

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

Merry Christmas



No meeting Camp Meeting in December!

December 2025, Volume 28, Issue 12

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, the Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. You are reading the final edition of "Commander's Comments" for 2025. December is here and I am sure your mind is consumed by Christmas and the coming new year. So much to try and get finished before the end of the year; sometimes, life seems more overwhelming during this festive season than at any other time of the year. Let me help you by filling out your Christmas gift list for a few of the people on your list!

You are the recipient of an amazing gift: the lineage and heritage of a Confederate Veteran. His valor, honor, and sacrifice are yours to remember, recognize, and perpetuate. For this year, the Mississippi Division is beginning two innovative programs that will make excellent Christmas presents. Current Division guidelines do not permit young men under the age of twelve to be members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Mississippi Division. Therefore, young men can now join the Confederation and the Division as Cadets. Cadets do need to have Confederate lineage to join and allowing your son or grandson or even great-grandson to join the Division as a Cadet is a fantastic way to introduce him to all the activities and events of the Division and make his time there official. Being a Cadet makes moving into full Sons of Confederate Veteran membership quite easy; and it is well known that the younger a person is who joins an organization of any kind, the more likely he is to support its mission and remain a member for his entire life.

That takes care of your male family members under age twelve. Now to the women, girls, and everyone else who is not eligible for membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, but who supports our Cause and wants to perpetuate the good name and virtue of the Confederate Veteran. For these people, you can purchase membership into the Friends of Confederate Veterans. They will join an SCV Camp with friend status, can attend Camp meetings, receive copies of "Confederate Veteran" magazine, and will receive a certificate and pin designating them as Friends of the SCV. Not everybody who wants to support the SCV, perpetuate the good name and virtue of the Confederate soldier, and fight for Constitutional liberty and freedom can be a member of the SCV. Be a friend and make a new Friend by buying memberships into the Friends of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for all your loved women, girls, and non-lineal men in your life!

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year; most people cherish and enjoy it very much. While you are racing around, trying to find the perfect present for everybody on your list (I gave you great ideas)! And thinking of all the parties you have to attend and your end-of-the-year obligations at work, remember what is most important about this season. Kindness, charity, humility, and honoring God's grace on us all. Remember those less fortunate than yourselves and give a little more this year. Tell someone special you love them and do something nice without expecting anything in return. This is what God really wants you to give at Christmas.

Remember your gift options this year for those people on your list who support the Cause, venerate the honor and valor of the Confederate soldier, and Live the Charge. Merry Christmas to you: may God richly bless you, your family, and the Southland.

Deo Vindice,
Michael

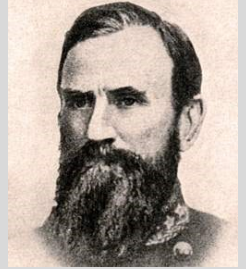
Editor's Note:

There will be no meeting in December because the date is so close to Christmas!

Guest Speaker for Lee/Jackson Banquet January 17, 2026

Our guest speaker will be Past Commander-in-Chief Jason Boshers. He will be speaking on the Forrest-Gould Affair in which General Forrest was almost murdered by one of his Lieutenants. Social hour begins at 5:00 pm and Dinner at 6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Entrée's provided by the Camp is Spiral Ham and a baked Turkey. Also that night new Camp officers will be inducted:

Camp Commander—Michael Anthony
Lt. Commander—David Flaut
Adjutant—Dan McCaskill
Color Sgt.—Earl Allen
Camp Chaplain—Earl McCown



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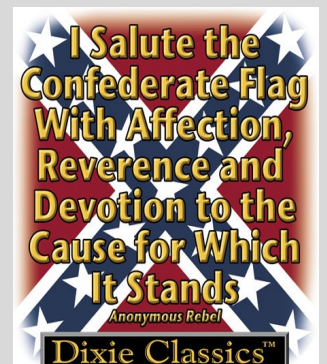
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Larry McCluney, Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Adjutant's Report—Dan McCaskill

November 8, 2025

Call to Order: At 6:00 PM CDT by 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney
Opening Prayer and Blessing: Compatriot Charles "Gator" Stillman
Pledge and Salutes: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.
Reading of The Charge: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. While the ladies prepared the evening meal, Commander Anthony moved on Officer Reports.

