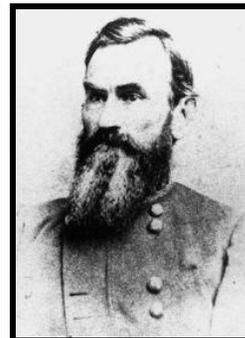


# The Delta General

The Delta General is a publication of the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625; the Brig/Gen Charles Clark Chapter #235, MOS&B; and the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR. Any reproduction of this newsletter without permission of the Editor is prohibited.

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## August Meeting

The August meeting will feature a Birthday Picnic (Pot Luck Dinner) in honor of our Camp's namesake, Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys (see inside story on the life of General Humphreys). We will also here a speech on CD titled "The Truth About Our Battleflag".

Business will include: 1) National Convention Reports, 2) State Convention Updates, 3) Southern Conference, 4) and much more

Please bring friends and the whole family as we honor General Humphreys and we use this opportunity to renew old friendships. Remember, this is your Camp not the Camp Officers. We can only be successful if you are willing to participate to make our Camp a success. Hope to see you there.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

This past Camp Meeting we had a typical "Meet, Greet, and Eat" meeting. We gathered together to celebrate the birthday of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest with an indoor picnic. There was plenty of good food and good fellowship. We had such a good time; we will do it again at the August Meeting to celebrate the birth of our camp's namesake, Brig.-Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys. The Camp opted to have a pot luck supper instead of going to Grand Gulf in lieu the high gas prices and high temperatures. So, bring your favorite dish or dessert and enjoy a night of fellowship. Earl informed me the MOS&B will provide drinks. We need someone to bring plates, cups and utensils. One thing I would like to do that evening is to have a brain storming session and help design a convention medal for next year's Division Convention so be thinking

of a design.

Our new fiscal year will begin on August 1 which means your annual dues need to be paid in order to remain a member in good standing. National increased their dues by \$ 10 last year at Mobile which means your total dues for this year will be \$ 50 which includes National, Division and Camp dues. Please make checks payable to "SCV" and mail to me at 205 Cypress Street; Leland, MS 38756. Life members of the National SCV and Division need only pay Camp Dues. New members need to send their signed application and their check for \$ 55 payable to "SCV" to me. New members pay a one time \$ 5 filing fee upon joining the SCV. Dues **must be received** at National by October 31 so pay early!

At the Division Convention, there were several changes in the Division By-Laws. One change was the proration of annual dues. I would like to propose the following change to our Camp's By-Laws in Article V: Fi-

nances to wit: Add a new Section 2 and re-number the existing Sections accordingly. The new Section 2 to read as follows:

"A prospective member who joins the Son of Confederate Veterans in the Third Quarter (Feb, Mar, Apr) or Fourth Quarter (May, Jun, Jul) of the current fiscal year may elect to prorate his dues for the current fiscal year. The prospective member can choose this option only if he has elected to prorate his dues on the National and Division level and paid those dues accordingly, and he must pay the next year's Camp dues in full. The prorated rate shall be as follows: Third Quarter, one-half of annual Camp dues and Fourth Quarter, one-fourth of annual Camp dues. By electing this option, the prospective member will be paid in full for the remainder of the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year."

God Bless the South,  
Dan A. McCaskill, Commander

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

### TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

Just a reminder, at last year's National Convention in Mobile, a vote was passed to increase National dues by \$10.00 a person. That will make our re-up dues \$50.00 a year. The old year ends on July 31 and the new year begins on August 1. Renewals are to be paid before October 31 or their will be a late fee assigned. The new year holds a lot of promise for our Camp since we will be hosting the 2009 State Convention in

Greenwood. We also have a quite a few new members waiting to join indicating a rejuvenation of interest in preserving our heritage. Make sure you make out your checks of \$50.00 to SCV and mail to:

**Dan McCaskill**  
205 Cypress Street  
Leland, MS 38756

Don't wait too long, those who do not pay by October 31 will no longer get the Delta General.

