

Bugle

Spring 2022

The Great Flood of '37

Learning how strong we are.



A publication of
The Honorable Order of
**Kentucky
Colonels.**



In this issue...

Chapters 3

Chapters of the Honorable Order are sprouting up everywhere. Is one viable where you live?

Sgt. Willie Sandlin 4

The exploits of Kentucky's sole WWI Medal of Honor recipient.

Colonels Stepping Up 6

Kentucky Colonels around the world have stepped up with \$2.5 million in tornado relief.



ON THE COVER: The Great Flood of '37 9

Four nuns from the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth are rescued by a volunteer in front of The Kentucky Theater on Fourth Street in Louisville.

Jesse Stuart Foundation 12

The mission of the JSF is to preserve the human and literary legacy of Jesse Stuart and the Appalachian way of life.

Tornado Grantees 14

HOKC has already provided over \$1 million in relief to western Kentucky nonprofits.



943 South First Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40203
502-266-6114
www.KyColonels.org

From the Commanding General *Giving is what we do.*



The tornados that struck Kentucky the night of December 10, 2022, brought devastating destruction to the lives of thousands of Kentuckians. In only a few short hours, Colonels from across the Commonwealth, across the nation, and across the globe became heroes, providing manpower and monetary support. Our theme, Because a Colonel Gave, has never been more evident. In this issue of Bugle, we share with you the good works of Colonels and grantees following the tornados.

We learn about Kentucky Colonel Chapters and the Jesse Stuart Foundation, which works to preserve the author's legacy and celebrate the Kentucky values of hard work and love of family and country.

Colonel James Gifford recounts the bravery of Sergeant Willie Sandlin, Kentucky's forgotten hero of World War I.

And Rick Bell shares his thoughts on the Flood of 1937 and reminds us of the words of then Louisville


mayor Nevil Miller, who said, "This flood has shown how weak is man." Miller concluded, the flood "has also shown us how strong we are."

We echo Mayor Miller's words by saying this Commonwealth is not built of brick and mortar; it is built of, as it is being built by, the men and women who inhabit it.

Thank you, Colonels, for your support; and thank you, Kentuckians, for your resilience.

Cordially,

Gary W Boschert

Gary Boschert
Commanding General
HOKC 



Gary Boschert
Commanding General,
Honorable Order of
Kentucky Colonels

Is Yours the Next Chapter?

by Colonel Heather Campbell, Director of Colonel Relations

Kentucky Colonels frequently contact Headquarters inquiring about other Colonels living in their areas with a desire to connect with them. In the summer of 2021, the Board of Trustees voted to reintroduce HOKC Chapters, through which Colonels

Chapter of Kentucky Colonels. There are 15 active groups, and 25 additional Colonels pursuing the formation of a Kentucky Colonel Chapter.

Kentucky Colonels Chapters host a variety of events that suit their

opt-in to share that they are interested in being part of the chapter.

Chapter requirements are:

1. All members must be contributing Colonels.
2. The Chapter must have at least five members.
3. The Chapter must host at least three meetings or events per year.
4. The Chapter must organize a local day of service.
5. The Chapter must submit an annual report.



Kentucky Colonels Toronto Command

can work with the Headquarters team to reach out to other Colonels in their area to gather and celebrate their commissions, their good works, and the history that binds the Kentucky Colonels to the Commonwealth.

Through Chapters, the Honorable Order hopes to provide Colonels with the ability to create and foster meaningful relationships with other Colonels who enjoy improving the communities in which they live and supporting the Good Works Program. In addition, Chapters provide an avenue to network, further the HOKC mission, and strengthen the pride, bond, and meaning of the commission.


Currently, there are five official Kentucky Colonels Chapters: Kentucky Colonels Toronto Command (Canada), Kentucky Colonels Switzerland, Yaarab Shrine Association of Kentucky Colonels (Atlanta, GA), UK Brigade of Kentucky Colonels (United Kingdom), and the Northern Kentucky

interests and celebrate the great Commonwealth of Kentucky. Colonels host their own Kentucky Derby parties and other social events, raise funds for the Good Works Program, provide volunteer opportunities, and celebrate the 4th of July in other countries.

“The Toronto Command hosts an annual dinner, called the Encampment, at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in downtown Toronto,” said Colonel Derwin Mak, Commander of the Kentucky Colonels Toronto Command. This black-tie event, based on a British or Canadian military mess dinner, raises money for the HOKC Good Works Program. The Toronto Chapter also awards its own medals at the Encampment.

Establishing a chapter is an easy process and is often started with a simple interest email from a Colonel. The Headquarters team will send your email to Colonels in your area on your behalf. Colonels can then

Colonel Greg Dalga serves as president of the Northern Kentucky Chapter. He viewed the creation of the Chapter as a way to continue honorable service with a group of like-minded individuals committed to carrying on the traditions of the HOKC. Dalga said he at first thought the process of establishing a Chapter would be daunting but that a Chapter was easy to establish. He said he received responses from over 100 Colonels in northern Kentucky who wanted to be involved in the Chapter in various ways. He said, “My commitment to the mission and values of being a Kentucky Colonel and my enthusiasm to want to do more have increased tenfold since this journey has started.”

