

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR
UNITED STATES FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
Attention Officer Candidate Hall of Fame Administrator
Post Office Box 33027
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-0027
(405) 351-5818 or AV 639-5818

1. NAME Chester O. Stephens, Jr. DATE 26 April 1991
RANK Colonel
DOR June 1970
DOB 13 September 1921
2. ADDRESS 416 Autauga County Road 15 South Selma, Alabama 36701
3. PHONE 205-875-9972
4. OCS CLASS NUMBER 86
DATE GRADUATED/COMMISSIONED 11 November 1943 *1944*
5. PRESENT DUTY ASSIGNMENT/OCCUPATION President of Stephens Industries
ADDRESS 416 Autauga County Road 15 South Selma, Alabama 36701
6. BRIEF RESUME OF DUTY ASSIGNMENT/OCCUPATION
Operates and agricultural complex consisting of timber, Christmas Trees,
hatches and raises Channel Catfish for the market, hay, and beef cattle.
7. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: 5 battle stars in ETO during WW II
Appointed by Gov. Hunt of Alabama to the Alcohol Control Board. Member of
Republican Executive Committee. Inducted into Auburn Agriculture Hall
of Honor.

GENERAL REMARKS: Considered the Father of the Catfish Industry. Founded
one of the first catfish hatcheries. Did found the first Catfish Processing
Plant as such. For further details please see attached.

Tandy D. Little, Jr.
P. O. Box 1151

Montgomery, AL 36192

Tandy D. Little,

SIGNATURE 

Chester O. Stephens, Jr.
~~Rt. 3 Box 214-S~~
Selma, Al. 36701

STEPHENS INDUSTRIES
(205) 775-9972
416 COUNTY ROAD 15 SOUTH
SELMA, AL 36701

BORN Chattanooga, Tennessee 13 Sept. 1921

MARRIED Minnie Steele McNeel 29 April 1950

CHILDREN

Martha Shorter Stephens Hughes
Gladys M. Stephens Elliott
Chester O. Stephens, III
(All children attended Auburn University)

EDUCATION

McCallie School Chattanooga, Tennessee
Graduated 1940

Auburn University
Graduated with B.S. Degree in Agriculture in 1947

Graduated Field Artillery School in 1943

Graduated Advance Course Field Artillery School in 1961

Command and General Staff College in 1967
Fort Leavenworth Kansas

Industrial War College in 1972

MILITARY SERVICE

I served in the Army as a 2nd Lt. from 1943 to 1946, assigned to the artillery as forward observer. We saw combat from St. Lo, France to Germany. In 1946, I was transferred to Army Reserve with the rank of Captain and continued in Active Reserve until July 1976. Then I retired with the rank of Colonel.

WORK HISTORY

I worked for Ralston Purina Co. as District Sales Manager for West Alabama from 1947 to 1960. I founded STRAL Co. in Greensboro in 1960. At STRAL we hatched and sold channel catfish fingerlings to farmers. We bought these fish back when they reached market size. The fish were then processed, packaged, sold and distributed to markets throughout the United States. STRAL merged with ConAgra in 1969.

Currently I am President and CEO of Stephens Industries, where we continue to produce and sell catfish fingerlings as well as Christmas trees, beef cattle and timber. In 1986 I organized American Freshwater Farms in Scottsboro, Alabama, where I am now serving as ~~President~~. At American Freshwater Farms we are involved in the production, processing and marketing of many different species of fish.

SOCIAL, CIVIC AND INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Director Alabama Christmas Tree Association

Director National Christmas Tree Association

Past Deacon Presbyterian Church

Past President Greensboro Rotary Club

Currently a Member of Selma Rotary Club

Chairman of Autauga County Rural Area Development

Member of Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce

Member of Selma & Dallas County Chamber of Commerce

Past President of Autauga County Farm Bureau

Director in Autauga County Farmers Federation

Past President and Chairman of Alabama Fisheries Association

Past Chairman Hale County Republican Party
1968-1972

Currently on Republican Party State
Executive Committee from Autauga County

Appointed to Alabama ABC Control Board in February 1990