## WELCOME NEW CAMP MEMBERS

Daniel Cager Bell  
Ancestor:  
James Josephus McGahey, MD  
Great, Great Grandfather  
Surg; Co. C & H, 5<sup>th</sup> AL Inf

Steve Sweet  
Ancestor: Joel Pearson Dillon  
Great, Great Grandfather  
Pvt; Co. E, 33<sup>rd</sup> MS Inf

### ATTENTION: Address Changes

If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail – [confederate@roadrunner.com](mailto:confederate@roadrunner.com)

### \* Newsletter Disclaimer:

Editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted and all submissions to the newsletter must be in proper format (all Caps not accepted).

## CAMP AND SOCIETY NEWS:

## CAMP REPRESENTED IN CONCORD AT NATIONAL

Concord has come and gone and our Camp was well represented by our Camp member Larry McCluney, Mississippi Division Commander. It seems that Larry was appointed on the General Staff of the new Commander-in-Chief as Historian-in-Chief. This is a great honor for Larry and our Camp.

Election results include:

ANV Commander - Brag Bowling  
ANV Councilman - Gene Hogan  
ATM Commander - Todd Owens  
ATM Councilman - Paul Gramling  
AoT Commander - Kelly Barrow  
AoT Councilman - Tom Strain  
Commander-in-Chief –

Chuck McMichael by acclamation  
Lt. Commander-in-Chief –



(L to R) Greg Stewart, George Church, Carl Ford, Larry McCluney, Cecil Fayard, Chris Cummins all standing in front of the 1929 SCV Reunion Flag that was held in North Carolina in 1929.

Michael Givens

There was also some excitement at the Convention as well. Kentucky Division Lieutenant Commander Bazz Childress was briefly arrested Thursday night for the horrible crime of hanging a Battle Flag in his hotel room window. The action was taken at the belligerent behest of the owner of the Wingate Wyndham. Immediately SCV guests of the hotel began cancelling their stays, and all SCV and friends are requested to terminate their stays at the Wingate Wyndham in Concord. Further instructions for proper retaliations against the Wingate Wyndham in Concord are being planned and more instructions will follow.

## MOS &amp; B NEWS:

## 2009 Military Order of Stars and Bars Annual Convention

The South Carolina Society MOSB wishes to welcome all members home to Columbia, South Carolina, the birthplace of the MOSB.

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB) was born in South Carolina on August 30, 1938. The 48th Annual Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans and the 43rd Annual Convention of the Sons of Confederate Veterans met at the Columbia Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina August 30 through September 2, 1938. On August 30, 1938 an organizational meeting was held at 3:00 PM and the Order of the Stars and Bars, as

it was known then, was created. The initial membership was composed of 17 former commissioned officers of the Confederate States military and 47 male descendants of Confederate officers. Two South Carolinians, both descendants of Confederate officers, were among the original members of the MOSB. These were Dr. Baylis H. Earle of Greenville and James d'Alvigny McCollough of Honea Path.

- Past SCMOSB Commander  
Wayne Roberts

Host Hotel

The hotel selected for the 2009

National Convention is the Hilton Garden Inn, Harbison. This hotel is located northwest of downtown Columbia, adjacent to Interstate I-26. We selected it based on price, location, and their ability to host all of our functions.

Thursday Evening Cookout

The South Carolina Society will be hosting a family cookout for all that are coming to the 2009 MOSB Convention. Once you have checked in at the host hotel, please plan to make the short drive to the neighborhood clubhouse at Chestnut Hill Plantation.

There will be plenty of food and drink for all to enjoy. The Broad River overlook is only a three minute walk from the clubhouse.

Statue of President Washington

During the invasion by Union troops, the statue of President George Washington was mistaken by the invaders as being a statue of President Jefferson Davis. Seems that they over looked the Colonial attire and the distinctive features of our first President. While trying to destroy the statue, George Washington's walking cane was broken.