The guidelines for Chapters can be found at www.KyColonels.org/chapters. You can also visit the website to view the list of official Chapters and see if a Chapter is forming in your area. If you have questions or are interested in forming a Chapter, contact Colonel Heather Campbell, Director of Colonel Relations, at 502-266-6848 or email her at hcampbell@KyColonels.org. 



SGT. WILLE SANDLIN

BY COL. JAMES M. GIFFORD, P.H.D.

Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Willie Sandlin (right) with President Calvin Coolidge (center).

In 1917, after several years of provocation, including the sinking of the Lusitania on May 1, 1915, America declared war on Germany. By November of the following year, the United States had sent two million men overseas.

In the bloody fighting that took place in the Meuse-Argonne Forest in the fall of 1918, thousands of Americans distinguished themselves, including two young men from central Appalachia who received the Medal of Honor. On September 26, 1918, Sergeant Willie Sandlin, acting alone, attacked and disabled three German machine gun nests. During his heroic assaults, Sandlin killed twenty-four German soldiers and assisted in the capture of 200 more. Less than two weeks later, Corporal Alvin York led an attack on a German machine gun nest, taking 35 machine guns, killing at least 25 enemy soldiers, and capturing 132. Sandlin was from Hyden in Leslie County, Kentucky, and York was from Pall Mall, Tennessee, a community just across the Kentucky line. Although York and Sandlin shared the same military distinctions

and emerged from similar Appalachian communities, their lives after World War I were remarkably different. York acquired money and fame and became a national icon and an international celebrity. Sandlin lived in modest circumstances, ill-health, and purposeful obscurity until he died of war-inflicted gas poisoning at age 59.

If war is a rich man's war and a poor man's fight, then Willie Sandlin represented millions of poor men who became soldiers during World War I. Born into Appalachian poverty on January 1, 1890, on Long's Creek in Breathitt County, Kentucky, Sandlin's parents were John "Dirty Face" Sandlin (born March 17, 1867) and Lucinda Abner Sandlin (born December 1870). John and Lucinda had five sons: Willie, Charlie, John, Elihue (Sonny), and Mathew (Mathy). After his father was imprisoned for murder, Willie's mother and father divorced in 1900. Two years later, his mother died, and Willie and his four brothers were informally adopted by relatives. Sandlin enlisted in the Army on April 16, 1913, and served under

John J. Pershing on the Mexican border. He re-enlisted in 1917 and was soon on his way to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force. Sandlin, who was by then a Sergeant, arrived on France's bloody Western Front in time to take part in the Battle of the Argonne Forest, the massive Allied offensive that finally defeated Kaiser Wilhelm's war-weary German army.

Sandlin and his men were in several battles during the summer of 1918. Then at Bois de Forges, France, on September 26, 1918, Sandlin emerged as one of the greatest heroes of World War I. He was in charge of a platoon of 59 men when the day began. Following an all-night artillery barrage, Sandlin's platoon was ordered to advance toward a specific, important military objective. The line had been fighting for hours, advancing slowly, when the doughboys were stopped by withering fire from carefully placed German machine gun nests, two guns to each nest. At 7 am, orders were given to "halt and lie down." While others were trying to stay below the hail of deadly gunfire, Willie Sandlin had a



rendezvous with destiny that changed his life forever. Sandlin observed a narrow lane between the firing line of the two guns. Arming himself with four hand grenades, an automatic pistol, and a rifle, he charged the nests alone. Advancing within seventy-five yards of the guns, he threw his first grenade, which fell short and exploded without effect. He raced forward while the enemy emptied two automatic revolvers at him. When he was less than fifty yards away from the intense machine gun fire, he threw his second grenade, which struck the nest. He then threw two more grenades, charged the nest, and killed three more German soldiers with his bayonet, making a total of eight enemy combatants that he killed there. In similar fashion, on that same day, Sandlin destroyed two other machine gun nests and their occupants.

His heroic assaults resulted in the death of twenty-four German soldiers and the capture of 200 more German soldiers. Sandlin's commander, General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, praised him for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty" and recommended him for the Medal of Honor, praising the twenty-eight-year-old Sandlin's "splendid example of bravery and coolness to his men." Pershing personally presented the Medal of Honor to Sandlin in February of 1919 at Chaumont, the general headquarters of the AEF. General Pershing would later describe Sandlin as the outstanding regular army soldier of World War I.


After returning home, like many wounded veterans, Sandlin wasted no time in pursuing benefits. In 1921, government physicians at a Veterans Center in Richmond, Kentucky,

examined Sandlin and reported that he was "suffering a serious lung infection as a result of gas inhaled" in the Battle of the Argonne Forest. To make a claim for increased compensation, in 1925 Sandlin appeared before the United States Veterans' Bureau in Lexington. Sandlin was receiving only \$10 a month compensation for being a Medal of Honor recipient, a reduction from the \$40 a month he was receiving when he was "invalided home." Despite his continuing efforts, Sandlin, who had been wounded twice and gassed twice, never received any disability compensation from the Veterans Bureau, and he never received a penny of the money that was donated by private citizens to purchase a farm for him and his family.

