

funds from Congress for building such a hall than their resolution. "The Association of Graduates cannot raise the necessary money," Charles Braden, Class of 1869, AOG's Secretary at that time, flatly stated. Then, given the lack of reference to it in meeting notes, the Executive Committee seems to forget about this idea for a memorial hall for half a decade, but Cullum did not forget. Upon his death, Cullum bequeathed \$250,000 to the U.S. government for the purposes of erecting such a hall at West Point.

According to a March 7, 1892 New York Times article reporting on his will, Cullum's gift, "Follow[ed] an idea which he had for some years entertained." Part of that idea likely involved Cullum's 1891 proposal that Executive Committee incorporate the Association under the laws of New York state. The committee unanimously adopted Cullum's proposal and filed a certificate of incorporation in November of that year. As some have hypothesized, Cullum proposed this idea because he had already made his estate plans, and, rather than gift his considerable fortune to what might be characterized as an informal fraternal club, he wanted to leave it to an organization with legitimacy and longevity. Furthermore, showing his prescience, Cullum explicitly stated in his will for the memorial hall to be built "at farthest within five years after my death" (perhaps because he witnessed no movement on an idea that originated in 1844!). Cullum's bequest was formally accepted by an act of Congress, and the architectural firm McKim, Mead & White was appointed in 1894 to design the building. Construction began in 1896, with the cornerstone being ceremoniously laid on April 15, and construction was completed on December 21, 1898. After it was furnished (Cullum also left \$20,000 in his will for this purpose), the hall was dedicated on June 12, 1900, the date of the 31st Annual Reunion. According to a July 1900 article by Charles Lamed, Class of 1870, in *Junior Munsey Magazine*, "This hall is distinctly a monument to West Point and all that it stands for, given by a son of the Academy to his brother alumni and their well beloved mother; designed to commemorate their deeds, to preserve their names, and to bear witness to the enduring work of the foremost military school of the age."

Thirty-one years after its founding, the Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy had 473 members on its rolls, and those members now had a home at West Point. In his will, Cullum indicated that it was his desire that the gifted memorial hall be used for "the Assemblage and Dinners of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy, and, if practicable, I wish that lodging accommodations should be provided in some part of it for the members of that Association while attending its annual reunions." Furthermore, they now had funds. Cullum's will also provided \$10,000 for "the current and necessary expenses" of the Association. This is the genesis of what is now known as the West Point Association of Graduates' "Long Gray Line Endowment." While Cullum was Chairman of AOG's Executive Committee, AOG's balance sheet consistently ran between \$1,000-\$1,500, but, thanks to his gift, it grew by 3 00 percent in one year.

At the turn of the 20th century the Association, now with a home and with funds, started to focus on growth and accountability. This began with two notable changes to the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. First, in 1897, the Executive Committee decided that an elected graduate, rather than the oldest graduate, would serve as the Association's President, and voted accordingly to change Article III of the Constitution. They nominated George Greene, Class of 1823, to

be President, and he was unanimously elected (ironically, Greene was also the oldest graduate on the Association's membership roll). Then, at the 1900 Annual Reunion, the Executive Committee voted to amend the Bylaws so that initiation fees were reduced from a one-time \$10 payment to an initial \$2 fee with an additional \$1 paid each subsequent year for the next decade. The prorated fee cycle spurred growth in new membership. In 1898, only three graduates elected to pay the prescribed \$10 initiation fee; in 1902, more than 70 paid the new \$2 fee. New membership also fostered more graduate participation. In 1899, only seven members attended the 30th annual reunion, but in 1902 reportedly some 350 graduates returned to West Point for the annual alumni reunion.

During the dedication of Cullum Hall, Alexander S. Webb, Class of 1855, who was present in Webster's office at the original May 22, 1869 meeting, looked back on that historic day and gave a brief account of the organization of the Association. No records exist of his remarks, but it is easy to imagine he would have said that the 15 graduates who gathered to form an "Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy" would be proud that, 31 years later, their idea had figuratively and literally found a home, that more and more graduates were coming back to that home each year, and that the Association was continuing to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of USMA graduates."

#### 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, the Sauk County Government is celebrating its 175th anniversary and has made a distinct impact in the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Sauk County was first established in 1844 when Wisconsin's Territorial Legislature passed an act organizing Sauk County; and

Whereas, Sauk County, from its humble beginnings of only a few hundred residents, has grown along with the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Sauk County is now one of the top ten fastest growing counties in Wisconsin with a population greater than 60,000; and

Whereas, Sauk County continues to generate some of the most significant numbers of tourism in the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, both the pioneers that helped build Sauk County and the residents still living there today deserve recognition; now, therefore, I, U.S. Representative MARK POCAN, do hereby proclaim the Sauk County Government on this special 175th anniversary, a keystone to the ongoing growth and development of Wisconsin.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin, I wish the Sauk County Government continued growth and success in the years ahead.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN ANDERSON

### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Anderson of College Station, Texas, for his leadership and service to our Brazos Valley community.

John grew up in a military family and lived all across the United States before settling in El Paso, Texas where he attended the University of Texas-El Paso. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1973 and in the Army Reserve from 1973 to 1986. In 1986, he moved with his wife, Ann, to the Brazos Valley.

John came to the Brazos Valley to work at Merrill Lynch, where he recently retired as a vice president and senior consultant. Since moving to our area, he has been involved with many community organizations.

John has served on the boards of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, MSC OPAS, Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial, Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley, College Station Medical Center, Habitat for Humanity, Military Heritage Center, and the Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation.

John is credited with building a house for Habitat for Humanity, the installing of statues of Veterans Park, fundraising for the Bryan Rotary Field of Valor, and building a museum that honors veterans of our nation's wars. He assisted with building the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce's federal and state legislative plans. His dedication to the greater community earned him their title of Citizen of the Year in 2016.

John has also gone above and beyond to positively impact younger generations. He has mentored students at Texas A&M's Mays Business School, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and the McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, which serves disabled veterans.

I am also blessed to have John serve as a member of the Military Academy Review Board which assists me in the nomination of young Texans to attend our nation's service academies.

John and Ann have sponsored international exchange students and served as host parents. John ensures that the students have a rich experience in the United States, bringing them to Texas A&M football games, showing them around campus, and bringing them to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history, all at his own expense.

In retirement, John is working to further his education. He is currently enrolled at the Bush School's certificate in nonprofit management. Once that is complete, he will work towards the advanced international affairs certificate.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to speak on behalf of all Brazos Valley Residents to thank John Anderson for his selfless service to our nation and to our communities. We also wish him the best in his future endeavors.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.