## OCR NEWS:

## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE BY AUGUST 31

Just a reminder, we need to pay our dues by August 31. The old year ends on July 31 and the new year begins on August 1. So do not drag your feet in paying your renewals. The new year holds a lot of promise for our Chapter. We will be assisting the men in preparing for ours and their 2009 State Convention in Greenwood. We also have a quite a few new members waiting to join indicating a rejuvenation of interest in preserving our heritage.

Make sure you make out your checks of \$20.00 to OCR and mail to:

**Missy Stillman**  
1720 Les Lane  
Greenville, MS 38701

Don't wait too long, those who do not pay by August 31 will no longer get the Delta General.



Pierre Westbrook and Larry McCluney at the Elzy Cemetery Confederate Memorial Service in Calhoun County

## MISSISSIPPI DIVISION NEWS: LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN?

With dues going up this year maybe you should rethink about becoming a life member in the Mississippi Division or the Confederation.

The contribution to the Confederation Life Endowment Fund is based on 25 times the annual dues. Because the annual dues are being increased effective August 1, 2008 Life Membership Contributions will increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00. Or from \$250.00 to \$375.00 if you happen be of the golden age of 65.

In addition to exempting you from paying Confederation dues you will have the pleasure of knowing you are leaving a legacy for our cause.

Want an even bigger bargain? For a \$125.00 contribution you can

become a conditional life member and lock in the lower contribution of \$500.00 (or \$250.00). You will have three years to complete your life membership contribution.

Please note that Life Membership in the National Organization does not exempt a member from paying Division and Camp dues; however Life Memberships are available in the Mississippi Division.

For details and application forms for both National and Division Life Memberships click [http://www.mississippiascv.org/membership.html#Life\\_Memberships](http://www.mississippiascv.org/membership.html#Life_Memberships)

Since the rejuvenation of this program, we currently have 25 life members in the Mississippi Division Life

Membership. This is almost 4 times more than we had before Convention. With your enrollment you will receive a Life Membership Certificate and a Mississippi Division Life membership pin. Don't wait, this is a great way to save money and insure that our heritage is preserved for future generations.



## MISSISSIPPI DIVISION CONVENTION REPORT

Motions to revise certain portions of our Mississippi Division Bylaws were introduced and approved by the membership at the annual Reunion At Beauvoir on May 31.

- These revisions basically:
- Conform MS Div bylaws with SCV national constitution.
  - Incorporate IRS language necessary to retain our 501(c)3 designation.
  - Clarify Mississippi Life Membership provisions.

- Provide a Mississippi Conditional Life Membership.
- Protect Life Membership Endowment funds.
- Provide for prororation of Division Annual Dues for new or reinstating members.
- Require that any dormant funds be placed in an insured income producing investment.
- Incorporate our Battleflag preservation project.
- Create a Heritage Fund for the

- promotion and defense of our Southern Heritage.
- Clarify and conform method and timing of notices to Officers and Camps.
- Change the name of the Nominating Committee and more clearly define its duties.
- Add three standing committees.
- Add Chairman of the Joint Boards of Beauvoir to the

Executive Council.

- Revise composition of the Beauvoir Boards.
- Other revisions to effect cost savings.

To review the revised bylaws go to <http://www.mississippiascv.org/ByLaws.html>

## SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE— AUGUST 15-16 MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!!

**THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM LABOR DAY WEEKEND TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WEEKEND IN AUGUST, 15-16. WE WON HAVE FOOTBALL OR DOVE SEASON TO CONTEND WITH!**

14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE and 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFEDERATE CEILEDH

All you **politically incorrect** folks, come celebrate the **South** with the Jones County Rosin Heels SCV Camp at the **Southern Heritage Conference** at Bethlehem Baptist Church about 5 miles east of Laurel, MS on Highway 184 E. We have **in your face** speakers, music, food and fellowship!

Our speakers are **Mississippi Commander, Larry McCluney, Chaplin-in -Chief, Bro. Cecil Fayard and Al Benson.** Al Benson has co-authored a new book with Donnie Kennedy and will either have them to sell or take orders.