By the beginning of the Great Depression, Willie and his wife, Belvia, realized that he would probably not receive any money from the Veterans Administration Bureau to compensate him for his war-sustained injuries. So the Sandlins did what tens of thousands of Appalachian families did: "they hunkered down" and "did the best they could with what they had." They became subsistence farmers. Drawing on practices that were more than a century old, subsistence farmers, like the Sandlins, produced almost everything they needed from their farms and nearby fields and forests. They raised cows, hogs, and chickens for meat, which was supplemented by food from vegetable gardens and orchards. During the Depression, Willie and Belvia both worked extremely hard to make a good life and a good home for their children. During those years, Willie also worked as a supervisor on a WPA road project. In the early spring of 1942, following the Japanese attack

on Pearl Harbor, the old warrior who was fifty-two years old and in very bad health, went to Hyden and registered for the draft. The Army denied him regular military service because of bad health.

Early in May 1949, Willie's breathing problems grew much worse and Belvia took him to the hospital in Hyden. Two days later he was transported by ambulance to the Veteran's Hospital in Louisville. Belvia went with him and stayed with him in the hospital room for the next three weeks. He answered his last roll call in the early morning hours of May 29, 1949, at age 59.

He was originally buried in the Hurricane Cemetery in Hyden; however, in September 1990, Sandlin's widow had his remains reinterred in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville. When Belvia died in 1999, at age 98, she was buried next to her husband. On May 1, 2018, Willie Sandlin and his wife, Belvia, were reinterred in the New Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East in Hyden. More than 100 people attended this memorial ceremony, including two dozen members of Sergeant Sandlin's extended family. 

James M. Gifford, Ph.D. is the CEO & Senior Editor of the Jesse Stuart Foundation. He has published in historical, educational, and literary journals, and he has won professional awards as a teacher, author, and publisher. His most recent books are Jesse Stuart: Immortal Kentuckian (2015) and Sergeant Sandlin: Kentucky's Forgotten Hero (2018). He is currently working on a collection of essays that focus on the depression decade in southeastern Kentucky.



12-10-21

Colonels Respond to Tornado Disaster

by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts



Spring 2022

6



The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

A home that was leveled by an EF3 tornado on the southwest side of Bowling Green, KY.

Just a few short hours after the sun rose on December 11, 2021, as Kentuckians became aware of the devastating impact of the tornados that ripped through western Kentucky, Colonel Sally Siebert called Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels Executive Director Sherry Crose to make the first pledge to create the Western Kentucky Disaster Relief Fund.

Soon Colonels Shannon Ralston, Kristy Ralston Raso, and Amy Ralston Truan (of San Antonio, Texas) extended a two million dollar challenge to Kentucky Colonels. The HOKC Board of Trustees responded by matching one million dollars and asking Kentucky Colonels around the world to match the remaining one million dollars.

General Brooks Bower made a personal gift to the disaster relief fund and issued a challenge to the employees of his company, PaperCone, Inc., with the company matching two dollars for every dollar donated.

Immediately, Colonels from around the world, some even before hearing of the Ralston family challenge gift, began to contact HOKC. Many, like Colonels Jason, Jackson, and Larry Guest, saw their contributions as a way to honor their commission as a Kentucky Colonel with continued service to communities in need.

Colonel Jane Brake, of Frankfort, Kentucky, said “it was overwhelming to even think for a moment about what these folks had experienced. And how frightening and discouraging the next morning for them to wake up to the scene of nothing left of all they had known for so long!” Colonel Brake, upon

hearing about the challenge gift, said she knew immediately that she was called to help out with her contribution.

As the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels continues to raise and distribute disaster relief funds, the source of these funds stretches around the world. Currently 1,519 Colonels from 46 states and the District of

In Brooklyn, New York, for Colonel Steve Rubin and his wife, Anna, the pictures on the evening news were heart-wrenching. The fact that the victims were people they did not know located hundreds of miles away did not matter to them. Rather than give to a national organization, they checked to see if the HOKC, of which Colonel Rubin has been a proud member since the early 1980s, was collecting money

“I chose the HOKC to be the recipient of my donation because of their well-earned reputation of fiscal stewardship and transparency. I know without a doubt that each and every dollar donated is accounted for and distributed to those communities and community organizations that both legitimately have a need for the assistance and who will also be just as committed to responsibility and transparency with the funds received.”

Colonel Larry Guest

Columbia, and 11 other countries have given \$2,519,563.94. Gifts to the Western Kentucky Disaster Relief Fund have ranged from \$5 to \$2 million.

Richard Aitkens-Davies and his wife, Sally, of London, England, lived in Louisville for three years when he was chief financial officer at Louisville Gas and Electric. Colonel Aitkens-Davies shared that they had been warmly welcomed during their years in Kentucky and had spent time in the impacted areas. After seeing the horrific destruction, they wanted to make a gesture of solidarity with the people in Kentucky and chose the Kentucky Colonels for their donation because they admire the good works of the HOKC.

for the relief effort and agreed to send their contribution to the Kentucky Colonels since they had been faithful contributors to the Good Works Program.

