

*Constitution*  
of  
*The Military Order of the Stars & Bars*

An Order of the descendants of Confederate Officers as adopted in General Convention College Station, Texas, and amended in General Conventions through July 17, 2021.

**Preamble**

The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. To perpetuate the idealism that animated the Confederate Cause and to honor the courage, devotion, and endurance of those who dedicated their lives and services during four years of devastating war, and who, through the dreadful decade of reconstruction, labored heroically for the restoration of self-government as the most precious heritage of the American Revolution, male descendants of the officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy, and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed officials of the Confederate Executive and Legislative branches of government unite to establish The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a patriotic Society. This Preamble shall not be subject to amendment or change.

**Article I**  
**Name and Governance**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be The Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Section 2. The Military Order of the Stars and Bars shall be incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation.

Section 3. The Military Order of the Stars and Bars shall be governed by the written provisions of its Constitution, its Bylaws, and its Policy and Procedures Manual.

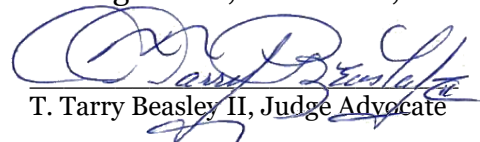
**Article II**  
**Purposes and Principles**

Section 1. The Order shall be literary, historical, benevolent, patriotic, educational, and non-political. It shall strive:

- (a) To cultivate the ties of friendship among descendants of those who shared the responsibilities of Southern leadership in The War Between the States.
- (b) To provide leadership in the collecting and assembling of data, documents, and

  
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materials relating to the Confederacy; however, the organization should also preserve the history of the Colonial and Federal periods of our history since the antecedents of The War Between the States are to be found in these periods.

- (c) To provide for future generations of the descendants of Confederate officers and civilian officials in the Executive and Legislative branches of government an organization to commemorate and honor the leadership of their forefathers.
- (d) To consecrate in our hearts the Flags of the Southern Confederacy, not as political symbols, but as emblems of a heroic epoch for which our forefathers fought and died.
- (e) To maintain a united front against doctrines subversive to the fundamental principles set forth in the Bill of Rights which, as a part of the Federal Constitution, guarantees freedom of speech and the press, together with all other rights and privileges therein provided for the protection of political minorities and of individual citizens.
- (f) To encourage and support true loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

### **Article III Eligibility and Membership**

Section 1. All candidates eligible for membership in the Order shall be male descendants of:

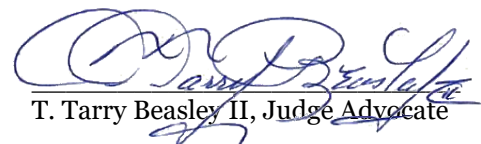
- (a) legitimate descendants, lineal or collateral, of those who served as officers in the Confederate Army or Navy to the end of the war, or who died in prison or while in actual service, or who were killed in battle or who were honorably retired or discharged; or
- (b) elected or appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States and local governments; the national Confederate Government; or the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy, provided that the first-generation descendant was the legitimate child of a Confederate ancestor.

Section 2. The Term "collateral" as used in Section 1 hereof shall be defined as a legitimate relative by blood whose relationship is to a common ancestor in the applicant's direct line, maternally or paternally, that can be proven.

Section 3. Memberships shall be of the following Classes:

- (a) Regular shall include members who otherwise meet the requirements for membership, remitting annual membership dues.
- (b) Life Members shall be members who otherwise meet the requirements for membership, who request to become Life Members, remitting in totality the cost of the Life Membership fee.

  
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- (c) Honorary, Junior, Cadet, Associate, Memorial, and such other memberships as may be adopted by the General Executive Council (GEC) or the General Convention.

Section 4. All members of all classes shall be citizens of good repute within their community, and of good moral character, and do not advocate the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence and are subject to the governing provisions of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

**Article IV**  
**General Officers, Directors, and the Board of**  
**Directors a/k/a General Executive Council (GEC)**

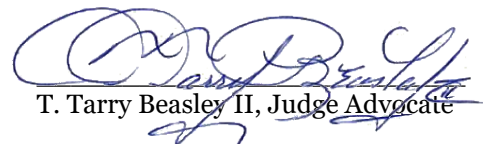
Section 1. Officers

- (a) The General Convention shall elect the following "General Officers" of the Order
  - i. Commander General
  - ii. Lieutenant Commander General
  - iii. Three (3) Department Commanders
  - iv. Six (6) Department Councilors.
- (b) The General Executive Council shall elect the following "General Officers" of the Order:
  - i. Adjutant General
  - ii. Treasurer General
  - iii. Judge Advocate General
  - iv. Chief of Staff
  - v. Comptroller General.
- (c) The Commander General, with the advice and consent of the General Executive Council, shall appoint all other "Staff Officers" of the Order, as may be deemed necessary by the Commander General to carry out the work of the Order. The Commander General may remove any appointed Staff Officer at Will and at his sole discretion.
- (d) All Officers shall be charged with the general duties and responsibilities prescribed under the governing documents of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars. All Officers shall also be charged with the day-to-day operations of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars. All work and work products of all officers shall become the immediate proprietary property of The Military Order of Stars and Bars corporation.

