

# **GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA**

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Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Grand Commander: Ronald G. Andress REGC

Editor: Thomas F. Craig, PGC, [tfcraig@aol.com](mailto:tfcraig@aol.com)

## **REPGC GEORGE MILLS**

(Note: I prepared this after Sir Knight Mills received this award and used it in an earlier supplement. Although I based it on the best information I had, I fear it does little justice to his contributions to our fraternity, our communities and our nation.)

On 4 July 2016 at the annual Spirit of America Celebration at Point Mallard Park in Decatur AL, Right Eminent Sir Knight George Flavius Mills received the Audie Murphy Award, which is presented annually to an outstanding American patriot or an outstanding group of individuals who best exemplify the true “Spirit of America.” Sir Knight Mills is the 45<sup>th</sup> recipient of this award, and past recipients include Pat Tillman, Jeremiah Denton, Brother Omar Bradley and Johnny Cash.

Sir Knight Mills enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was assigned to the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, the “Keystone Division,” under past recipient General Omar Bradley. The Germans called this Division the “Bloody Bucket.” He took part in the Battle of Normandy, the Battle of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) and the Battle of Hürtgen Forest. He was captured by the Germans at the Bulge. His military awards include the Order of the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Bronze Star, the French Croix de Guerre and the French Legion of Honor.

Although his military service alone is more than enough to qualify him for this award, Sir Knight Mills’ service since then is fully equal to his military service in terms of merit. He has been an active supporter of church, civic organizations, veterans’ organizations as well as our fraternity. He has spoken to many of these organizations about his experiences and is an active participant in patriotic activities. This also includes making various patriotic presentations such as presenting the “Toast to the Flag” and the making the award of ROTC medals to youth in the North Alabama area. He has presented well over 70 of these medals at ten schools and universities and is well known to the cadres of the different units.

## **DO YOU CARRY YOUR UMBRELLA?**

We all have something to learn from this young girl.

As a drought continued for what seemed an eternity, a small community of farmers was in a quandary as to what to do. Rain was important to keep their crops healthy and sustain the townspeople's way of life.

As the problem became more acute, a local pastor called a prayer meeting to ask for rain.

Many people arrived. The pastor greeted most of them as they filed in. As he walked to the front of the church to officially begin the meeting he noticed most people were chatting across the aisles and socializing with friends. When he reached the front his thoughts were on quieting the attendees and starting the meeting.

His eyes scanned the crowd as he asked for quiet. He noticed an eleven year-old girl sitting quietly in the front row. Her face was beaming with excitement. Next to her, poised and ready for use, was a bright red umbrella. The little girl's beauty and innocence made the pastor smile as he realized how much faith she possessed. No one else in the congregation had brought an umbrella.

All came to pray for rain, but the little girl had come expecting God to answer.

-- Author Unknown

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