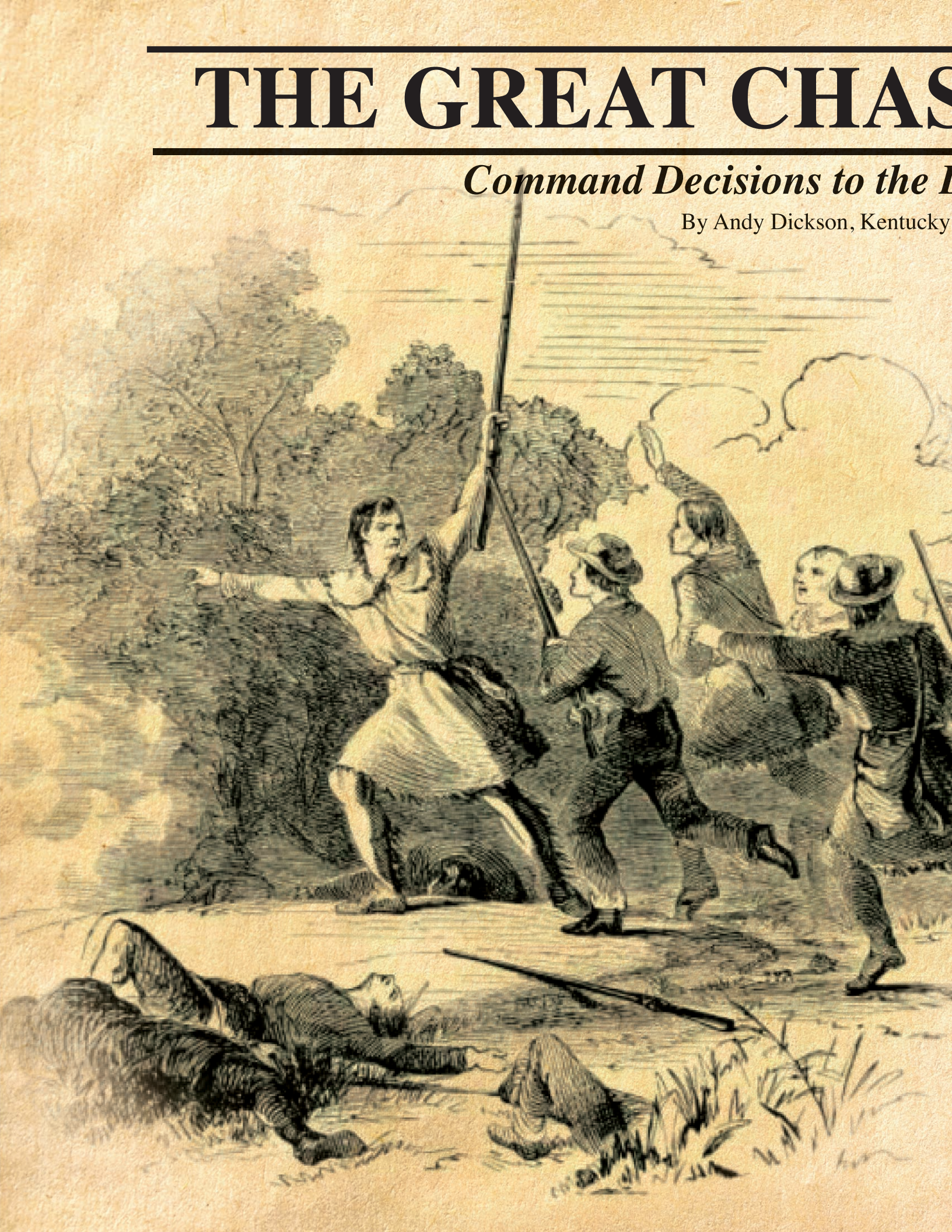


Photos courtesy of Judy Nottingham, Volunteer Photographer, The Joseph Holt Home

THE GREAT CHAS

Command Decisions to the I

By Andy Dickson, Kentucky



SE TO BLUE LICKS

Last Battle of the Revolution

Military History Consultant

"All who are not damned cowards follow me, and I'll show you the Indians!"

