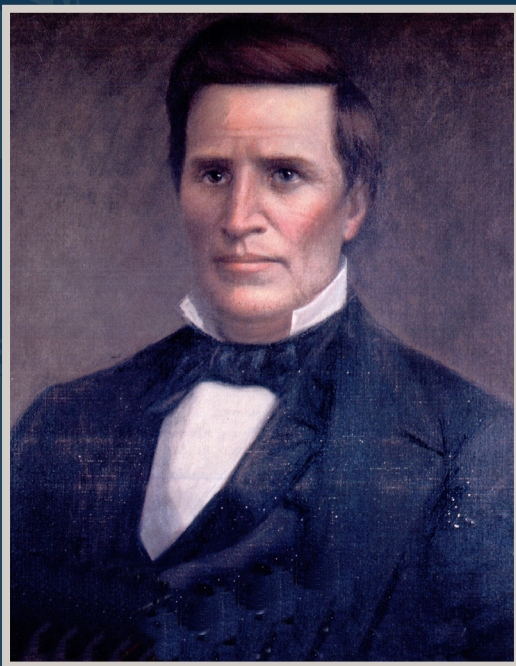


*Alexander W. Doniphan*

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



*Community Service Award*

OCTOBER 26, 2023

WOODNEATH LIBRARY CENTER | MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*The Alexander W. Doniphan Committee*  
&  
*Clay County Millennium Historical Board*

wish to express their sincere gratitude to the Woodneath Library Center, for their generous support and the use of the beautiful facilities.

The Committee offers their sincere thanks for the support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Kansas City area.



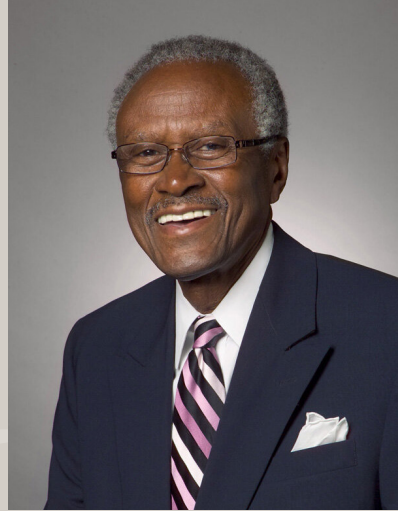
*The Alexander W. Doniphan Community  
Service & Leadership Award Committee*

Allen Jones and Steven V. Potter, Co-Chairs

Rodney Ames, Michael Beach, John A. Dillingham, Lori Garcia, Sheryl Gallagher,  
Kurt Graham, Laurie Jacobus, Cynthia McDavitt, Jeremiah J. Morgan, Diana  
Reiter, W. Christian Sizemore and Eric Zahnd

# Alvin Brooks

Alvin Brooks, often called Kansas City's most beloved civil rights activist and public servant, is a former police officer, city councilman, and mayor pro tem, as well as the founder of the AdHoc Group Against Crime.



His decades of civil rights, violence prevention, and criminal justice advocacy led President George H. W. Bush to appoint him to the President's National Advisory Council and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to appoint him to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners. Brooks has also worked as a business consultant and motivational speaker. He was elected to two uncontested terms to the city council. Brooks' lifework has been to better his community, make the world fair for all, and diminish bias and discrimination.

"Binding Us Together," Alvin Brooks' unique personal story of character, activism, and perseverance, tells of his connection to city and national leaders during dramatic times and provides a hands-on guide against bias for future generations. Acclaimed Academy Award-winning American film director and screenwriter Kevin Willmott is producing a documentary based on this recently released book.

Alvin Brooks is the recipient of numerous awards among which are: The Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service, UMKC Alumni of the Year Award and Alumni

Achievement Award, Red Cross Humanitarian Award, National Conference of Christians and Jews Outstanding Citizen Award, Peace Man Award (UMKC), BSA Whitney Young Jr. Service Award, Carl R. Johnson Humanitarian Award, FBI Community Leadership Award, Kansas City 2019 Citizen of the Year, Henry W. Bloch Human Relations Award, Invictus Award for Social Justice, MLK Jr. Committee, IS and Mahomies Foundation Community MVP Award.