HOKC Chapters, such as the Kentucky Colonels Chapter of Switzerland, have also contributed to the disaster relief fund. Colonel Stephen U. Breu, President of the Chapter, said that when they heard about the devastating tornados in the international media there was no question that based on the honor of their commission they were obliged to give back to the Commonwealth in this hard time.

And Kentucky Colonels have been creative in their donations.





Photo by State Farm via Creative Commons license 2.0.

Aerial view of the city of Mayfield, KY on December 12, 2021.

Two Indianapolis businesses – Trinity Metals and Hotel Tango Distillery – teamed up to provide three barrels of bourbon to be sold to support the disaster relief fund, raising over \$37,000 for the fund. Colonel Wade Conner is co-founder and chief executive officer with Trinity Metals, and Colonel Travis Barnes is co-owner of Hotel Tango Distillery. Conner said, “A tragedy like this calls for a meaningful and significant response.” He added, “The Commonwealth of Kentucky has always been an important part of the Trinity success story, and it is only fitting that we support the tornado relief effort with our best efforts. The Board of Trustees has the connections and networks in place to put our charitable dollars to work far more

effectively than we ever could. It is an honor for us to be able to contribute to this good work.”

Beyond the networks HOKC already had with organizations in the affected areas, Kentucky Colonels, like Colonel Brake, were confident HOKC would ensure their contributions were used appropriately. Colonel Brake said, “I know the HOKC are very discerning and carefully vet those organizations to whom they make contributions. They are careful, do their due diligence, and make sure that the agencies they choose are legitimate, well-managed, and pledge to give the contribution to the organization with minimal monies used for overhead. Colonel Guest echoed that sentiment

saying “I chose the HOKC to be the recipient of my donation because of their well-earned reputation of fiscal stewardship and transparency. I know without a doubt that each and every dollar donated is accounted for and distributed to those communities and community organizations that both legitimately have a need for the assistance and who will also be just as committed to responsibility and transparency with the funds received.”

Recovery from the disaster will be a years’ long process, and the Board of Directors has worked with organizations in the impacted areas to develop short-term and long-term plans for HOKC to assist with those efforts. 🇺🇸



The Great Flood '37

The Birth of the Honorable Order's Mission of Relief
by Colonel Rick Bell

The year 2022 is the 85th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1937, an event that still stands as the most destructive natural disaster in American history. For three weeks in January and February 1937, the entire flooded Ohio River set new records for depth, destruction, and duration. An estimated 165 billion tons of water – 41.2 trillion gallons of rain – fell in a three-week period. Every Kentucky community, from Ashland to Paducah, was submerged by the incessant rainfall.

While today's Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels supports a great number of deserving charities and projects, tradition says that the organization's original philanthropic efforts began in response to the Great Flood of 1937. Colonels all over the nation banded together to address the great needs of the people of the Ohio Valley, with Colonel Fred Astaire, and other stars, organizing relief efforts in far-off Hollywood.

The Kentucky Colonels were not the only organization to provide financial and benevolent aid to victims of the flood. Along with the American Red Cross, volunteers from the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and Army, as well as the

National Guard, provided supplies, communications, and rescues.

Governmental, religious, and charitable organizations were stretched to their limit to provide assistance to the hundreds of thousands of citizens who were forced out of their homes, jobs, and schools by the unprecedented amount of rainfall.

The American Red Cross performed heroic service all through the flooded Ohio and Mississippi river valleys and was especially active in Louisville. At the beginning of the Flood, the Red Cross had a local staff of 30 people, but before the disaster had passed, over 1,600 Red Cross workers were present. During the crisis, the Red Cross inoculated

220,000 people for typhoid. They were providing hot meals and relief for 230,000 a day. The citizens of the United States donated over \$25 million in flood relief for the Ohio Valley through the Red Cross alone.

The city of Louisville was especially impacted by the Great Flood. Of the 64,000 houses in the city, nearly 34,000 were flooded – at least into their first floors. Two hundred and seventy of the city's 350 miles of paved roads were inundated, and 70 percent of the citizens (over 175,000 individuals) were evacuated from their homes.

Generosity became the major theme of the Great Flood. Churches opened their doors to house and feed