Sometimes our own words can get us into trouble. Major Hugh McGary supposedly shouted this before crossing the Licking River on horseback into a brutal massacre at the Battle of Blue Licks.

While many blame McGary for rushing into the deadly battle, it is important to recognize the full context of all the decisions made by the other commanders in the Kentucky militia that day. The decisions were motivated by three different paths of thought: politics, distrust between commanders, and revenge.

In March 1782, British Captain William Caldwell and a large group of Native Americans from the Shawnee, Wyandot, Lenape, Mingo, and other nations moved from Detroit to attack settlements in Kentucky. Their tactics were smart; they created a feint then attack from the undefended side, destroy unprotected crops and livestock so the settlements could not survive the year, take a captive, then retreat to a place they would rather fight.

They attacked Bryan's Station on August 16, but the defenders held them to a stalemate. The Native Americans then killed livestock, burned crops, and destroyed what they could outside of the station. Late that night, they retreated to the northeast.

The station was able to get word out to Fayette County commander, Colonel John Todd, for reinforcements.

Todd gathered almost two hundred men to give chase. He had brought his second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Boone, and reached out to Lincoln County commanders Colonel Benjamin Logan, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Trigg, and Major Hugh McGary to gather men. Todd and the other commanders concluded that they wanted to catch up to Caldwell and his allies before they escaped across the Ohio River.

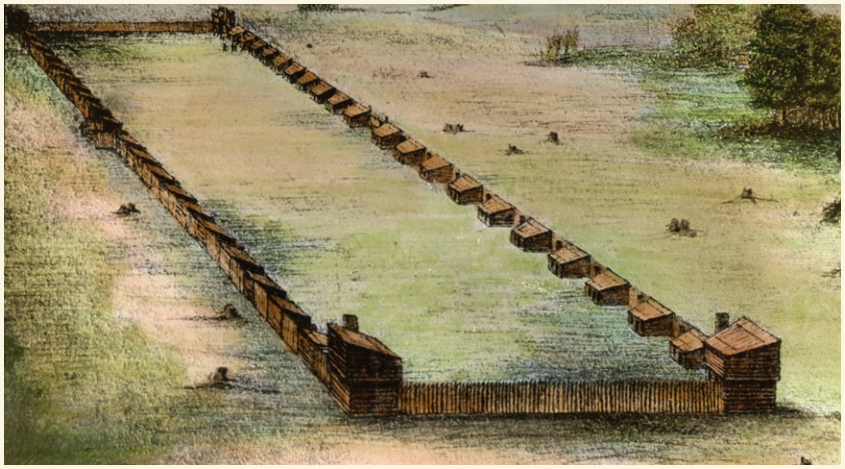
According to *Citizens More Than Soldiers: The Kentucky Militia and Society in the Early Republic* by Harry S. Laver, Kentucky militiamen participated in a traditional political order. Militiamen found that their service was a major advancement in gaining political support while running for office. In fact, the more connected you were to a major battle, the more support you could get at the ballots.

Todd, the highest-ranking officer, aspired to run for office in Kentucky during its fight for statehood. If he succeeded in this fight against the Native Americans, his name would be attached to this battle, therefore earning him support.

However, if Logan arrived, he would be the highest-ranking officer and would take command. Thus, the future of Todd's political career, in his eyes, relied on being the fastest to the battle. Relationships between officers also influenced how the Battle of Blue Licks played out. Boone was second in command under Todd and was most likely on Todd's side. However, Boone probably also had personal trust issues with Logan.

When Boone was captured by the Shawnee in 1778, ran the gauntlet, and was adopted by this tribe, authorities court-martialed him upon his return to Kentucky. Logan was the one who pressed for his court-martial.

Trigg and McGary also had a rough relationship. They were both majors in the Lincoln County militia and







Logan needed to promote one of them as his second in command. McGary had over five years of service in Kentucky over Trigg; however, Trigg was promoted to lieutenant colonel over McGary, likely because of McGary's questionable temperament.

Because Native Americans had killed his stepson and other family members, McGary was an aggressive leader with a score to settle. However, when Todd was deciding when to chase the enemy toward the Ohio River, McGary urged that they wait for Logan and more men to join their force. Other men then insinuated that he was a coward.