We will meet Friday, **August 15** at 6:00 PM to visit, shop and get seated to start at 7.00pm. We meet again at 8:30 AM Saturday with speeches to start at 9.00 AM, **August 16.** We'll break for dinner at noon and eat on the premises, and come back afterwards for the afternoon session.

Saturday nite dress casual or dress out in Confederate uniforms and antebellum ball gowns or wee kilties for the **Saturday evening supper and Confederate Ceiledh** at 5:00. We will try to eat at 5.30. At

a Ceiledh, everyone is invited to sing, tell a joke, read a poem, etc. At the supper and **Ceiledh** we will post the colors. We will need all **uniformed Confederates and kilted Scots to bring weapons** and join in to protect colors, and piper.

NOON DINNER \$10.00 PER PERSON, SUPPER \$15.00 PER PERSON

**You MUST make MEAL RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE**

Mail check to:  
**Jones County Rosin Heels,  
P. O. Box 52, Laurel, MS 39441  
PHONE: 601/649-1867 days,  
601/426-2041 nights, email:  
csaford@hotmail.com**



**We'll see you at the Southern Heritage Conference! Put us down!**

## NATIONAL SCV NEWS:

**CONFEDERATE HERO WAS A SLAVE:****Memorial honors his role in Civil War, including as aide to Lee.**

By Cliff Harrington of the Charlotte Observer

**MONROE** -- Information about Wary Clyburn had been tucked away for years in old records and the memory of his daughter, Mattie Rice.

There were records that showed he had been approved to receive a pension in 1926 after letters confirmed he was a Civil War veteran. And there are the memories Mattie Clyburn Rice has from conversations with her father. Wary Clyburn was a slave.

On Friday, he was honored by the city of Monroe and Sons of Confederate Veterans as an African American Confederate hero. A diverse crowd of around 200 attended.

Wary was owned by Frank Clyburn, a plantation owner in Lancaster County, S.C. He went on to serve in the Civil War as a bodyguard for Thomas Clyburn, son of Frank, and later was a special aide to Gen. Robert E. Lee, documents show.

Wary died when his daughter, Mattie, was 8. She was born in 1922. Her father was born about 1841 and died in 1930, according to records cited by Earl Ijames, a



**Mary Elizabeth Clyburn Hooks, granddaughter of Wary Clyburn, places a rose on his grave at Friday's ceremony. A memorial was held in Monroe at Hillcrest Cemetery to honor Clyburn, a former slave who was a Confederate hero in the Civil War. It has taken years for his role to come to light.**

curator of the N.C. Museum of History.

Various documents spell Wary's name several ways: Werry, Weary and Wary. Rice says the correct spelling is Wary.

She was unable to attend Friday's memorial ceremony, even though she had worked for years to gather details about her father. Rice became sick and was taken to a local

hospital early Friday.

The ceremony answered many questions. In a statement Friday, Ijames said Thomas Clyburn joined the Confederate army at age 19. Wary then ran away from the plantation and went to join the Confederate Army with Thomas. Many believed the two had become friends during boyhood.

Rice this week recalled conversations with her father. "We talked a lot about the war," she said. "... He told me he just went to war with this fella he grew up with. He said his family wasn't treated like the other slaves around there."

Ijames told the family that on two occasions Wary Clyburn carried Thomas away from deadly fighting and to safety.

"Here's a legacy that has endured more than 140 years, through his youngest child and her increase," Ijames said. "She never wavered in the stories her father told her.

Among the large group of descendants at Friday's ceremony were four of Wary Clyburn's grandchildren: Mary Elizabeth Clyburn Hooks, Countee Hall, .



Valerie Frazier and Ruth Young. Young received an honorary flag given by the Sons of Confederate Veterans

A new marker now stands at Wary Clyburn's grave in Monroe's Hillcrest Cemetery, with his name and military information for public viewing. As a final part of the ceremony, his descendants filed past his resting place. Each dropped a rose on the grave to honor their patriarch.