It was reported that we were notified at 5:24 pm today that Compatriot Mitch McCown crossed over the river to join his Lord and ancestors under the shade of the trees. Mitch is the eldest son of our friend Earl M. McCown. We ask all to keep Earl and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Officer Reports:

Commander Michael Anthony was absent having attended the MS Division Executive Council Meeting as our 1st Brigade Councilman.

1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney did not have a report. As Camp Editor, Larry asked if anyone had any problem viewing the Camp's Newsletter. No complaints were voiced. As Past CIC, Larry reported that Headquarters has the money to re-erect the Forrest Plaza but are waiting for bids on the project. 3D imaging will be done on the Forrest Equestrian Statue and the Jefferson Davis Statue. If the worst happens, the statues can be reproduced down to the last detail. Also, the Jefferson Davis is in need of work because the foundation is starting to lean.

Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported with the passing of Mitch McCown, our Camp's membership has dropped to 47. We do have a potential member due to our Recruiting Table at Carrollton, MS back in October. The Camp has a checking account balance of \$2,603 which includes \$200 toward the Camp's of \$500 for the Camp's donation for the Black Confederate Monument to be placed at Beauvoir. Since last Camp Meeting, no funds have been spent from the Camp's Budget. So far this year, 49.6% of the budget has been spent.

MOSB: Chapter Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported all current Chapter members have renewed their membership. There are seven current Camp Members who qualify for membership in the MOS&B. If any wish to join, please contact Earl McCown or Dan McCaskill.

OCR: Chapter President Sandra Stillman stated if anyone has an item or items for the auction at the upcoming Lee-Jackson Banquet, please bring them to the Banquet.

After Officer Reports, Commander McCluney recessed the Meeting for the evening meal and asked members to consider a donation to the OCR for future meals.

Old Business:

1) Lee-Jackson Banquet: Larry reported that an executive decision was made to substitute Turkey for chicken as an entrée at the banquet. The cost of the turkey is half the cost of the grilled chicken. A \$5 fee will be charged for each member and quest 12 years of age and older. It was also discussed that a nice gift needed to be presented to Jason and Linda Boshers for being our speaker. Kenneth Ray made a motion to give Larry McCluney the discretion to acquire gifts not to exceed \$200. The motion was seconded by Gator Stillman and passed without objection.

2) Confederate Headstones: Waiting for the notice that the headstone for Joseph Hope has been delivered.

New Camp Business:

1) December Camp Meeting: Larry brought up the issue of family Christmas gatherings during the month, do we want to have a December Camp Meeting. After discussing the issue, Kenneth Ray made a motion not to have a December Camp Meeting. The motion was seconded by Gator Stillman and passed without objection.

2) Officer Elections: With no scheduled meeting in December, 1st Lt. Commander McCluney called for election of new Camp Officers. Gator Stillman made a motion to elect the slate of nominees by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection. **Officers for 2026-28 are: Commander, Michael Anthony; 1st Lt. Commander, David Floyd; Adjutant: Dan McCaskill; Color Sergeant, Earl Allen, Jr.**

3) Greenville Gun Show: After discussing the issue, Gator Stillman

made a motion for the Camp to have a Recruiting Table at the Gun Show, February 21-22, 2026. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection. Dan McCaskill reported that John Hanley was reserving a table for us. Cost will be \$80. **4)** 1st Lt. McCluney entertained a motion to adopt the minutes of the October Meeting. Gator Stillman made said motion which was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection.

With no other business coming before the Camp, a motion to adjourn was made by Gator Stillman, seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed without objection. The Meeting was closed with prayer by Larry McCluney and the singing of Dixie. Attendance for the meeting was 10. Next Camp Meeting will be our Lee-Jackson Banquet on Saturday, January 17, 2026.

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

"But by the grace of God, I am what I am..."
 1 Corinthians 15:10 NKJV



I am what I am. What are you? Who are you? For me, I can say I am a sinner saved by grace and I thank God it was His doing and not up to my doings.

Are you thankful today for what God has done for you? A great theologian once said, "If my children woke up on Christmas morning and have somebody to thank for putting candy in their stockings, have I no more to thank for putting two feet in mine?" I love that. So simple and yet eternally profound. I would add to this statement being thankful for keeping two feet in my stockings.

Thankfulness begins with knowing what God has already done for you and it starts with grace. Grace is getting what you don't deserve. It is the unmerited favor of God to those who deserve the opposite, which is all of us, for *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). This grace must be received in one's heart to truly understand God. Grace should also be on our minds constantly to produce an attitude of thankfulness.

