

Corps honors 4 Aggies

By HOLLY HUFFMAN
Eagle Staff Writer

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Four Texas A&M University graduates recently were recognized for their loyalty and dedication to both their alma mater and their country when they were inducted into the Corps Hall of Honor.

The Hall of Honor is considered a prestigious group of former members of the Corps of Cadets who are said to embody the Aggie spirit, officials said. Established in 1993, there are 63 inductees.

The 2007 honorees include James K. B. Nelson, class of 1949; retired Rear Admiral Robert Smith III, class of 1961; retired Lt. Gen. James T. Scott, class of 1964; and Lt. George P.F. Jouine, who was class of 1907 and awarded posthumously.

"They just possess those values that we kind of look for in all Aggies: honor, loyalty, service, pride, patriotism, faith, leadership and honesty," said Stacy Overby, director of the Sanders Corps Center. "These folks inducted are typically those folks that spend an inordinate amount of their time trying to make life better for not only the Corps of Cadets, but for Texas A&M."

Inductees are selected each year by a committee tasked with reviewing all nominations, Overby said. There is no specific limit; the committee can decide to induct all nominees if it feels the entire group is worthy of the honor. Each honoree has a plaque that hangs in the Sanders Corps Center, which is open to the public.

For the most recent round, nine were nominated. Of the four tapped for induction, two were engineers -- Jouine and Nelson, both of whom were Ross Volunteers.

Jouine earned a degree in civil engineering when A&M still was called the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, according to biographical information provided by the school. He worked for several engineering firms and the U.S. Corps of Engineers before joining the French Army in 1914 when war broke out in Europe.

He was wounded four times while commanding a trench mortar company that saw nearly constant action. He later took charge of one of the first mobile tank units in modern warfare. By the time the war was over, he had been decorated 14 times by France, England, Belgium and the United States.

Nelson earned undergraduate degrees in mechanical and petroleum engineering and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation. He worked for several firms throughout his career, eventually becoming president and CEO of Houston-based Grey Wolf Drilling Company. He now serves as president of Felicity Ventures, Ltd., but remains on the board of directors for Grey Wolf.

Nelson held office in several A&M-related organizations and has been recognized for his business and alumni achievements, including garnering the awards of 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year in Houston and Texas A&M and Association of Former Student Distinguished Alumnus in 2005.

The two other honorees have extensive military experience.

Smith earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and later graduated from Louisiana State University's School of Banking of the South. After being commissioned in 1962, Smith spent 35 years in the U.S. Navy serving in the Pacific, Washington, D.C., and the Atlantic, receiving several commendations during his tenure.

He now serves as senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank and is responsible for the Houston branch. An active former student and committed supporter of A&M, he has been honored by A&M clubs in Dallas and Houston and also was named a 2005 Distinguished

Alumnus by the university.

Scott received his degree in animal husbandry and then went on to earn a master's in business administration at Fairleigh-Dickinson University. Scott opted for a career in the U.S. Army. During his 32 years of service, he was in six other countries and participated in five combat tours including three in Vietnam.

He currently is the chairman of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission and is a partner at Watson & Associates, a financial services firm in Coleman. He also teaches political science at Howard Payne University in Brownwood.

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