The youngest was 2-year-old Kai Bryant -- Wary's great-great-granddaughter

**INFORMATION FROM THE CONCORD REUNION**

Compatriots, below is a synopsis of the business from the Post Convention General Executive Council meeting held Saturday July 19, 2008 and important information from the Concord Reunion.

**Post Convention GEC Meeting Business:**

1. Commander In Chief McMichael appointed Chuck Rand to be Chief of Staff. Mark Simpson was nominated by the CIC and elected by the GEC to be Adjutant in Chief. Rev. Cecil Fayard was likewise nominated and elected by the GEC as Chaplain in Chief as were Chip Buckner as Judge Advocate in Chief and Frank Earnst as Chief of Heritage Defense.

2. General Order No. 1 was issued by the Commander In Chief.

**General Order No. 1****Document: GO 72-1  
RE: Sesquicentennial**

Date: 19 July 2008  
Compatriots,

Soon the 150th anniversary of the South's struggle for Independence shall be upon us.

It is our duty to see that it is commemorated in an accurate and visible fashion.

We should have in place plans to, among other efforts, publicly demonstrate our commitment to this.

General Headquarters will be planning a "National" event for each year of this period. Likewise, each Division should plan some event to be carried out and attended on a Division scale for each year during this period. These events will be placed on the Commission's Calendar of

events and promoted there. Be it so ordered:

Each Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall plan a Division-wide event for each year during the period of the Sesquicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence. Each Division shall transmit details of these plans, as they come available, to the Commander in Chief and the Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

Deo Vindice  
Charles E. McMichael  
Commander in Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

3. CIC McMichael announced the formation of a Heritage Promotion Committee, whose purpose is be

to secure property in high profile areas to erect large flag poles - similar to the efforts that have taken place in Florida.

4. Several new awards were initiated. These being the Jo Shelby Award for persons who reinstate a minimum of five members who have been not in good standing for at least one fiscal year and the David O. Dodd Award for members who recruit a minimum of five new members below the age of 18 years of age. There are two categories of this award. The gold medal is for a member who is 21 years of age or younger and recruits 5 members below the age of 18. The green ribbon award is for those over 21 years of age who recruit five new members 18 years old or younger.

More information on these awards will be forthcoming.

5. A special pin for the Sesquicentennial has been designed and ordered. These will be for sale by General Headquarters to individual members for 15 dollars each. Camps, Brigades or Divisions can order the pins for 10 dollars each if a minimum order of 20 pins is placed. An announcement will be made once the pins have been received by Headquarters. The pins arrived at GHQ on July 21, 2008.

6. The council passed a motion, presented by Past CIC Denne Sweeney, to establish hard deadlines for officer columns to be submitted to the Confederate Veteran Editor. This will allow for a timely deliver of the Veteran to the members and to secure greater advertising revenue as the submission deadline will permit the editor to guarantee the delivery time to potential advertisers. In the past the editor has not been able to pin down the delivery dates due to there being no fixed deadline for submissions. The required submission dates for each issue of the Confederate Veterans will be published on the masthead of the Veteran. These deadlines will be in effect beginning with the March /April 2009 issue of the Veteran.

7. Officer Training : Commander In Chief McMichael presented an idea to develop online officer training for camp commanders and adjutants. The Council agreed to the concept and will hear a more detailed plan on implementation at the fall GEC meeting. This meeting is set for October 4, 2008 at Elm Springs.

8. Infomercials: The CIC has begun research into the possibility of having the SCV run 30 minute infomercials on cable / satellite channels. He asked that members of the GEC also look into this possibility and bring any recommendations they have to the Fall GEC meeting.

9. The CIC stated that the agenda for GEC meetings would be developed in advance of the meeting and items not on the agenda would run the risk of not be considered until they are properly entered on the agenda for a future meeting.