In the end, Todd decided to advance without Logan.

The Kentuckians, numbering 176 men, pressed forward on August 19, 1782. Some were on horseback, others on foot.

They arrived at the Licking River. Across the water was about three hundred yards of open terrain that then led straight up a rocky hill covered with trees and brush. This left plenty of places for Caldwell's force to hide.

This was the moment that McGary's battle cry rang out. Supposedly, many of the men followed. Boone may have even said, "I can go as far as any man!"

As soon as the men hit the hill, it was a bloodbath. The Native Americans flanked to the east, toward Trigg. They had the high ground and time to find good cover and concealment.

In all, according to Boone, the Battle of Blue Licks lasted no more than fifteen minutes. It was a total defeat for the Kentuckians.

Those who could, retreated to Bryan's Station or Boone's Station. The wounded were left behind to face a terrible fate.

With Todd killed, the remaining commanders, Boone and McGary, met with Logan and his forces back at Bryan's Station. McGary wanted to head back to the battlefield as soon as possible, but Logan commanded them to wait. They simply could not risk more losses on the frontier.

They waited a few days to tend to the wounded, resupply, and gather more men.

On August 24, they again reached the battlefield. Caldwell's forces had retreated. Upon their arrival they found a gruesome sight. Boone later recalled:

"I cannot reflect upon this dreadful scene, but sorrow fills my heart… Being reinforced, we returned to bury the dead, and found their bodies strewed everywhere, cut and mangled in a dreadful manner. This mournful scene exhibited a horror almost unparalleled: Some torn and eaten by wild beasts; those in the river eaten by fish; all in such putrid condition, that no one could be distinguished from another."

Daniel Boone

The men buried as many remains as they could recover in a mass grave on top of the hill. Sadly, even Boone could not identify the remains of his own son, Israel.

Historian Neal O. Hammon estimates that 76 men lost their lives at Blue Licks.

Today, a memorial stands at the battlefield dedicated to those who died at Blue Licks. A large obelisk lists the names of the fallen and recognizes the tribes who fought there.

The rocks marking the mass grave are still there, along a paved walking trail. A brass plaque marks the spot.





The land of the Blue Licks is not only a battlefield or a memorial for the dead. It is a stark reminder of the memory of the harsh reality of military decision making carried on by early Kentuckians and the generations that followed.







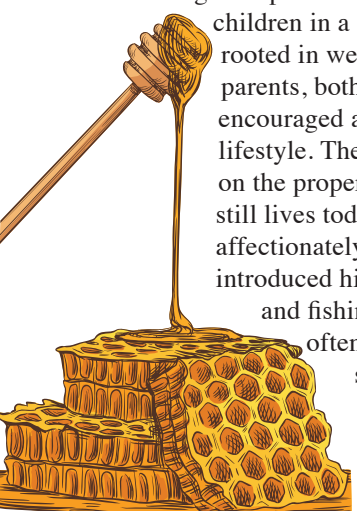
From Helm to Hive

FORMER HOKC COMMANDING GENERAL STILL BUZZING WITH CURIOSITY

Written by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts

For General Hal Sullivan of Paducah, Kentucky, curiosity has framed his life. Whether riding horses as a boy, sailing on the Gulf Coast, leading civic organizations, serving on the Board of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, or tending thousands of honeybees in retirement, Sullivan has embraced each chapter of life with enthusiasm and purpose.

A native of Paducah, Sullivan grew up as the youngest of five children in a family deeply rooted in western Kentucky. His parents, both Paducah natives, encouraged an active outdoor lifestyle. The family rode horses on the property where Sullivan still lives today, while his father, affectionately known as "Sully," introduced his children to hunting and fishing. Family dinners often featured rabbit, squirrel, or quail.



Athletics also played a significant role in Sullivan's upbringing. His mother had been Paducah's city tennis champion during the 1930s, and her love of the game spread throughout the family.

