THIS is a tribute to a man; to that man as a person, and to the embodiment of two indispensable institutions: the National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

It is a word picture, too, of the man as seen through the eyes of those who have been close to him through many years of trouble and triumph, of doubt and of hope, of disappointment and of great achievement.

This is a dedicated man—dedicated from his youth to the creation of a strong, effective, influential National Guard that is stocked with the strength of its past, and to bitter, hard-fighting, unremitting battle against anything that would harm the Guard.

He is one who, long ago, made up his mind that the only sure way to fulfill his mission was by building well upon the foundation laid by his able predecessors in the creation of a strong, effective, influential National Guard Association of the United States.

His deep faith and confidence steered their way over all obstacles in the accomplishment of his goals, where others despaired.

He saw what there was to work with, in the beginning: an organization of remarkable power but of definite limitations; of great potential, but meager resources and facilities; complete dependence as the volunteered part-time services of a few loyal kindred spirits who would accept responsibility. There was an awareness of pressing matters: inevitably delayed in their accomplishment, and of many necessary tasks undone.

He made the concept of the structure he envisioned as rising on solid foundations. The brick, mortar, timbers and walls, he could not furnish somewhere; the men to help him build the edifice, he attracted by leadership, by persuasion, by example.

But the framework begins by little; the structure grew. Two rusted rooms and bath in wartime-crowded Washington; one girl, to answer the phone and to open and forward mail.

War's end; uncertainty; confusion, a myriad of problems immediately fell upon the building the National Guard and its newly-constituted Association knew. A remodeled form of organization was essential to cope with problems of the post-war Guard. A new personal membership by every National Guard officer and warrant officer. Adequate Head-quarters with a well-rounded executive and administrative staff. A communications net work to reach the entire membership speedily. An official publication that would communicate the Guard's story to Guardians, the various branches of the Federal Government, State Capitols, the Press, and the Public.

It would not be a "gimmick" organization. It would be dedicated to attainment of every objective that would enhance the stature of the National Guard as a whole and a vital instrument of National defense.

It would seize every opportunity to cooperate and co-ordinate with others working towards the same objectives in terms of National defense. But, it would be prepared always to carry through alone, if supposed "friends" proved false.

It would pick main objectives and have to them. It would be a militarily businesslike and disciplined—not a "fun" and fireworks—organization.

Material accomplishments have come to pass. Harder to measure is the impact it has made both as a very human instrument as the living symbol of the Guard and its Association.

Considerate, mindful of the dignity of every individual; no desk-topper—but watch out for tightening of the lips and a cold look in the eyes if there's a challenge to what he thinks best for the Guard.

Courteous and dignified—but capable of throwing the direct onto the teeth of anyone who would challenge the courage, the loyalty, and the dedication of Guardsmen.

Courteous, calm in the conduct of a General Conference—but let no Delegate or uniformed officer get "out of order" in appearance or conduct! Seibert would start on time; they would end on time. The business of the Conference would be accomplished, and it would stay on the track.

These are some of the qualities which have saved and deeply impressed unnumbered men and women—mature and blue as well as young and impressionable, Presidents as well as Privates—who have been exposed to an unusual and magnetic personality. Even those with whom he has taken bitter issue on matters involving the welfare of his beloved National Guard, have a wholehearted respect for him as a valiant fighter for his causes.

The need for this record of the contributions by which the man long will be remembered as an individual. Imperishable are his achievements represented by the strength and vigor of the Guard and the Association.

By the time this is read, Major General Ellard A. Walsh will have become the 18th President of the National Guard Association of the United States. It will be, for him, a strange title after 14 years of continuous service as the "Ike" who has made the Guard and the Association's history; before that, many years of active service for the Association's affairs, including a one-year term in the Presidency.

Many times he has reiterated that the strength of the National Guard and of its Association rests in no superman, but in the presence of countless capable, devoted, and loyal Guardians. Capable that their welfare is in good hands, he has gone to a retirement he has anticipated eagerly.

Though he has rapped his prized gavel for the last time as active head of this ancient organization, it is inconceivable that he should ever be a part in the Washington scene or have a voice in the Association's affairs. Years of hard-earned experience will not be lost; the influence of his wisdom and knowledge will long be felt.

And so we say, not "Goodbye," but "See you later, Sir!"

DEAR GUARDSMEN: Our thing wasn't anticipated when we ran Bill on the President's Report in our Sep issue, it was the amount of interest it would rekindle in various of our public relations "tools," Bill cuffed our book, "The Nation's National Guard," and the booklet, "Know Your National Guard." Shortly after that, Harold had the magazine readers reached, when we began getting inquiries about how to obtain these documents. Sorry we hadn't made that clear.

In our Oct issue, we carried a full page announcement, with an order coupon in the poster (page 25) for the 5th Edition of the booklet, "Know Your National Guard," in this issue, there's an ad and order form for the larger, hard-cover "The Nation's National Guard." The prices are sufficient only to offset cost of production and shipping. Neither is intended as a money-making venture, but it would be prohibitively expensive for the Asm to distribute them without charge.

We've seen a large drop in our audials of 10c and 15c postage quantities of a 10c11" reproduction of "The National Guard Creed." THE STAFF.

OUR COVER: Nation, State and Organization—all claim the loyalties, and merge into the cap'te de corps, of the National Guard. The trinity is exemplified by the proud Color Guard of the 449 FA Bn (Olm), IV Corps Army, North Carolina, as it passes in field training review.

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