**Military-Civilian Club History**

Mrs. John L. Jenkins on May 21, 1921, proposed an idea to a group of friends: a club to promote a closer union between the women of the Army and those of the city. Mrs. Jenkins, a San Antonio native who had married into the Army, felt that the “Army Reservations” and the City were growing so large that it was becoming difficult to preserve those close ties which are important to this community. Mrs. Jenkins, who later became Mrs. Barmore, spearheaded the beginning of the Army Civilian Club in 1921 and was subsequently honored as Honorary Life President.

The organization was known as the Army Civilian Club until 12930 when it was renamed the Military-Civilian Club. Events were held at the Menger Hotel until 1934 when they moved to the St. Anthony Hotel. Civilian sponsored luncheons continued at the St. Anthony until 1978.

In 1933 the club motto, colors, and flower were selected. Well know artist, Mary Bonner, designed the linoleum block print of a yucca, which was chosen as the official logo and cover of the yearbook. Membership lists have included many famous names, among those most notable the 1941-43 Military Vice President, Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Desiring to increase camaraderie between the military and civilian members, Mrs. Arthur Bennet, Civilian President in 1983, instituted the February “In-Home Luncheons” with military and civilian members hostessing in members’ homes in alternate years. Mrs. John Shaw chaired the first luncheons.

Recent community emphasis has been in the sponsorship of the Military Ambassadors during Fiesta and scholarships funded by donations awarded annually to military dependents. Civilian President Mrs. Joe Tye, Jr. in 1989 suggested that the club enter the Battle of the Flowers Association Parade. In the 1990 parade, LTC Albert Avery chauffeured current and former Presidents Mrs. Thomas Gaither, Mrs. Cornelius Nau, and Mrs. Joe Tye, Jr. in his antique car.

The Board of Directors in 1990 authorized the design of a pin featuring the Military-Civilian logo to be presented to outgoing presidents. Presidents Mrs. Robert Brady (Military) and Mrs. Falkner Heard, Jr (Civilian) were the first recipients. Civilian President Mrs. Jack Dix designed and introduced the first Fiesta Medal in 1995.

Presidents Mrs. Jack Guenther and Mrs. Kirk Reamey in 1997 envisioned our November “Dine-Arounds”, held in small groups in local restaurants and clubs. In 1998, Presidents Mrs. Jack Guenther (Civilian) and Mrs. Gary Linder (Military) implemented the first luncheon, which was chaired by Mrs James Martin. Honorary Life Member designation was established in 2011-2012 by Civilian President, Mrs. Mike Heath.

The first recipients were Mrs. Jack Dix (Civilian Past President), Joan Hall (Army Past President), and Mrs. William McBride (Air Force Past Honorary President). In 2017, Mrs. H.P. Wright (Civilian) received the designation.

Fostered by the Military-Civilian Club of San Antonio, and certified by the State of Texas on October 28, 2014, the Military-Civilian Charitable Foundation received its non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service on November 6, 2014. The Foundation was established to enhance the military’s integration into the greater San Antonio community, to provide scholarships for worthy family members of military personnel, to support charitable organizations that assist military personnel and their families, and to elevate the positive profile of military service in Texas.