After attending Paducah's public schools, Sullivan embarked on an educational adventure far from home. Following the path of his siblings and cousins, he enrolled at Verde Valley School, a small boarding school in Sedona, Arizona, where students were encouraged to develop a sense of global citizenship. The experience broadened his horizons through unique opportunities, including field trips with naturalist Euell Gibbons and backpacking excursions into active volcanoes in Guatemala.

Sullivan attended Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he majored in business management, played on the tennis team, and learned to sail. His sailing skills led to a bookkeeping position at a sail loft that manufactured racing sails. Before long, he earned a 100-ton Ocean Operator's Captain's License and became captain of a paddlewheel dinner boat on Sarasota Bay.

In 1978, Sullivan joined the brokerage firm EF Hutton, putting his business education to work. Even then, adventure remained part of his life. In 1981, he and a college friend bicycled from Florida to Seattle, a journey he describes as part of an ongoing "education of discovery."

In 1983, Sullivan returned home to Paducah to join the family business with Hilliard Lyons. He and his wife, Debe, had two sons and spent much of their leisure time attending their sons' soccer games. Over time, he became manager of the firm's branches in Paducah, Murray, and Kevil, building a successful career



in financial services while remaining deeply involved in his community.

Volunteer leadership became a hallmark of Sullivan's life. He served as chair of the Paducah Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Convention Center Corporation, chair of the Paducah Library Board, and president of the local Rotary Club. Among his proudest civic accomplishments was helping oversee the construction of Paducah's convention center expo facility.

His commitment to service naturally led him to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Sullivan received his commission in 2004 as a surprise gift during his 50th birthday celebration, honoring his civic contributions. He later joined the Board of Trustees, serving on both the Finance and Grants Committees before eventually becoming Commanding General, following in the footsteps of his older brother, George.



Reflecting on his service, Sullivan points to the Kentucky Colonels' Good Works Program as one of the organization's greatest strengths. He believes it provides a powerful way for individual donors to support charities throughout the Commonwealth. During his tenure, he helped modernize organizational governance, strengthen grantmaking efforts, and establish the Colonels Chapters Program, an accomplishment of which he remains particularly proud.

One of the most meaningful moments of his leadership came following the devastating tornadoes that struck Kentucky in 2021.

As communities such as Mayfield faced catastrophic destruction, Kentucky Colonels from around the world responded with millions of dollars in relief funding. Sullivan witnessed firsthand how the organization's generosity helped rebuild homes, replenish food banks, and restore vital community services.

Today, Sullivan has a quite different pursuit: beekeeping. His interest in bees grew naturally from a lifelong love of the outdoors and biology. Inspired in part by a nephew who kept bees, Sullivan decided after retirement to establish his own hives. What began as a hobby quickly became a fascinating study of one of nature's most complex societies.

"Beehives are not like aquariums, fish don't normally sting you."

Managing a healthy hive requires far more than simply collecting honey. Sullivan monitors hive populations, tracks egg-laying patterns, manages pests, and ensures the bees have enough food to survive Kentucky winters. During the coldest weather, thousands of bees cluster around their queen, maintaining temperatures near 90 degrees at the center of the hive despite freezing conditions outside.

One of the greatest challenges—and joys—of beekeeping is locating the queen bee among a population that may exceed 50,000 insects. Careful management helps prevent swarming when colonies leave in search of a new home.

Sullivan has adopted an innovative honey-harvesting system known as the Flow Frame, developed by a father-and-son team in Australia. Unlike traditional methods that require removing frames and spinning them in a centrifuge, the Flow Frame allows honey to drain directly from specially designed combs into collection containers. The process is cleaner and simpler, making it especially appealing for hobbyists. Still, the occasional bee sting remains part of the experience. "That adds just enough element of danger," Sullivan says, "to make each inspection exciting."

For Sullivan, beekeeping is more than a retirement pastime. It is a reminder of the delicate balance of nature and the essential role bees play in sustaining life. Much like his decades of civic service, it reflects a commitment to stewardship, responsibility, and caring for something larger than himself.



