



CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 10th Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 27 No. 05 May 2011

Editor Don Young

May 2011 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, FL

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from menu 7:00 – 8:00 Program 8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting.

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month.

CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb	321-259-8391
Treasurer Tom Watkins	321-254-0241
2 nd Lt.	Open
1 st Lt. Don Young	321-452-3207
Adjutant	Open
Commander Kevin Atchison	321-242-1126

CAMP STAFF

Color Sgt Evan Phillips	321-961-9407
Q'termaster	Open
Judge Advocate Don Lock	321-752-9276
Public Information Officer	Open
Editor Don Young	321-452-3207
Heritage Don Young	321-452-3207
Matron Of Honor	Open
UDC/OCR Liaison Miss Lee	452-3207

COMMANDERS CORNER

Saturday, 7 May 2011, Camp 1387's Color Guard participated in the annual "Massing of the Colors" for the Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park. Participants included 1st Lt. Commander Don Young, Gerry and Greg Carson, and me. This year's event did not seem as well attended as in previous years. Reasons being may have been the event was on Mother's Days weekend as well as being much later this year due to a late Easter. We manned an SCV information booth for a few hours. We did have a few interested people stop by but as in the past most of them were from out of town. I would like to thank Chaplain Tim Cobb for providing the tent for us. It made a big difference from being in the direct sunshine. Also thanks goes out to our treasurer Tom Watkins for helping man the booth while we were involved in the massing of the colors.

Our color guard will participate in a Memorial Day Parade at Rockledge on the 29th (Sunday) of May, muster at 1pm step off at 2 pm. This is the first time that Rockledge has had a Memorial Day Parade. Our Color Guard and rifle squad will participate. The SCV Christmas Camp (2120) will also participate as well as a Sons of Union Veterans Camp from central Florida. We also

have invitation out for a Mounted Calvary Unit. I would highly encourage everyone in our camp to attend this event.

We have been asked by the Florida 5th Brigade to participate in a marker dedication for Sgt. J.G. Poppell on Saturday 04 June in Seville Florida. Please see the separate article.

Finally, during our 26 May Camp meeting we will be swearing in three new compatriots, Jim Meeks, Robert Meeks, and Richard Still. Please come out and welcome these new members.

Uniforms please gentlemen, if you have it wear it.

In service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

26 May	Camp Meeting
29 May	Rockledge Memorial Day Parade and Picnic
30 May	Cocoa River Front Memorial Day AVCG
04 June	Poppell Marker Dedication, Seville
09 June	E-board Meeting
19 June	Sam Davis Youth Camp
23 June	Camp Meeting

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PROGRAM

CSS Nuese

One of our favorite speakers, **Tracy White**, will present one of his special then and now programs on the CSS Nuese. This North Carolina built ironclad was a great hope of the CSA, come and hear her history and destiny as only Tracy can present it.



New Recruits

New Recruits James Meeks, Robert Meeks and Richard Still, will be sworn in during the May meeting. James Meeks ancestor was Lt. Alexander L. Slone, Co. A, 61st Georgia Infantry. Robert Meeks ancestor was Private William B. Widener, Co. H, 37th Virginia Infantry. Richard Still's ancestor was Benjamin Still, Jr, Co. C, 9th Georgia Infantry. Please wear your uniforms.

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May 05 funeral services for long time compatriot Edward C. Dancy Jr. were held at the First United Methodist Church of Vero Beach. Ed had been a member of that church since 1928. Ed was well known to members of the 10th and 12th Brigades of southeast Florida. Ed was always there no matter what the need, he could be counted on. Most members of the Vero Camp were present and Division was represented by 12th Brigade Cmdr. Frank and Lt. Young.

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony Photos Christy Atchison and Ryan Washburn. For more, go to Camp website. Enjoy.



