

CLOSED ALBUM

General Conrad L. Bush CSA

1931-2017



**Connie and Betty Bush
Southern Supper 2014
Sarasota, Florida CSA Convention**

Conrad L. “Connie” Bush passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on February 9, 2017. With his passing, the Confederate Stamp Alliance lost one of its most passionate collectors and most ardent supporters.

In his earlier life, Connie enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, furthered his education, obtained a degree, and was commissioned an officer in the Bio-Medical Sciences Corps retiring from the service as a Captain. His specialty at the time was the then young field of cytology in which he was a pioneer. He published research papers in the journals of the time on PAP smear evaluations and other cytology and medical laboratory related subjects. While in school in Tennessee, he met and married Betty the love of his life. They were inseparable for 60+ years of marriage.

Connie, himself an Eagle Scout, was active as a leader in the Boy Scouts with both his sons attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Other interests included cave exploring, underwater diving, and law enforcement as he served as an auxiliary Okaloosa County (Florida) Deputy Sheriff. But Confederate philately was his passion.

I first met Connie in the summer of 1980 when I relocated to Eglin AFB in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. I was a simple stamp collector, USA and Canadian stamps. I walked into the local stamp store for the first time and was enquiring of the owner if there was a stamp club in the area. Connie happened to be in the store at the same time, overheard me talking to the owner, and walked up and introduced himself. He told me there was a local stamp club that met twice a month on a Sunday afternoon and invited me to attend with him. I did attend and thus began a wonderful philatelic friendship which endured for 37 years. It did not take long to discover Confederates were really what Connie was all about. He introduced me to Confederate stamps and postal history and sold me my first CSA cover, a Cobham, Va railroad cover for which I paid the princely sum of \$40.00. I did not understand at the time why Confederates were so expensive. I still have that cover today in my personal collection. With his mentoring, I became engrossed with Confederates, and the rest is history. I would often remind him that it was all his fault that I got so deeply involved with Confederates.

Connie joined the Confederate Stamp Alliance in 1971 (#1541 and Life Member #18). Although never seeking a position as an officer or a trustee, he served the CSA in so many other ways. He was the membership chairman for a number of years recruiting new members, he served many times on the nominating committee, and he was the awards chairman for

a very long time responsible for the awards which members received for exhibiting at the annual convention. Many of today's members have awards from those years handmade by Connie in his own home wood working shop. Connie was responsible for introducing the CSA medal which all life members and major award winners receive. Another Connie Bush innovation was the Generals' medal which current Generals are awarded. In 1989, Connie developed the concept of what he termed a "Philatelic Chautauqua." It was a weekend meeting for collectors to get together, show their collections, and learn more about Confederates. He hosted several of these meetings in Pensacola, Florida in the early 1990's. The Chautauqua was the forerunner of the CSA Mid-Year Meeting that we currently have today. The first Mid-Year of the current era was held in 1993. For his ardent service to the Alliance, Connie was elevated to the honorary rank of "General" in 1995, an honor of which he was most proud.

Like many collectors, Connie loved showing off his collections by exhibiting. He formed two major exhibits. The first one on the general issue stamps was awarded the CSA Trophy in 1992. After that, he changed his focus and developed another exhibit on the CSA straight-line, fancy, and unusual cancels on general issue stamps publishing a definitive book on the subject in 1997. He acted as the section editor for these cancels in the new 2012 CSA catalog. Connie was a pioneer in the field of one-frame exhibiting being one of the first to earn the AAPE Ruby Award for one-frame exhibits. Connie's exhibits garnered many gold medals and other awards. In 2009, Connie endowed a CSA award to recognize the best one-frame Confederate exhibit at the annual convention.

Other awards that Connie received in his philatelic career include the CSA Haydn Meyer Award for service in 1992 and the CSA August Dietz Award for writing and publishing twice – the first in 1989 for an innovative video on Confederate stamps, and the second as my co-author for the first edition of the *Collector's Guide to Confederate Philately* in 2003. That same year the book was also awarded the Stanley Ashbrook Cup from the USPCS and the APS Grand Award for Literature. He continued on as my co-author through the current second edition of the book. Over the years, Connie published numerous articles in *The Confederate Philatelist* – his most recent just a short time ago. His CSA acknowledgements culminated in the presentation of the Special Trustees Award in 2013 for continued and sustained service to the CSA – one of only a small handful of members to receive this prestigious award since its inception.

Now a wonderful Confederate philatelic career has come to an end. Good-bye old friend. I will miss you greatly. Your philatelic help and advice will always remain with me. We had many good times chasing Confederates together at stamp and Civil War shows, CSA conventions and meetings, auctions, and anywhere else we could find them. You have touched so many philatelic lives with your constant mentoring and innovations and always ready and willing to share your experiences and knowledge with everyone. Gone but never forgotten.

John L. Kimbrough MD
February 11, 2017