Good Works, Little Loomhouse, & Celebrating America250

Contributed by Colonel Michelle Amos,
Executive Director, Little Loomhouse



The Little Loomhouse is a historic site and center for textile arts education, American craft preservation, and cultural exchange. It was founded in 1939 when nationally recognized weaver and textile historian Lou Tate moved her studio and business to the three historic cabins at 328 Kenwood Hill Road in Louisville, Kentucky. Previously, Tate had studied weaving at Berea College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1927, before completing a Master of Arts in History at the University of Michigan in 1929. To pay off her tuition, Tate was sent to the President's School for Mountain Children to work for the Hoover Administration. It was there she became life-long friends with First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, who would later inspire her to invent the Lou Tate Little Loom.

By the mid-1930s, Tate's reputation as a textile historian and weaver caught the attention of another First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Roosevelt commissioned Tate for linens to be used at the White House and visited Tate's Loom Room located at her parents' home, 1735 S. 3rd Street. With so much attention on their daughter, the Bousmans knew she needed her own space to grow her business. Using funds inherited by her mother, Tate's parents purchased the culturally significant cabins now known as the Little Loomhouse.

Previously, the Little Loomhouse cabins had been a haven for female creatives, starting in 1898 when painter Etta Hast bought the property. Hast's cohorts included



Patty and Mildred Hill, the sisters who composed the “Happy Birthday Song,” which, according to local legend, was first sung to adults in the cabins.

The Little Loomhouse continues to be on the National Register of Historic Places and as a Louisville Landmark. The organization’s mission is to continue Lou Tate's legacy in the education of the history of weaving and textile arts through diverse programs, residencies, and community partnerships that ensure the preservation of the Little Loomhouse cabins.

The Foundation serves students of all ages and cultures who want to learn about the history and practice of weaving, textiles, fiber, and folk arts. Core programs and services include gallery exhibitions, youth and adult textile art classes, community engagement initiatives, internship opportunities, academic partnerships, and a gift shop featuring regional artistry from Kentucky makers.

Over 60% of the 7,000 diverse individuals served each year through Little Loomhouse programs are youth, with 32% living in economically disadvantaged households. In the last year, Community engagement workshops and classes were conducted at various locations throughout the region in 24 different schools, 18 after-school community centers, four libraries, four city festivals, and four inpatient facilities.

Over the last thirteen years, the Little Loomhouse has received Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program grants to support restoration—preservation projects, including a much-needed HVAC system in our cabins, new walk paths that are safer and redirect water away from the cabins, and a new kitchen wall when the old patched wall started to sag to the floor. This work has ensured the Little Loomhouse remains in service to our community for generations to come. We are so grateful for that support and to all who support the Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program.

CREATING COMFORT FOR AMERICA250

Exhibition to celebrate the United States' 250th birthday.

The Little Loomhouse will be exhibiting coverlet designs created during the founding era, the Civil War era, and beyond. Designs like Federal Knot, reflecting stories reaching Kentucky about the new Capitol in Washington, or Lee's Surrender, from Kirby, Kentucky, designed in the aftermath of the Civil War, to commemorate its end. According to legend, the design was created by a Confederate mother mourning a son lost in battle. These coverlet designs will be exhibited alongside other historic woven items such as a cotton counterpane coverlet handcrafted by persons enslaved on a farm in Shelby County, Kentucky, and handwoven baskets from the Cherokee Nation, which once occupied the land on which the Loomhouse is built and purchased by our founder, Lou Tate, in 1955.

Side by side with these historic pieces, the Lou Tate Gallery will feature contemporary work by current artists and artisans who answer the question, “What artistic items are you creating in your home to bring you comfort?” The Creating Comfort for America250 exhibition will officially open on June 27th in conjunction with an announcement that the Little Loomhouse will make its archives publicly searchable.

The contemporary portion of the exhibition will run until August 22, with the historic portion of the exhibition continuing until July 31, 2027. The Lou Tate Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesday-Friday, 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm. Guided tours are available for the exhibition for $10 and can be scheduled on the Little Loomhouse website at littleloomhouse.org.