Miss Nell Mussler, UDC, and Miss Lee, OCR, have coordinated our services for 12+years



Colors



CSA bagpiper Kelly Dobson

Other 10th Brigade Memorial Day Events

Saturday April 24th

Camp 1516 Jacob Summerlin held their Memorial at the Veterans Park in St Cloud FL. It was a well attended Memorial with a County Commissioner attending along with the park manager the U.D.C. and O.C.R. was in attendance as well. Hats off to Commander Greg Smith on a well organized Memorial.

Camp 102 CSS Florida held their Memorials starting at the Confederate Monument on Lake Eola Downtown Orlando. Another well attended memorial again with U.D.C and the O.C.R. attending. After the monument we headed over to the Greenwood cemetery to Honor the Veterans. Another well attended event and again hats off to Commander Kim Cullers for a well organized Memorial.

Camp 1630 Bluford M. Sims held their Memorial at the Ocoee Cemetery. This was my first candlelight service and it sure will not be the last. This was a well attended Memorial again well represented by the U.D.C., O.C.R. and several camps attending. Also the Mayor of Ocoee was on site. I recommend any memorial you can attend but if you have never been to a candlelight memorial this is a must to attend. Hats off to Commander Glen Richardson on a well organized Memorial.

Saturday April 30th

Camp 2120 Munnerlyn's Cattle Guard Battalion held their Memorial at the Christmas, Cemetery. It was a well attended memorial with the U.D.C., O.C.R. attending along with S.C.V. Camp 1596 and S.C.V Camp 1680 S.C.V Camp 1387. Hats off to Camp 2120 on a well organized Memorial .also attending and guest speaker 12th Brigade Commander Wesley Frank, Division Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff Richard Lee, Division Treasurer Robert Murray.

An estimated 350 in all witnessed the Confederate Veterans Honored by the 10th Brigade Camps

I am also pleased that I was able to attend all 10th Brigade Camp's Memorials and looking forward to many more events ahead with the Brigade.

10th Brigade Commander, Larry Rowe Florida Division

Confederate License Plate Battle Goes Back to Court

Blown off by Legislature, heritage group could blow up state's specialty-tag program

By: Kenric Ward | Sunshine News, Posted: May 12, 2011 3:55 AM

Tags: Confederacy, court, Department of Motor Vehicles, Florida Legislature, Fred O'Neal, Hispanic Achievers, John Adams, News, Sons of Confederate Veterans, specialty license plates, tags, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Politics, Government. A new civil war is brewing in Florida, now that the Legislature failed to approve a Confederate license plate.

<http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/confederate-license-plate-battle-goes-back-court>

Marking the sesquicentennial start of the "War of Northern Aggression," the Sons of Confederate Veterans are determined to get their "Heritage" tag or take down the state's entire specialty-plate program.

In a March 30 decision, a federal judge ruled that Florida's program -- under which the state Legislature approves the plates -- was unconstitutional because it gives "unfettered discretion to engage in viewpoint discrimination."

The Florida SCV ignited the legal battle when it sued the state after the Legislature failed to approve the Confederate plate.

Since the court ruling, SCV leaders tried to get lawmakers to reconsider, but their pleas fell on deaf ears.

"They had a million and one excuses. We got nowhere," said John Adams, first lieutenant commander of the Florida SCV.

Adding to the irony, and fueling Southern angst, state lawmakers did find time to approve a "Hispanic Achievers" plate during the session.

"We still have a Legislature that was discriminatory, and continues to be," Adams fumed.

Heading back to court, the 1,500-member heritage group now asserts that the Legislature created an "unconstitutional forum" and failed to address U.S. District Judge John Antoon's order to remove itself from the plate-approval system.

In his motion, attorney Fred O'Neal, representing the SCV, asked the court to either strike down the statutes in question or re-open the case.

Though the SCV lists only about 1,400 active members, Adams notes that its companion female organization, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, has roughly 2,000 members. Another 5,000 Floridians are classified as "inactive" members.

SCV members must prove they are related to an ancestor who served during the Civil War. But the Confederate Heritage plate would be available to any Florida motorist who pays the standard \$25 annual fee for a specialty tag.

Adams said a required survey of potential purchasers indicated that the plate would begin with an issue of 4,500 tags.