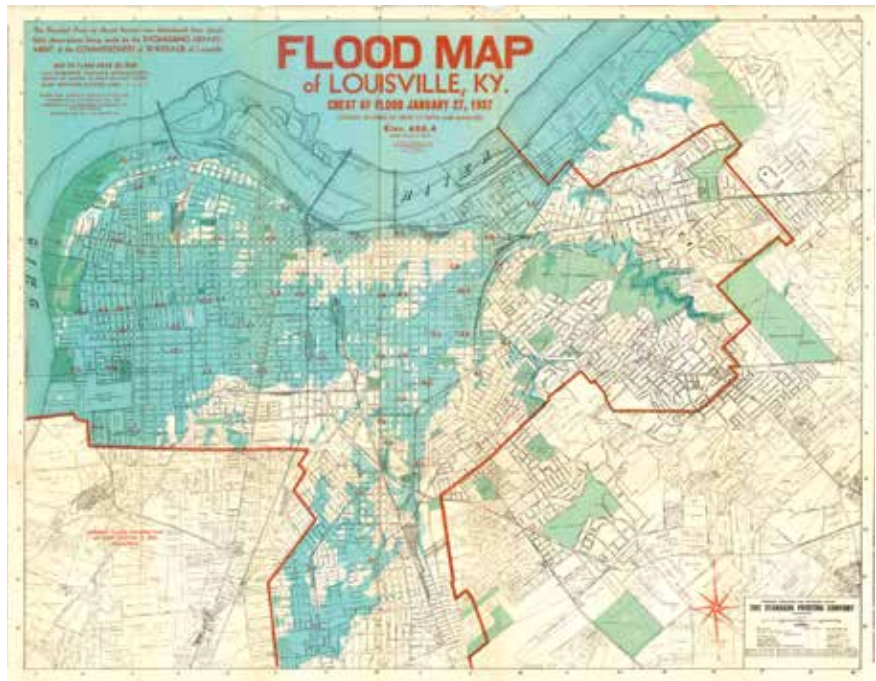




victims, schools were converted into temporary morgues, and thousands of volunteers manned rescue boats. Remarkable ingenuity, like the construction of Louisville's floating pontoon bridge, made of more than 1,400 bourbon barrels, allowed thousands to escape the submerged downtown area to reach safety on higher grounds. From there they were frequently shipped off to drier communities hundreds of miles away. Tent cities were erected in many areas with all food, clothing, and shelter being provided by volunteers.

While Kentucky bore the brunt of the destruction, havoc was also seen in its neighbors north of the Ohio River. Pittsburgh, Portsmouth, Cincinnati, New Albany, and Evansville were also inundated. Throughout the long ordeal, communities learned to work together as never before and a new era of cooperation was launched.

Clean-up and rebuilding began as soon as the waters receded. It took months to re-open schools, factories, and churches, but gradually things began to return to a sense of normalcy. Although parts of the legendary Churchill Downs racetrack had been submerged for days, the Kentucky




Map showing the extent of the floodwaters blanketing Louisville in early 1937.

Derby was run just three months later, with War Admiral taking the trophy.


A more tangible result of the Great Flood of 1937 was a series of improvements to sewer drainage systems, public utilities, and civic projects. Elaborate floodwall, levy systems, and pumping stations were put in place to reduce the impact of any future disasters.

In the final analysis, the most

important monument of the 1937 Flood does not lie in high water markers on buildings or the civic improvements which emerged. The legacy of the 1937 Flood is the spirit exemplified in the words of Louisville's Great Flood mayor, Neville Miller:

“This flood has shown how weak is man; in a day, the waters have covered our city, extinguished our lights, flooded our homes, stopped our factories – closed our schools, our churches, and our courts... The flood has also shown us how strong we are. In this disaster, comparatively few of our people have perished; our hearts and our purses, our homes have been open and we have found a strength we did not know we possessed.” 

Rick Bell is the author of “The Great Flood of 1937,” published by Butler Books. He was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Julian Carroll in 1977. He and his wife, Susie, currently live and work at Twin Rocks Trading Post in Bluff, Utah.



“The city is not built of brick and mortar, not of wood and stone alone: it is built of, as it is being built by, the men and women who inhabit it.” – Mayor Neville Miller

A group of adult and teenage men are cleaning up damage from the 1937 flood along Adams St. in Louisville, Kentucky. A partially fallen building is on the right side of the image and large amounts of debris and trash are on the ground. In the distance are the double steeples of the St. Joseph's Church. Remaining flood waters are in the lower right portion of the image.



All Kentucky Colonels Asked for Flood Aid

A movement to enlist all Kentucky Colonels in aid of the flood sufferers was started yesterday when eight New Yorkers, all holding the honorary rank, each contributed \$5 to aid Kentucky's flood refugees.

The movement was started by the staff of The American Legion Monthly, a Legion publication, of which John T. Winterich is editor. The gifts were forwarded to Governor Chandler of Kentucky.

"There are 17,000 Kentucky Colonels in the United States and probably a couple of thousand right here in New York," a statement issued by the staff stated. "If each sends \$5, it would make Governor Chandler happy. Kentucky needs help. Let's give it to her."