The Long Way Home: COLONEL HELEN DEPRIMA'S KENTUCKY STORY



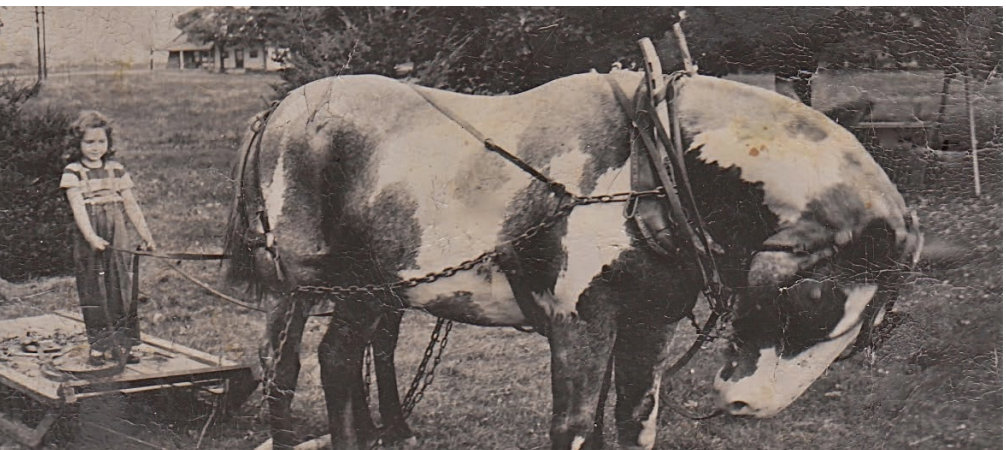
Written by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts

At an age when many people are content to slow down, Colonel Helen DePrima is busy writing novels, sewing quilts for children in crisis, restoring vintage textiles, and plotting the next adventure for her fictional detective.

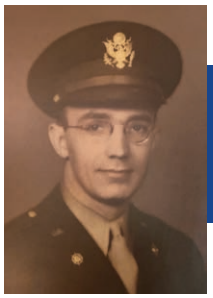
DePrima has built an unexpected second career, one deeply rooted in her Kentucky heritage and the family stories that shaped her life.

Though she has lived in New Hampshire for more than fifty years, Kentucky remains the landscape of her imagination. Its people, traditions, horses, and history continue to inspire the mysteries and novels she writes today. A fourth-generation Kentuckian, Colonel DePrima traces her family's roots in the Commonwealth to the mid-nineteenth century, when her maternal great-grandfather, Heinrich Holzheimer, emigrated from Germany and established a potato farm east of Louisville. The farm eventually occupied much of what is now St. Matthews, and a small park bearing the Holzheimer name still commemorates the area where trains once stopped to transport the family's harvests.

After her mother died in childbirth, DePrima was raised by her grandparents and her mother's sister Willa, surrounded by horses, ponies, chickens, and goats, plus cousins living on the same farm. Generations of Jefferson County children learned horsemanship at a riding school on the property.



Her father, Raymond E. Bisha, became the man of the family at fourteen after his father died. He helped support his five siblings during high school by delivering telegrams and then worked his way up from the mail room at the Louisville & Nashville Railroad to retire as Executive Vice President. He served his community as well on the boards of numerous civic organizations. His military career was equally distinguished; he entered the Army as a private and retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve.

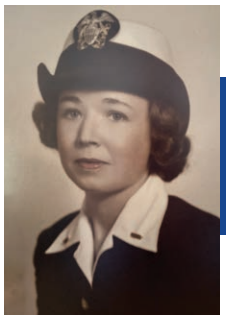


Raymond E. Bisha

A major family role model was DePrima's aunt Willa Holzheimer, who graduated as valedictorian at age fifteen from Atherton High School's first graduating class, earned a master's degree in chemistry, and became one of the first female Navy

officers during World War II, assigned to highly classified research involving submarine fuels. Willa was also an avid racing fan, sharing her passion with her niece during many trips to Churchill Downs and Keeneland.

Becoming a novelist was far from the career path DePrima initially imagined for herself. After graduating from Waggener High School, she studied nursing, earning her degree from the University of Rochester. She worked as a visiting nurse in Colorado while her husband attended veterinary school. The couple hoped to remain in Colorado but eventually settled in New Hampshire, where they have lived for more than half a century. Before her husband's retirement, DePrima also cared for injured and orphaned wildlife brought to his veterinary practice.