"We won't have the problems the Girl Scouts had," he predicted, noting that the group failed to meet the sales threshold of 1,200 plates over two years. Sons of Confederate Veterans, based nationally in Columbia, Tenn., currently sponsors the Confederate-inspired tags in nine states:

Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Texas and Kentucky are currently considering Confederate plates of their own. Neither Maryland nor Kentucky were in the Confederacy. "The plates promote a positive image of the Confederate States of America. The Confederate soldier, he takes a beating nowadays. We're trying to divest ourselves of the negative associations," Jay Barringer, the commander of the SCV Maryland Division, told USA Today this week.

Citing Judge Antoon's March 30 ruling, Adams said the Florida Legislature is "running amok" and must be barred from politicizing an administrative process.

"A 2004 state report explained this would happen. The report concluded that the DMV could manage the program in a nonpartisan way, but the Legislature just ignored it. It's pathetic," Adams said.

While the SCV fulfilled all DMV requirements -- including the payment of a \$60,000 application fee -- the 2011 Legislature detoured around DMV rules and procedures when it arbitrarily approved the "Hispanic Achievers" plate, O'Neal said.

"The National Hispanic Corporate Achievers Inc., simply sought out a legislator to sponsor enabling legislation authorizing the issuance of their plate by a simple amendment" to state statute, O'Neal wrote in his motion on April 28.

"The nuclear option is to get the whole statute knocked out," Adams said. "Then we'll see what happens to all those FSU plates out there."

No Florida legislator could be reached for comment, but state DMV spokesman David Westberry said the court ruling didn't order the state to issue the Confederate Heritage plates. It's up to the Legislature to decide whether it will rework the statute, he said.

The state has until Thursday to formally respond to SCV's latest court filing.

Sam Davis Youth Camp

The Sam Davis Youth Camp will be conducted at SW Virginia Woodmen of the World Family Activity Center located at 1336 Simmons Mill Rd, Thaxton, VA 24174. The camp will run Sunday June 19th to Saturday, June 25th, 2011.

The deadline for applications is Monday, Jun 13, 2011.

Website is <http://samdavis.scv.org>. It however does not have the correct application.

PLEASE SEND EVERYONE TO www.scv.org and see what is scrolling up at the bottom of the main page. It has the correct applications.

We need to get as many as possible of our young people to this camp. Camp 1614 plans to send 3 campers and Paige and I plan to attend. If you have any young people interested, get their applications in as soon as possible.

Compatriot Jim Davis has again offered this year to help us rent a van if we can get enough young ones interested and sponsors. If so, Camp 1614 is going to add to a fund for support of travel expenses.

Education is the key to our success and the ones after us are the key to our future. Remember the past, build the present, Nurture the Future.

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Race - Hate Article Dujour: Answer to Leonard Pitts Hate Article By Robert Flaniken, Historian

It amazes me that even today, people continue to accuse the South in general, and some Southerners in particular, of carrying on the war - of looking backward instead of forward - of

being traitors or mass murderers. Perhaps, Mr. Pitts, your compass is pointing in the wrong direction.

As I recall, the North invaded the South - not vice-versa. Southerners didn't fight for racism and slavery - they fought because their homes and their states were being unlawfully invaded. If slavery was the only thing the war was about, there never would have been a war. Only a small minority of Northerners pushed for abolition, and only a small minority of Southerners owned slaves. According to the 1860 census, there were over 8 million people in the 14 slave-holding states (counting Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky). Of that number, only 384,884 owned slaves. Why would people fight for something they never had and couldn't afford? Of course, this requires that you actually study your history and apparently too many people don't do that.

You perpetuate the myth that Nathan Forrest began the KKK. He was in the state of New York when the Ku Klux Klan was formally organized. Upon his return, he was approached to be its Grand Imperial Wizard. He accepted, and used the Klan more for political leverage than individual hate crimes against African Americans. When he saw that the Klan was bending more in the direction of personal hate crimes, Forrest officially disbanded the Klan. Whatever sprouted up after that point had nothing to do with Forrest. But, then again, you'd actually have to study your history to learn this.