Section 2. Corporate General Executive Council

  
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- (a) Between conventions, the corporate General Executive Council shall be vested with authority to conduct all regular and special business operations related to The Military Order of Stars and Bars.
- (b) The General Executive Council shall work with the General and Staff Officers in such matters as may be brought to the attention of the General Executive Council.
- (c) The General Executive Council may generally rename or redesignate the name of the General Executive Council Directors without necessity of amendment to this Constitution, but shall so designate in the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures Manual, and other legal corporate records and documents.
- (d) The General Executive Council shall function as a Board of Directors.

Section 3. Directors

- (a) The following officers shall serve as legally designated Directors on the General Executive Council with vote:
  - i. Commander General
  - ii. Lieutenant Commander General
  - iii. Three (3) Department Commanders
  - iv. Six (6) Department Councilors
  - v. Adjutant General
  - vi. Judge Advocate General
  - vii. Chief of Staff
  - viii. Treasurer General.
- (b) All Past Commanders General and Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall serve on the General Executive Council and shall sit as legally designated directors with a vote.

Section 4. Tenure of Office

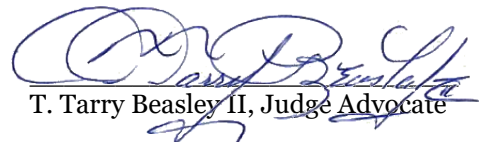
- (a) Any Staff Officer may be removed by the Commander General or the General Executive Council
- (b) Any General Officer may be removed by the General Executive Council
- (c) Any Director may be removed by the General Executive Council.

**Article V  
Organization: Departments, States Societies, and Chapters**

Section 1. The Order shall be divided into Departments, State Societies, and Chapters.

Section 2. Department. There shall be three Departments, to be called:

  
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- (a) Army of Northern Virginia Department, which shall include and be formed of the States of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, the District of Columbia, and those states located east of the State of Ohio and north of the State of Virginia.
- (b) Army of Tennessee Department, which shall include and be formed of the States of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Florida and those states and areas not included in the other two (2) departments.
- (c) Army of the Trans-Mississippi Department, which shall include and be formed by the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma Missouri, Oklahoma, California, Colorado, and states located west of the Mississippi River.

Section 3. State Society. Authority to organize a State Society shall be granted upon the written application of at least fifteen (15) members and one (1) Chapters of the General Society residing in the state in which the State Society is proposed to be organized. The form of the charter for a State Society shall be prescribed by the General Executive Council. Upon the issuance of a charter, the Commander General shall designate the time and place for the organization of the State Society. The officers shall then be chosen and shall enter upon their duties at once and hold office for two (2) years or until their successors, at the annual meeting following, shall have been invested.

Section 4. Chapters. Chapters may be formed at the local level upon the application of five (5) members of the Order. Chapters shall be formed or designated within the geographic boundaries of states of the United States.

## **Article VI General Conventions**

Section 1. The Legislative Body of the Order shall be the General Convention which shall meet annually at a designated time and place.

Section 2. Notice of the time and place of each General Convention shall be published at least thirty (30) days before the date for it to convene, with such notice being provided to each member of the Order at their last known mailing address or by electronic device.

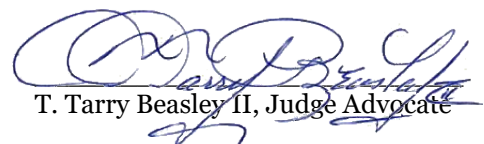
## **Article VII Use of Seal and Insignia of the Order**

Section 1. The Seal of the Order shall be two (2) inches in diameter and shall reproduce the Great Seal of the Confederate States of America, having lettered upon the circumference the legend "Military Order of the Stars and Bars" between the wreath and margin.

Section 2. The use of the seal, insignia, diploma, or good name of the Order for political purposes is prohibited.

  
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Section 3. The flag of the Order shall be the First National Flag of the Confederate States of America commonly called the Stars and Bars.

Section 4. The member's insignia of the Order shall be a badge pendant. The design shall be that now in common use and which has been formally adopted by the Order.


Section 5. The General Executive Council may authorize other badges, insignia, medals, and awards that it deems proper, subject to change by the voting delegates of the General Convention.


### **Article VIII Dissolution Clause**

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars shall be turned over to an organization that is then officially recognized as a tax-exempt organization, qualified to receive donations that are deductible by the donor under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the General Executive Council shall determine. Such distribution shall only be made after said General Executive Council has paid or had made provision for the payments of all liabilities of The Military Order of Stars and Bars.


### **Article IX Amendments**

No amendment shall be made to this Constitution except at a duly constituted Annual General Convention of the Order and by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all delegates present in good standing. Before any amendment is considered, it shall have been sent to each Chapter in the Order at least thirty (30) days before the convening of the General Convention at which it will be considered.

  
Joseph Judson Smith, III  
Commander General

  
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Judge Advocate General

  
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