

## **Pine Cone Profile, June 2021**

### **Ron Goodwin**

Anyone who knows Ron Goodwin knows how deeply he invests himself in everything he undertakes. From his poignant comparison of Juneteenth to the Arab Spring at the Civil War Conference ten years ago to the in-depth speakers he recruited for “The New Negro during World War II” session at TSHA this spring, Ron lives history—and shares it.

His contributions to prize-winning Civil War anthologies like *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy* show some of this devotion, just as his work with the Transportation Security Institute at his alma mater, Texas Southern University, shows his range. His years spent in the United States Air Force provide the insights shown in his papers on Black Airmen in Vietnam and on African Americans in the Military.

Ron’s books delve even deeper, including *Remembering the Days of Sorrow: The WPA and the Texas Slave Narratives*, *Pivotal Periods in US History: the 1860s and the 1960s*, and *African Americans in Houston*. But it’s with his students that Ron’s commitment to history shows truest: “Dr. Goodwin teaches with you,” one wrote, “not at you.” Here, in his own words, is ETHA’s Pine Cone Profile for June, Ron Goodwin.

#### ***Where do you live?***

I live in Stafford, TX, which is a suburb in SW Houston.

#### ***How long have you been in East Texas Historical Association?***

I’ve been hanging around the ETHA for almost 20 years.

#### ***Who convinced you to join?***

Dr. Bernadette Pruitt convinced me to join.

***What is there within ETHA that has kept you a member?***

The people. I've been treated like family since day one.

***What is there about Texas that attracts you?***

Texas has been my home since I was 10 years old. I love the weather (most days), the food, outdoor music, and the multiculturalism.

***What is there about history that attracts you?***

I love the fact that individuals from hundreds of years ago have the same problems that I do, whether at work, for example, or at home. Likewise, historical figures also experienced successes that built fortunes by following their guile.

***How do you usually pursue history: reading books/articles? writing columns? attending conferences? watching documentaries? doing research? exploring graveyards? teaching classes? developing exhibits? organizing programs? pursuing genealogies? administering courses? writing books? what else?***

I really enjoy watching (most) documentaries. I still enjoy the research and writing aspect of the discipline, but I'm finding I'm having less and less time to get into the archives. I've assumed a few administrative duties that have become very time-consuming.

***Why do you love history? Has there been anything in your personal life that led to this? What was it?***

I've always been intrigued with the past and fell in love with the book *Chariots of the Gods* when I was in high school. That book opened my mind to the possibilities of what might be/could have been in the past.

***What is your favorite historical period or historical movement? Why?***

My favorite historical period is right now! We're living in a technological time this world has never seen before (as far as we know) and that's fascinating to me.

***If there is one event in history at which you could be present, what would it be?  
Why?***

I would've loved to have been a fly on the wall the moment Jesus appeared to his disciples for the first time after his resurrection.