The story of Fort Pillow and its supposed "massacre" is even more amazing. Having studied the battle and having been to the battlefield, I can tell you it's a rough place. It's not easy attacking a fortified position over the terrible terrain the Southern soldiers under Forrest had to travel. The fact the Confederate force outnumbered the Union force 3 to 1 and that the Union force was badly commanded led to their terrible loss. That Forrest held a flag of truce and summoned the garrison to surrender prior to his attack is in the history books. The fact that the Union garrison refused to surrender is also well-documented. What happened after that shouldn't have happened, but it did. It was not indiscriminate slaughter nor a "massacre". If it had been, all the Union soldiers would have been killed. But they weren't. Forrest's command took more than 200 prisoners of the 550-man garrison, including African Americans. But then again, you'd have to actually study your history to find all this out.

You complain that the South continues to look backward. They have to. It took over 100 years to fully rebuild the South from the war's devastation - a devastation that never touched the North. And they rebuilt it without any help from the North. You study the post-war efforts of our country to help rebuild Japan and Germany after World War II and you'll find that we literally picked them up and put them back on track. You study our own country after the Civil War and the South got zero. Nazis received aid and assistance...Southerners got "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags". And still you wonder about things...

You say the South tries to rewrite history. Southerners have to. The story written by the winners of the war are even more fantastically wrong than people realize. When the first written accounts of the Civil War hit school history books in the 1880s, the United Confederate Veterans organization protested the slant of it. Their protests fell on deaf ears. The North won, so the North wrote their own version. Although it's based on facts, it doesn't give the whole story, and it definitely ignores any Southern perspective. The history in the school books hasn't changed in 130 years. But so many generations have been indoctrinated to it that like the oft-repeated lie, it becomes truth. And the longer it remains accepted as truth, the harder it is for anyone to even consider a different viewpoint of it. Especially journalists.

But then, you'd have to actually study history to find all this out.

VA's Treatment of Southerners

Re: Perry Allen Thrasher, 111-2, Spinal Cord Unit - 1 West, c/o VA Medical Center
1030 Jefferson Ave, Memphis, TN 38104. Our fellow Confederate descendant has been refused to keep his Battle flag in his VA hospital room. The above is his address. Send him a card,

flowers, Battle flags, etc. Let's show him support and wish him well! Your servant, Jamey B Creel

Let me add this right away. We learned that Mr. Thrasher is a lineal descendant of Gilbert Thrasher, 44th Alabama Infantry. So our paralyzed veteran that was punished for forwarding the colors is being brought into Bell's Partisans Camp #1821, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Donations were taken from everyone present in the ward waiting room and we have his dues covered. Photo was all we could get before the VA staff made us stop taking pics. Brother Lenny in his gown with Mr. Thrasher.



Your Humble Servant, Wesley Frank, SCV, MECHANIZED CAVALRY, 12 Brigade Cmdr.

MISSION COMPLETE - THRASHER FUND

In SCV-MC@yahoo.com, Lenny Stover <patrolcmdr@...> wrote:

- > Brothers,
- > First..thanks to the NE Troop of 1-D, to the Winston County Grays in Alabama and
- > to Fred "Hippie Frank" Wright out in California. With their donations, we are
- > Finally over the top!
- > The check for Mr. Thrasher's life membership in both the SCV and the Mississippi
- > Division was mailed to his camp commander yesterday.
- > I have, held in reserve, \$100 for Mr. Thrasher's Mechanized Cavalry membership
- > and I will submit his application as soon as we receive his SCV number. There
- > is a small excess in the Thrasher fund, which will be split in half and donated
- > to the Heritage Defense Fund and the Confederate Museum fund.
- > I will announce the date of Mr. Thrasher's induction as soon as it is determined.
- > Outstanding job, my brothers. What we have accomplished here is absolutely
- > awesome. You have demonstrated to the entire Sons of Confederate Veterans that
- > the Mechanized Cavalry is the most dynamic and aggressive part of the SCV and
- > that we will "saddle up" to adversity.
- > I did not think that it was possible, but I am actually even more proud of the patch on my back today!!! You guys truly do RIDE AS YOU WOULD WITH FORREST.
- > May God bless and protect each and every one of you.
- > Acting Lt. Lenny "Nimrod" Stover #810, SCV Mechanized Cavalry.