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## THE LIFE OF BRIG/GEN BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS

**Benjamin Grubb Humphreys** (August 26, 1808 – December 20, 1882) was an American politician from Mississippi. He was a general in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War and served as Governor of Mississippi from 1865 to 1868, during Reconstruction.

Humphreys was born in Claiborne County, Mississippi, on the Bayou Pierre. He was educated in New Jersey and enrolled at West Point in the same class as Robert E. Lee. However, he was expelled when he participated in a "Christmas frolic" that ended up turning into a riot. Upon his return to Mississippi, he was elected to the state senate representing his native county and served from 1839 to 1844. In 1846, he moved to Sunflower County, Mississippi, founded Itta Bena, and continued as a planter.

Although opposed to the secession movement, Humphreys offered his services to the Confederacy after Mississippi had left the Union and raised Sunflower Guards which later became Company I, of the 2nd Mississippi Infantry regiment.

Rising to regimental command

by November, as Colonel of the 21st Mississippi Humphreys fought in the Peninsula Campaign of March-July 1862, serving in a Mississippi brigade commanded by Gen. Richard Griffith until his death at Savage Station on June 29, and then by Gen. William Barksdale. The brigade, part of Gen. Lafayette McLaw's division, stayed near Richmond until rejoining the Army of Northern Virginia for the Maryland Campaign. Having participated in the capture of Harpers Ferry, this force arrived at Sharpsburg just after the start of the Battle of Antietam on September 17. Barksdale's brigade played an important role in defending Fredericksburg that December: given the task of delaying the Union's advance through the town, it engaged in street fighting before retreating. While the Confederates on this occasion repulsed every Union attempt to take the heights around the town, they did not have the manpower to do so five months later: while the Battle of Chancellorsville was being fought just to the west on May 3, 1863, the brigade had the task of keeping Gen. John Sedgwick's VI Corps from taking Fredericksburg

and endangering the Confederate army from the rear, but after repulsing several attacks ultimately had to retreat. Despite this setback, the main battle was a Confederate victory, opening the way for the invasion of Pennsylvania two months later. At Gettysburg, Humphreys and his men fought on the battle's second day in the "Peach Orchard" and the "Wheat Field," where they were beaten back despite some success. As Barksdale was mortally wounded in that fight, Humphreys rose to brigade command and received promotion to brigadier general on August 10. When Gen. James Longstreet's I Corps was sent west to support the Army of the Tennessee, Humphreys' brigade was among those traveling 775 miles by rail and arriving at the Battle of Chickamauga in time to fight on the second day, September 20. After participating in the successful attack that almost broke the Union right and won the day for the South, Humphreys' brigade served through the ensuing Knoxville Campaign. Having returned to Virginia, they fought in all important battles of

1864's Overland Campaign, and in August were sent to the Shenandoah Valley to support Gen. Jubal Early. Humphreys' men were not involved in any fighting there until ordered back to Petersburg at the beginning of September, when they unexpectedly collided with the enemy at Berryville. Severely wounded before the Confederates withdrew, Humphreys recovered only enough to take command of a military district in Mississippi, where he witnessed the end of the war.

During Reconstruction, Humphreys was elected the first post-war governor of his native state in 1865, gaining reelection in 1868. A Democrat, he pursued a moderate policy that displeased the Radical Republicans. When they started to dominate Reconstruction politics, they ordered Humphreys to be removed from office, and when he and his family refused to leave the governor's mansion they were forced out by Federal troops at bayonet point. He subsequently resumed his life as a planter and also worked in the insurance business until his death in 1882. Humphreys was buried in Port Gibson, Mississippi.

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## THE OLD CONFEDERACY NEEDS A THIRD RECONSTRUCTION

The Wilmington Journal reports below that Rev. William Barber, President of the North Carolina NAACP, was elected to the national NAACP Board of Trustees. Barber says of his election: "I'm calling for the thirteen former Confederate states to come together, and deal with the uniqueness of the issues that we face dealing with education, incarceration and economics, and really start talking about a new (Southern) Reconstruction 3, since the first two were cut off at the knees."