Willa Holzheimer

While New Hampshire became home, Kentucky never stopped shaping the stories she wanted to tell. DePrima had been writing poetry and short stories since high school, but she never seriously pursued publication. That changed in 1996 when she returned to Kentucky for eight months to care for her Aunt Willa. The experience proved transformative. Returning to her childhood home as a caregiver allowed her to reconnect with family, revisit treasured memories, and sort through nearly a century's worth of family artifacts.

After her aunt's death, DePrima attempted to write a memoir about the experience. The memoir never materialized but became the foundation for her first novel, *The High Road Home*. What began as a posthumous gift to her aunt opened the door to an unexpected second career. In the novel, DePrima imagines the adventures her aunt might have experienced had she not shortened her Navy career to step into her late sister's parenting role. The story resonated with readers and led to additional opportunities, including a contract with Harlequin's Heartwarming imprint for a series of novels centered on a Colorado family involved in professional bull riding. Although she's proud of those books, DePrima knew where her real passion lay. "Mysteries are my true love," she says. And when DePrima finally found her literary voice, she discovered that nearly every road led back to Kentucky.

Her mystery novels, *Cave Creek* and *Odds*, feature investigative journalist Jess Kennard and Louisville Metro Police Detective Joe Schuler. The stories are rich with authentic Kentucky settings, horse culture, and local history. In *Cave Creek*, DePrima drew inspiration from her family's background in horse and mule trading, creating a fictional equine rescue facility east of Louisville. A photograph of her brother's barn near Lexington even inspired the book's cover.

For *Odds*, she immersed herself in the world of Thoroughbred racing. Determined to get every detail right, she relied on family and friends with firsthand racing experience including her niece, bloodstock agent Tessa Walden. DePrima also visited Churchill Downs before dawn to observe the early morning workouts, gathering details that would bring authenticity to the novel.

Like many writers, DePrima finds inspiration in unexpected places. A news report about a body discovered in a pond surrounded by a highway interchange sparked the central mystery in *Cave Creek*. Family members and personal experiences often influence her characters as well, although she laughs that none of her relatives have ever inspired a villain. The adventurous journalist Jess Kennard may come closest to reflecting DePrima herself. Both grew up around horses, and both share a willingness to tackle challenges head-on. Yet DePrima admits that Jess is perhaps the version of herself she would like to be in another life—just a little braver and more daring.

Today, she is working on her seventh novel, *Hunter*, the third installment in the Jess Kennard series. As with many of her books, the story has begun taking unexpected turns. She knows how it will end, but the journey there remains uncertain. For DePrima, that unpredictability is part of the joy of writing.

That willingness to embrace new directions has defined much of her life. From nurse to wildlife rehabilitator, caregiver to novelist, she has approached each chapter with curiosity, creativity, and determination. In 2017, those qualities were recognized when she received her commission as a Kentucky Colonel. She was nominated by her friend Leigh Ann Shriver, whose own career included extensive military, political, and public service. Her husband, Carl, is also a Kentucky Colonel in recognition of providing decades of free veterinary care to wildlife. They both take great pride in the honor and enthusiastically share the story of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels whenever possible. Through every mystery Colonel DePrima writes and every life she touches, she offers a reminder that, while people may leave Kentucky, Kentucky rarely leaves them untouched.



Because a Colonel Gave...



…from Ashland to Paducah, 4 million Kentuckians benefit from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels' Good Works Program. Children, veterans, people with disabilities, the hungry, and the homeless all find help through the services of 333 nonprofits receiving grants from us this year.

A commission as a Kentucky Colonel is the highest civilian honor a Kentucky governor can bestow., and many Colonels consider annual or monthly contributions to the Honorable Order to be a continuation of the altruistic activity that earned them that commission.

If you are a Kentucky Colonel, please consider a contribution to the Good Works Program.

Call us or visit KyColonels.org, today.



2026

$2.6 Million
318 Grants

SINCE 1951

$73.1 Million
9,474 Grants



The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels®

KyColonels.org | 502-266-6114