SCV vs. VA Oakwood Grave Marker Fight Gains Ally

By WESLEY P. HESTER | Richmond Times-Dispatch

With the arrival of the Civil War's sesquicentennial, the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is fighting an urgent battle to honor more than 17,000 Confederate soldiers buried in eastern Richmond's Oakwood Cemetery. The group has gained an ally in

Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va. But the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says the current numbered marble blocks — three fallen soldiers to a block — are good enough. If approved, individual granite headstones would cost the Department of Veterans Affairs about \$189.87 apiece, making the total cost for the cemetery about \$3.2 million.

"This is total, total discrimination," said F. Lee Hart III of Suffolk, chairman of the SCV Oakwood Restoration Committee. "I don't think they want to see an Arlington of Richmond, with all of the positive media and tourism that this cemetery will draw, this being the largest combat casualty Confederate cemetery." Jim Rich, a spokesman with the VA's National Cemetery Administration, said "cost was in no way a factor in evaluating this request. "Hart agrees. "It's a Confederate issue," he said.

After years of negotiations with the city and eventual approval from the state's legislature, SCV's Virginia division assumed responsibility for the 10-acre Confederate portion of the cemetery two years ago. The primary purpose of taking it off the city's hands was to install upright memorial markers — with engraved names — to replace the 6-inch-by-6-inch numbered marble blocks now in place.

But when the SCV placed a trial order for 10 markers last year, it received a rude awakening in the form of a denial letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the letter, Steve L. Muro, acting undersecretary for memorial affairs, said that the existing markers are appropriate, adding that new markers are provided only to currently unmarked graves. Muro also said that the upright markers "would have an adverse effect on the historic setting and potentially archeological resources."

Incensed, the SCV filed a letter of disagreement, requesting further justification. They then found support from Webb, who has ancestors on both sides of the Civil War. Webb recently challenged Muro on the topic at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, pointing out that Confederate and Union soldiers have the same legal status. Webb also filed a formal letter of disagreement taking exception with the VA's determination that the current numbered stones constituted a properly "marked" grave. "Those marble blocks, which were installed in 1901, are not individual markers for specific graves, but rather serve to identify locations where multiple Confederate soldiers are interred," Webb wrote in the letter. Hart seconded that, noting that The Ladies Memorial Association for the Confederate Dead of Oakwood Cemetery, which originally ran the cemetery, installed upright markers in 1868 for a reason. Unfortunately, they were wooden. When they began to rot, "people became infuriated," said Hart, and the current stones were put in as a temporary measure.

"The Veterans Administration had put the word out that these numbered markers were the original concept, which is so far from the truth it's not even funny," Hart said. "These markers were put in by the state out of desperation to keep the records straight." Not only were the current stones not the intent, he said, they're crumbling. "The stones are all damaged, a lot of them illegible, and some numbers are completely chipped away," Hart said. "It's disgraceful." In an email, Rich said Friday that the VA considers the graves "adequately marked in a manner customary for the historic period in which they were installed, "adding that several national cemeteries use the same style numbered markers. "Historic records clearly indicate that between 1902 (and) 1912, the Oakwood Memorial Association deliberately marked these graves in a manner the Association considered appropriate and enduring," he said. "Although the marble markers at Oakwood Cemetery do not identify by name the individuals buried at the location of a particular marker, they contain numeric inscriptions that are used to identify those individuals," he added.

Pending a detailed response from the VA explaining the basis of the denial, the SCV plans to appeal the decision, said Hart. "You would not believe the people all across the country with ancestors out there who want this done," he said.

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