In his honor, the new Alvin Brooks Center for Faith-Justice will be built on the Rockhurst University campus. Brooks holds bachelor's and master's degrees from UMKC. He and his late wife Carol were married 63 years and were the parents of 6 children, 17 grands, 45 greats, and 15 great greats. Alvin is a proud member of St. Monicas Catholic Church.



## *Past Recipients*

2021 - Anita Gorman

2009 - Dr. W. Christian Sizemore

2018 - Senator John C. Danforth

2008 - Raymond R. Brock, Jr.

2016 - Susan Easton Black

2007 - Juarenne Hester

2014 - Elder Lance B. Wickman

2005 - John A. Dillingham

2012 - Robert Arter, Lt. Gen., Ret.

2003- John & Mary Pritchard

2010 - S. Preston Williams

2002- Judge R. Kenneth Elliott



# Award Ceremony

## WELCOME

Steven Potter, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chair

## INVOCATION

Eric Zahnd, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sung by Cameron Huett, Choral Scholar, William Jewell College

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Heather Hall, Community Volunteer

## INTRODUCTION TO DONIPHAN MARCH

Laurie Jacobus, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member

## “COLONEL DONIPHAN GRAND MARCH”

Composed by A. Waldoner, Recorded by Alexandra Graham

# *Lives of Leadership*

## ALEXANDER W DONIPHAN

Jeremiah Morgan, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member

## ALVIN BROOKS

John Dillingham, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member



## PRESENTATION OF THE ALEXANDER W DONIPHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD TO

*Alvin Brooks*

## PRESENTATION

Steven Potter and Allen Jones, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chairs

## ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

Alvin Brooks

## PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

Representative Bill Allen, Missouri House of Representatives

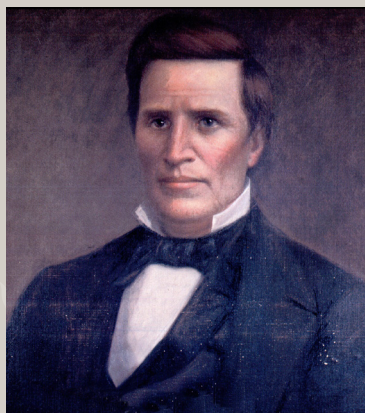
## BENEDICTION

Allen Jones, Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chair

## RETIREMENT OF COLORS

William C. Corum Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

# Alexander William Doniphan



Alexander William Doniphan was born near Maysville in Mason County, Kentucky, on July 9, 1808, and died in Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, on August 8, 1887. Doniphan graduated from Augusta College in Kentucky in 1827 at age 19. In 1829, after studying law for two years, he was admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio and Kentucky. In 1830 he relocated to Lafayette County, Missouri, where he established a law office. Within a few years, he traveled to Liberty, Clay County, where he became known as a fearless orator in the courts of law.

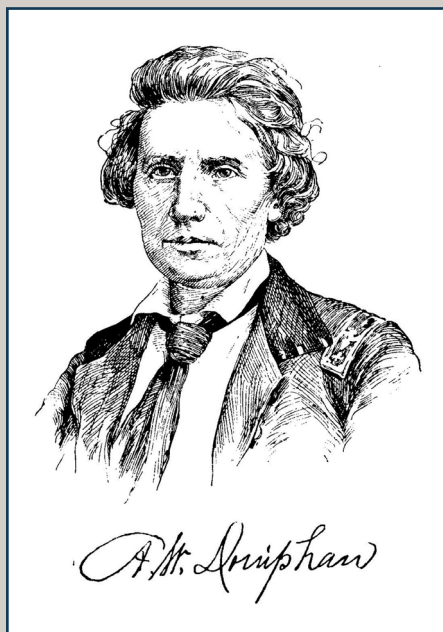
In 1837 he married Elizabeth Jane Thornton, a daughter of Colonel John Thornton, one of Clay County's first settlers. That marriage produced two sons, both of whom died in their youth by separate accidents. During Doniphan's 30 years in Clay County he was regarded as a leading citizen, giving the best of his abilities to the county's social and economic development. However, like nearly every other similarly situated man in his community at this time, Doniphan benefited from the labor and was the owner of enslaved people.