New York Times, January 28, 1937



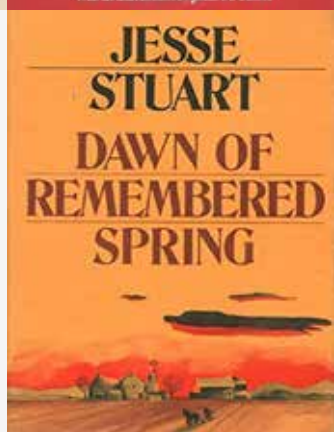
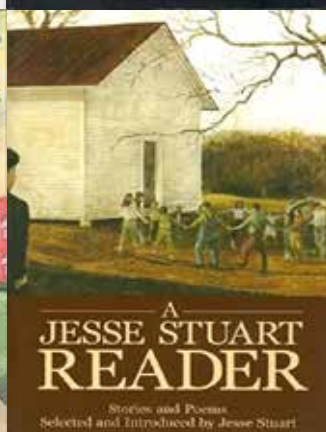
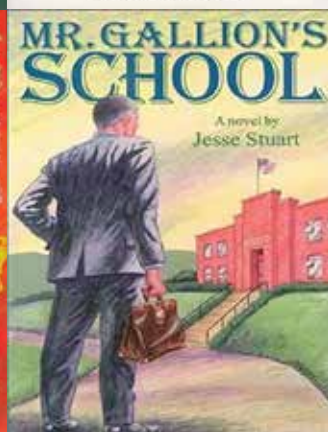
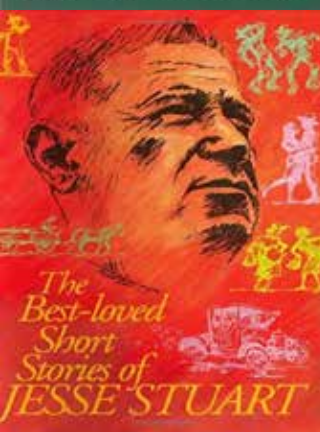
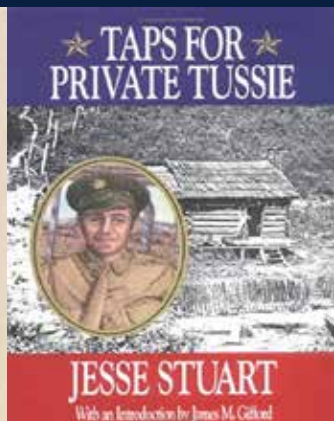
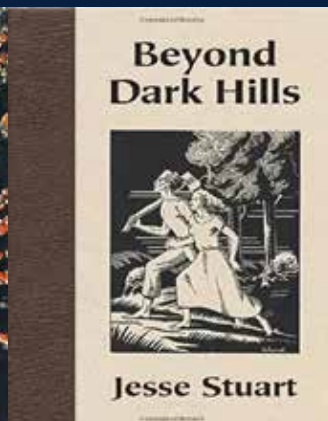
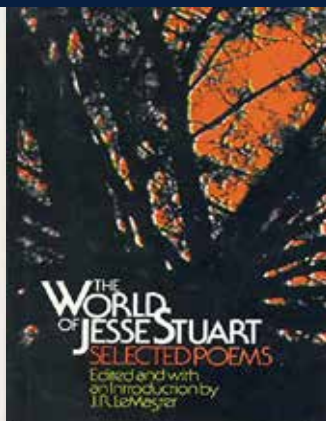
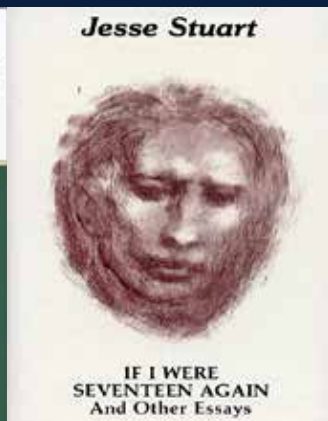
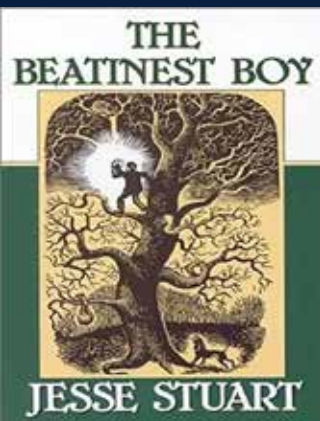


Jesse Stuart Foundation

Preserving the human and literary legacy of Appalachia

by Colonel Judith Kidwell

Administrative Assistant to the CEO, Jesse Stuart Foundation



The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has been very generous to the Jesse Stuart Foundation. Over the past 40 years, the Colonels have contributed fourteen grants through its Good Works Programs to support various projects, including the production of Jesse Stuart's poetry collection *Land of the Honey-Colored Wind* – the first book published by the JSF in 1981. Other support includes capital gifts; educational materials for the Jesse Stuart Nature Preserve in Greenup County (now a part of the Commonwealth's nature preserve system); and the distribution of nine books to elementary and high school libraries and public libraries throughout Kentucky:

32 Votes Before Breakfast

by Jesse Stuart

To Teach, To Love by Jesse Stuart

The Beatinest Boy by Jesse Stuart

The Champion of Sourwood

Mountain by Billy C. Clark

Riverboy by Billy C. Clark

Juliette Low: Founder of the Girl

Scouts by Mildred Pace Mastin

Friend of Animals: The Story of

Henry Burgh by Mildred Pace Mastin

Sergeant Sandlin: Kentucky's

Forgotten Hero by James M. Gifford

Patriots & Heroes: Eastern Kentucky

Soldiers of WWII by Jack D. Ellis

The Colonels' support has had a significant impact on the Foundation. The production of *Land of the Honey-Colored Wind* launched the JSF as a publishing company. The capital gifts helped the JSF function effectively and efficiently. The materials for the Nature Preserve were a unique way to tell Kentuckians the story and significance of Stuart's literary legacy. Distributing copies of books written by Stuart and other Kentucky writers for teachers, students, and public libraries helped the JSF fulfill its organizational goal to provide

much-needed books and resources to Kentucky teachers and libraries.