It's hard to imagine the President of the North Carolina chapter of any Southern heritage organization making such an inflammatory statement, and Barber's comments should not go uncriticized. You can respond to the article with a letter to the editor at [wilmjournal@aol.com](mailto:wilmjournal@aol.com) You can respond directly to the North Carolina NAACP at [naacpncwebcom@gmail.com](mailto:naacpncwebcom@gmail.com)

**The Delta General**  
c/o Larry McCluney

1412 North Park Dr  
Greenwood, MS

**Camp Officers**

Commander  
(Adjutant) - Dan  
McCaskill

1st Lt Commander -  
Charles  
"Gator" Stillman

2nd Lt Commander -  
Claude "Junior"  
Stillman

Color Sgt -  
Ralph Washington

**Appointed Officers:**

Editor/Webmaster -  
Larry McCluney

Chaplain -  
Earl McCown, Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms -



## NAACP'S FAIRNESS QUESTIONED ON CONFEDERATE FLAG ISSUE

The NAACP's call for stepped-up sanctions against South Carolina is raising charges of unfairness against the national civil rights organization.

The NAACP and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body of college sports, have sanctions in place against South Carolina because it flies the Confederate flag. The NCAA also has sanctions against Mississippi.

Neither organization, however, penalizes Alabama, which also flies the flag. And that's unfair, some S.C. officials say.

Four Confederate flags — three national flags and a battle flag — fly at the 82-foot-high Confederate Monument, located at the Alabama state Capitol in Montgomery. "It's puzzling," said state Sen. John Courson, R-Richland. Courson, who helped broker a controversial deal in 2000 that placed a Confederate flag at the Soldier Monument on the Statehouse grounds, has said the NAACP "singled out" South Carolina for punishment on the issue. NAACP officials deny that, contending South Carolina, in particular, and Mississippi have been dismissive of African-Americans' views regarding the banner.

The question they ought to be asking is, "Why are they continuing to fly that symbol of hate, knowing it is offensive to black people?" said the Rev.

Nelson B. Rivers III, chief operating officer of the NAACP. "South Carolina has always been the most defiant when it comes to respecting the wishes of black folk."

The NAACP announced an economic boycott against South Carolina in 1999 over the flag issue. The 2000 deal moved the flag from atop the Statehouse and placed it at the Soldier Monument. But the NAACP rejected that deal. Meanwhile, the NAACP levies no sanctions against Mississippi, which incorporates the Confederate flag into its state flag. Rivers said Mississippi and the NAACP are in negotiations to have changes made in that state's flag. However, the NCAA has banned championship games from Mississippi since 2001, citing the flag issue. The NAACP also says it has no issue with Alabama despite its Capitol lawn display of four Confederate flags. That's because Alabama removed the Confederate battle flag from its Capitol roof in 1992, the NAACP says. Alabama's current Confederate monument is "kind of on the side of the building," said Ed Vaughn, president of the Alabama state NAACP. "We don't have a problem with it there. The is a Confederate monument in every crook and town in Alabama," he said. "We just don't pay any attention to them."

Alabama was not included in the NCAA's 2001 flag-related moratorium

on sporting events. Georgia, which previously incorporated the Confederate flag into its state flag, was dropped from the moratorium because it changed its flag.

In South Carolina, where the Confederate flag is at one of Columbia's most visited intersections, feelings remain raw over the issue. Last week, the NAACP said he remained focused on the issue and promised to target the state's multimillion-dollar movie-making industry.

"I have no problem with the people disagreeing with the compromise," said Columbia attorney John Rainey, who worked on the deal that moved the flag from atop the Statehouse dome.

"I just don't understand why the national NAACP doesn't treat Alabama and others, as we say, 'pari passu,' or 'on equal footing.' At some point, fairness cries out that Alabama and South Carolina have to be fed from the same spoon." But Lonnie Randolph, president of the South Carolina NAACP, said the flag's hateful symbolism is the issue, not fairness.