

TEXAS STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL BOARD

Staff Report
to the
Sunset Advisory Commission
January 9, 1978

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Introduction

This report is submitted pursuant to Section 1.06, Subsection (3) of the Texas Sunset Act and contains a review of the operations of the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board. Termination of the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board has been scheduled for September 1, 1979 unless it is continued by law.

The material contained in the report is divided into four sections: background, review of operations, conclusions, and recommendations. The Background section contains a brief history of legislative intent and a discussion of the original need for the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board. The Review of Operations section contains a review of the operation of the agency, and uses the self-evaluation report submitted by the agency as the basis of review unless noted. The information contained in the self-evaluation report was verified, and additional data were obtained through interviews and review of agency files and other data sources.

The Conclusions section discusses the agency's response to the present need for its existence, and an overall determination is made as to whether or not Sunset criteria are being met. The final section presents staff recommendations to the Sunset Commission.

This report is designed to provide an objective view of agency operations, based on the evaluation techniques utilized to date. Together with pertinent information obtained from public hearings, a factual base for the final recommendations to the Legislature will be provided.

Background

The Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board was created by the Texas Legislature in 1957 (Article 6145-3, V.A.C.S.). The Board was created for the purpose of memorializing General Stonewall Jackson. The statute specifies that

this should be accomplished by the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc. The Board is charged with the responsibilities of establishing and managing the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund and using the income derived from the fund to conduct essay contests and provide prizes and to grant scholarships. The Board is composed of three members: the Texas Commissioner of Education, the President of Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc. and an appointee of the Governor.

Review of Operations

On December 31, 1957, the Governor of Texas appointed Sam R. Fisher to serve as a member of the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board. According to information received from the Secretary of State's Office and the State Bar of Texas, Mr. Fisher died in 1976. No records of his activity as a Board member have been found. The Secretary of State has no record of incorporation or selection of a President of the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc. The Texas Commissioner of Education has reported finding no evidence that the Board ever met. The Commissioner furthermore has no remembrance regarding the Board.

The statute authorizes the Board to receive and accept appropriations and donations in behalf of the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund. In reviewing the Comptroller's Annual Reports from 1957 to the present, no record of this fund were found. No record of legislative appropriation was found in reviewing General Appropriations Acts for all fiscal years since 1957.

Conclusion

No records have been found indicating that the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Board was ever activated. No evidence has been found that the Texas Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund was ever established. None of the educational programs contemplated in the Act were ever initiated.

Recommendation

IT IS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STAFF THAT THE TEXAS STONE-
WALL JACKSON MEMORIAL BOARD NOT BE CONTINUED.