The JSF is a nonprofit organization, established in 1979 by Jesse Stuart and his wife, Naomi Deane. Born in Greenup County, Kentucky, in 1906, Stuart was a noted author, educator, lecturer, world traveler, farmer, and environmentalist. He was a prolific writer who published 2000 poems, 460 short stories, and more than 60 books. His works appeared in many regional and national journals and magazines. He served as Kentucky's Poet Laureate in

1954-55. In addition to being one of Appalachia's best known and most anthologized authors, Stuart's works have been translated into many foreign languages. Stuart died in 1984 and is buried in Plum Grove Cemetery a few miles from his home place in W-Hollow, a little valley in Greenup County that became a part of America's literary landscape through Stuart's writings.

The JSF is a regional publisher and bookseller that controls the rights to Stuart's works and republishes his out-of-print works along with books by other Kentucky and Appalachian authors. The Foundation's more than 155 books include works by Stuart and other famous Kentucky authors such as Thomas D. Clark (*A History of Kentucky*), Billy C. Clark (*A Long Row to Hoe*), Allan W. Eckert (*The Frontiersmen*), Loyal Jones (*Appalachian Values*), and Harry M. Caudill (*Night Comes to the Cumberlands*). JSF books supplement Kentucky's education system at all levels and fosters reading among general readers with

the Regional Readers book discussion group. A variety of programs serve students, teachers, and schools from kindergarten through university, as well as the public and include book signings, the annual Jesse Stuart Weekend, and a speakers bureau.

The mission of the Jesse Stuart Foundation is to preserve the human



and literary legacy of Jesse Stuart and the Appalachian way of life by publishing and disseminating books that capture Kentucky values like hard work; love of family, land, and country; belief in education, honesty, thrift, and compassion.

The many JSF projects supported by the Good Works Program have been models of cooperation and success, and we look forward to working with the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in the years ahead. 🇺🇸

Colonel Judith Kidwell is the Administrative Assistant to the CEO & Senior Editor at the Jesse Stuart Foundation. She earned the B.A. degree in history from Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland, and the M.S. degree in organizational management from Cumberland University in Tennessee, and has written for a variety of publications, including Appalachian Murders & Mysteries: True Stories From West Virginia, Kentucky and Southern Ohio, True Christmas Stories From the Heart of Appalachia.



TORNADO EMERGENCY GRANTS

by Colonel Leslie Watkins, Director of Major Gifts

This story offers an accurate representation of Tornado Emergency Grants as of press time, March 4, 2022.

Please visit www.KyColonels.org for the latest emergency response numbers.

“There is no way you can know how much this means to me. My little girl and I were in the hall when we heard the wind. The apartment we were in was destroyed. When I went back, everything I found fit in a laundry basket.” – December 10 Tornado Victim

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has given \$1,018,000 to 34 nonprofits in Kentucky helping with tornado relief efforts after the devastating storms hit the night of December 10, 2021. “This is just a down payment from the Kentucky Colonels for our neighbors across western Kentucky,” outgoing Commanding General Hal Sullivan said.

Gen. Sullivan said this was a “once in a lifetime disaster event – the most horrific in Kentucky since the great flood of 1937” in commenting on the HOKC’s philanthropic effort. The Honorable Order made up to \$500,000 in relief immediately available to nonprofits that had previously received grants from the Colonels’ Good Works Program. An additional \$3 million will be distributed to nonprofits in the region for relief and rebuilding.

The organizations receiving grants were nonprofits or organizations with whom HOKC had worked previously or whom HOKC uncovered through media reports and verification of their work from reviews of their I-990 filed with the Internal Revenue Service, according to Executive Director,

Colonel Sherry Crose. HOKC wanted to provide initial dollars to organizations helping with immediate needs. Crose said, “The immediate disaster funds that were selected were set up and run by elected officials on the grounds in the devastated cities, so we knew they would work hard to distribute the money where it could be used most effectively.”

Traditionally grant applications are vetted individually by Trustees, but, due to the nature of this crisis, Crose and Grants Administrator, Colonel Eric Patterson, vetted the grant applications and brought recommendations to the board which voted on the recommendations as a whole.

Crose explained, “Because HOKC wanted to get the emergency funds out quickly to help the immediate need, the Board determined that checks would be sent without the typical process of grantees’ submitting invoices and being reimbursed for their purchases.” Organizations with which we had worked before, such as Marcella’s Kitchen and the Paducah Cooperative Ministries, have a great track record with HOKC and needed funding immediately to feed first responders and affected families and to provide personal care packages.

Lindsey Walker, with grant recipient Marshall County Exceptional Center, said, “In the aftermath of the tornados, it became apparent that our community needed help, and

fast! With so many people losing their homes, I quickly realized that the facility of the Marshall County Exceptional Center could be used as a disaster supply hub.” While MCEC is not traditionally a community supply drop-off and pick-up location, Walker realized that the organization had ample space that could serve their community. MCEC staff gathered and sorted donated resources so affected people could quickly find needed items. The Center had everything from diapers, playpens, and car seats, to food, blankets, and clothing.

