

## Editor's Note

This is the last article, (on the opposite page), written by Willard Webb for *The Arlington Historical Magazine*. As most of you know, Willard passed away on November 23, after a brief illness.

His obituary describes him as “a historian in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” and as having written “numerous” articles for the *Magazine*, but that doesn't do justice to the body of his work. Although he authored or co-authored at least fourteen articles that were published in *The Arlington Historical Magazine* over the years, perhaps two even greater contributions he made were done behind the scenes. He created and maintained an index to the *Magazine* – the only one that exists – that resides in the Virginia Room of the Arlington Central Library. This is an invaluable resource for serious researchers.

The second contribution I am thinking of was even more hidden from public view. Several years ago, Willard approached me with an idea for raising the general level of the *Magazine* and its articles. He suggested that an “editorial review board” of perhaps three professional historians be set up, separate from the editor, to review proposed *Magazine* articles for adherence to acceptable standards of historical quality. I concurred, and asked him to chair the panel. He accepted, and recruited two others. The names of those review board members were known only by themselves and by me, and for a number of years they willingly and faithfully helped and guided me in suggesting improvements to the authors' original submissions, and even occasionally rejecting an article as being “not appropriate” for publication. Without their services, the *Magazine* would not be what it is today.

(I know what you are thinking. No, Willard did not review his own articles. His writings, minus his name or other identifying information, were submitted to the rest of the board for review along with everybody else's. And they did not hesitate to suggest changes where appropriate – but with Willard's work, changes were rarely needed!)

I will leave it to others to describe Willard's professional accomplishments and awards. I will remember him as a friend, an advisor, and a major contributor to *The Arlington Historical Magazine*. I will miss him greatly.

Karl VanNewkirk