During Doniphan's 30 years in Clay County he was regarded as a leading

citizen, giving the best of his abilities to the county's social and economic development. Although a member of the Disciples of Christ Church, he was one of the founders of William Jewell College, a Baptist-affiliated school in Liberty, Missouri. His name appears as a trustee of a number of early schools and he later became the first Clay County School Commissioner.

Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell County as a home for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He had previously represented the claims of members of the church in property disputes from Jackson County. In the fall of 1838, Doniphan was called to lead a detachment of approximately 200 Clay County militia to Caldwell and Daviess counties, to assist in settling a dispute between residents in the area.

In what would become known as the Mormon War, Brigadier General Doniphan was ordered by General Lucas of the State Militia to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his older brother Hyrum and other Church leaders. He flatly refused the direct order, stating, "It is cold-blooded murder." Though his disobedience could have







led to his own court-martial, the refusal saved the lives of those Church leaders, who were turned over to civilian authorities.

Alexander Doniphan led one of the most famous expeditions in American history to Old Mexico in 1846-1847. His service during this war is recognized by

his inclusion in the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame.

Following his service in the war, Doniphan returned to his law practice in Liberty where he grew in reputation as a supporter of business, political and economic growth of the local community and the nation. He was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to serve as a delegate to the Washington Peace Conference in 1861. In 1862 he moved to St. Louis, where he worked as a lawyer with the Missouri Claims Commission seeking pensions for refugees during the Civil War.

Following the Civil War he relocated to Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, where he practiced law until his death at age 79. He is buried in Liberty, Missouri, beside his wife and two sons.

# Alexander (W) Doniphan

## THE FIRST CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

As a leader in education, Doniphan's name appears as trustee of a number of early schools in Missouri.

## WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

He joined with Major Alvin Lightbume and others as founders of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, more than 160 years ago.

## FORT LEAVENWORTH HALL OF FAME

Alexander Doniphan is one of nine distinguished pre-Civil War honorees who share placement on this Hall of Fame with General Douglas MacArthur, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Colin L. Powell, General William C. Westmoreland and other distinguished military leaders. Doniphan was the Brigade Commander in the Missouri State Militia during the Mexican American War. His brigade, including Clay County Militia, marched more than 5,500 miles and fought three important battles - Brazito, Sacramento and El Paso - conquering the states

of Mexico and Chihuahua. Following the war, Doniphan drafted the code of civil law for the territory in both English and Spanish.

## A MISSOURI LEGISLATOR OF THE WHIG PARTY

Elected to represent Clay County in 1836, 1840 and 1854, Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell and Daviess counties. He is also credited as a leading force in facilitating the Platte Purchase.

## WASHINGTON PEACE CONFERENCE

Doniphan was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as a delegate to the conference in 1861.



## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

As Brigadier General of the Clay County Militia, serving during the Mormon War of 1838, he refused a direct order to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Church, his brother Hyrum and five other Church leaders, thus saving their lives. During the following months, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and four other Church leaders were held in the Liberty jail awaiting trial. The charges against them proved to be false and they were allowed to escape and reunite with their families.



### *About the Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award*

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award recognizes the honoree as one who exemplifies General Doniphan's outstanding characteristics and personal commitments in one or more of the diverse components of his life, mainly Education, Jurisprudence, Statesmanship, Patriotism in Defense of Country, and Integrity in Business.

On his 200th birthday, July 9, 2008, Alexander W. Doniphan was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians by the Speaker of the

Missouri House, and a life-sized bust was placed in the Missouri State Capitol in honor of his exemplary life and achievements.

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award is made possible through the efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Kansas City area, the Clay County Millenium Historical Board and the Clay County Commission.





*Alexander W. Doniphan*

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION