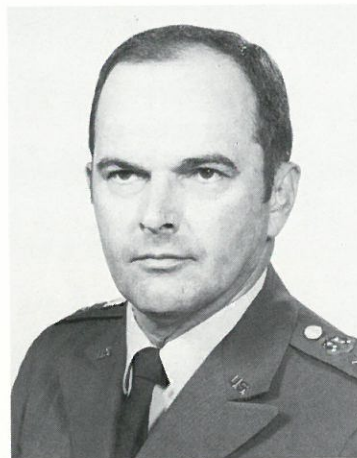


NGAUS Constituency: 100% Membership plus Retiree and Junior Officer Active Support



Major General
William J. McCaddin
Virginia National Guard
President,
National Guard Association
of the United States

In his welcoming remarks to the delegates and guests at the opening of the 100th General Conference of NGAUS, the Hon. James F. Conway, Mayor of St. Louis, noted that the founding meeting of the Association in 1879 had come at a crucial time in U.S. history.

"Only two years before, we had experienced the Great Railroad Workers' Strike and what later became the first general workers' strike across the nation . . . Those were difficult times, and the militia of various States were called upon to keep order in our nation's largest cities."

It was a grim reminder of the serious purpose which influenced the founding of NGAUS and the continuing role for the National Guard in peacetime as well as for possible federal service in time of war.

But as we look to the future, we proceed on a course unimpeded by some of the obstacles encountered by the founders. We do not have any sectional or regional differences in the Guard. We do not have any divisive wounds to heal as in the aftermath of the Civil War. We do not have to "sell ourselves" to an array of doubting Thomases.

The 100th General Conference, which will be fully reported to the membership in the December issue of NATIONAL GUARD magazine, offered ample evidence of the cooperative relationships which we enjoy with the Congress and with both the civilian and uniformed leadership of the Army and Air Force.

We have achieved some things which the founders of 1878 and 1879 would find hard to believe.

But if there is anything we have

learned from the lessons of the past, it is to be ready to anticipate the needs of the future. The requirement for anticipation is very much on my mind in assuming the presidency of the National Guard Association of the United States.

The National Guard has never been a static institution. We have never confused stability with standing pat. Because we are at once military and at the same time a slice of civilian society we are a reflection of that society.

The last quarter of the 20th century appears to be destined to be recorded for posterity as an era of accelerated movement and change. We complain about the dislocation, the reorganizing, the regrouping — but we seem to thrive on it!

In the months ahead it will be my role, as president of NGAUS, to help carry out the program and the policies which the Association develops from the results of the 100th General Conference and the direction of the Executive Council.

It is my intention, in the best tradition of past NGAUS presidents, to do my best to represent the national interests of the National Guard.

This means the continuing determination to look at the National Guard as a community of interests. These interests include a spectrum ranging from young people just coming into the system and setting out on their military careers in the Guard, to the great but largely untapped pool of retirees and former officers of the Guard who surely must represent one of the most dedicated "alumni associations" in the entire world.

During the months ahead we will

be seeking new ways and casting out our lines for innovative ideas to increase both junior officer and retiree participation in the affairs of the NGAUS.

Earlier, the fact was mentioned that we do not, any longer, have to "sell ourselves" to Washington officialdom. Lest this be considered a mark of complacency it should be made quite clear that we understand certain things which we regard as guiding principles. We feel required to share them with you.

The National Guard today is an essential part of the State and national security system. This was highlighted by Mayor Conway of St. Louis when he noted, during his speech that, "Now . . . 100 years later . . . we still find ourselves needing the National Guard."

We are indelibly a part of the U.S. system for peace and security. U.S. war plans confirm this. The public utterances of the nation's governors add further reaffirmation.

But we are under no illusion as to the continuing and even increasing need for our Association to play its vital role in legislative and information matters.

Since the voice of an Association hinges, to a great extent, on its demonstrated ability to represent a given constituency, it appears more important than ever that NGAUS has the support of every officer and warrant officer in the National Guard. Toward this end, the goal of 100% membership among those qualified to be members, is something we regard as an essential ingredient for success as we move out into our Second Century of service and dedication.

1878



1978

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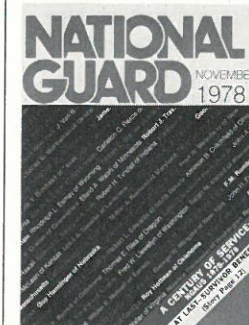
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COVER: An impression of the "stream of names" of leaders of the first 100 years of NGAUS is depicted in this design by Bob Crozier of Potomac, MD.

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