The funding provided by the Kentucky Colonels allowed MCEC to provide staffing for their resource hub and to reopen their main location quickly upon power restoration and resume normal operations. The Marshall County Exceptional Center provides day training services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and is often the only place for their clients to go during the day.

One of the immediate needs was meals for families displaced by the tornados and the relief workers in the area. 23 of the counties served by Feeding America, Kentucky’s Heartland sustained damage. The warehouse used by a partner food bank in Mayfield, which served the eight most western counties in Kentucky, was leveled. Feeding America, Kentucky’s Heartland has expanded food distributions across those counties. They delivered 1,627 transient food bags to emergency



shelters and deployed four additional food distributions in Bowling Green, Kentucky, each serving 500 households. Their tornado relief funding will be used for expenses related to leasing the additional warehouse space and equipping it with a forklift and pallet jacks, leasing delivery trucks, and providing cold storage.

The Community Kitchen of Paducah has provided meals to over 15,000 individuals by networking with food distribution stations to provide over 24 pallets of chicken, and pallets of non-perishable food to Mercy Chefs, Kentucky Dam Village state park, Eight Days of Hope Ministries, and Bread of Life Ministries. These organizations provide daily hot meals to displaced tornado victims, first responders, and linemen.

After the devastating tornados, HOKC provided funding to Marcella's Kitchen in Paducah, Kentucky, which continues to serve their regular community and provides meals to those displaced by the storms and relief workers. The Hope to All Food Pantry, in Drakesboro, Kentucky, used their tornado relief grant to purchase a walk-in freezer and to better provide meals to 1,000-1,400 people each week. Hope to All received a call on the morning of December 11, asking them to supply bottled water, energy drinks, personal hygiene supplies, and lunch items. Their volunteers prepared daily meals for tornado victims and volunteers working in the Bremen area. Beyond providing meals, the Princeton Community Kitchen is providing a place for those impacted by the tornados to shower and to do laundry.

Because the tornados touched six counties that have active Happy

Feet Equals Learning Feet locations, Happy Feet, which usually provides athletic shoes for students, began to buy rain boots and socks for women and children, as the adults were working at their demolished homes trying to salvage what they could. The Hopkins County Happy Feet delivered 54 pairs of shoes to the Madisonville Salvation Army, and an additional 90 pairs of shoes in assorted sizes were delivered to an emergency distribution center.

Happy Feet has distributed over 150 vouchers to students, families, and community members to be used at any Shoe Sensation store in the western Kentucky area for any type of shoe. Shoe Sensation is also setting up "Shoe Days" in the schools, with a "shoe store" set up within the school. Students and family members can get their feet measured, try on, and select a pair of shoes.


Happy Feet has purchased 279 pairs of shoes and boots to date and plans to help as many as 600 people with new shoes and socks.

When the Mayfield United Way office was destroyed by the tornados, they contacted United Way of Kentucky requesting assistance. The United Way of Kentucky then stepped up to take the lead for the United Way System, coordinating the agencies' efforts in the devastated areas. To coordinate efforts in western Kentucky, the United Way of Kentucky has created a long-term recovery committee to think strategically about how to rebuild. The United Way of Southern Kentucky is using a \$25,000 grant for housing-related needs, such as deposits, rent assistance, and furnishings.

Many animals were left homeless by the storms. The Caldwell County Animal Shelter, the Hopkins County Humane Society, and the Graves County Animal Shelter are providing medical care, food, and shelter for pets displaced by the tornados. They purchased kennels for use at their locations and to distribute to pet owners in their communities staying in temporary housing that requires the animal to be kenneled. They are also distributing dog and cat food.

Living Lands and Water has received a \$25,000 grant to fund the cleaning of debris from Kentucky Lake. This clean-up effort will continue until boating season.

Other organizations receiving funding include:

- Crossroads Missions to purchase construction supplies.
- The Salvation Army of Kentucky to provide food, drinks, shelter, emotional and spiritual care, and other emergency services to survivors and rescue workers.
- Hotel Inc. to provide rent subsidies and furniture vouchers.
- Louisville Stepstone Family and Youth Services to provide support to foster children affected by the tornados in western Kentucky.
- The Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities to help long-term care residents and staff members who were significantly affected by the tornados.
- The Kentucky Counseling Center to provide mental health care support for children and families in Graves County.
- The Kentucky Nurses Association to provide water, medicine, and sanitizing supplies.
- The Paducah Cooperative Ministry to distribute care packages. 





Forever Changed

Because a Colonel Gave.

This year, the Good Works Program will provide more than \$3.1 million in grants to nonprofits delivering critical services to Kentuckians in need. In addition, The Honorable Order has committed \$3.5 million in response to the December 2021 western Kentucky tornados.

These grants are possible only because Colonels like you chose to continue their philanthropy through regular contributions to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. On behalf of more than four million Kentuckians whose lives are forever changed by these nonprofits, we thank you for your generosity.



KyColonels.org