Christ loved you so much that while you were still a sinner, He died for you (Romans 5:8). He died willingly, in grace, for you, to pay the price for your sins. He then rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father God where He makes intercession for you out of love for you. The Bible says Jesus prays for you continually – unmerited favor. His thoughts toward you are good and not evil – unmerited favor. He forgives you of your sins – unmerited favor. He leads you and guides you through life as you choose to follow – unmerited favor. He empowers you with the Holy Spirit – unmerited favor. All the while as He prepares an eternal home for you in heaven – unmerited favor. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!



Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter 253, MOS&B

Robert E. Lee's Letter to His Daughter
Coosawatchie, South Carolina
December 25, 1861



My Dear Daughter,

Having distributed such poor Christmas gifts as I had to those around me, I have been looking for something for you. Trifles even are hard to get in these war times, you must not therefore expect more. I have sent you what I thought most useful in your separation from me and hope it will be of some service.

Though stigmatized as "vile dross," it has never been a drug with me. That you may never want for it, restrict your wants to your necessities. Yet how little it will purchase! But see how God provides for our pleasure in every way. To compensate for such "trash," I send you some sweet violets that I gathered for you this morning while covered with dense white frost, whose crystals glittered in the bright sun like diamonds, and formed a brooch of great beauty and sweetness which could not be fabricated by the expenditure of a world of money.

May God guard and preserve you for me, my dear daughter! Among the calamities of war, the hardest to bear, perhaps, is the separation of families and friends. Yet all must be endured to accomplish our independence and maintain our self-government. In my absence from you I have thought of you very often and regretted I could do nothing for your comfort. Your old home, if not destroyed by our enemies, has been so desecrated that I cannot bear to think of it. I should have preferred it to have been wiped from the earth, its beautiful hill sunk, and its sacred trees buried rather than to have been degraded by the presence of those who revel in the ill they do for their own selfish purposes.

I pray a better spirit and that the hearts of our enemies may be changed. In your homeless condition, I hope you make yourself contented and useful. Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than your self.

Think always of your father.

R.E. Lee.

Copied from Robert E. Lee Camp 1640, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



BEAUVIOR

Beauvoir, the historic post-war home of President Jefferson Davis, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are several ways that you can participate in the continued preservation of this beloved landmark located in Biloxi, Mississippi.



*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

Confronting Ignorance

Gentlemen,

Please click on the URL below to view the SCV's rebuttal to Bill O'Reilly's attack upon General Forrest. Also, it is very important that you share this video on your social media platforms. A massive viewing of this video, along with the postcards that were placed in your Confederate Veteran magazine, is how we can put pressure on those who, through ignorance or intent, slander our Confederate and Southern history.

Do your part and share this video and mail those postcards.

Deo Vindice,

Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy
Commander-in-Chief, SCV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FU4scYlkpg8&t=339s>



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

M and Th nights at 7:00 PM CT on Facebook.



*The Military Order
Of The Stars and Bars
Commander General
Thomas B. "Tommy"
Rhodes, III, DCS*



*"When the South raised its sword against the Union's Flag,
it was in defense of the Union's Constitution."*

General John Brown Gordon

Commander General Bulletin

December 2025

Greetings To All,

December has arrived. Weather is cooling down. Hunting season is in full swing. Football season is winding down. Basketball season has begun. Crops have been harvested. Thanksgiving has passed. Hurricane season is over. Christmas is just around the corner. And 2026 is looming on the horizon. MOS&B dues are coming due. Annual Chapter Report deadline is approaching. MOS&B Officer Elections are five months away as is our 2026 Convention. It's not too early to start thinking about award nominations. Lee-Jackson Salutes are being planned.

With the holiday season upon us I know many of you are busier now than at any other time of the year. May you and yours have a joyful holiday season and may the holidays be filled with moments of joy and peace. May you also have a safe holiday season.

If we look at this season during the period of the War Between the States and the years after the war this time was much different for the South than today. Many of our ancestors wanted the season to be filled with joy and peace but the opposite was more often the reality. So, I ask each of you to remember their strife so we must celebrate for them. When we eat ham and beans or greens, we honor their survival. We are remembering their ability to endure hardship. These items are a mark of honor for their

ability to rebuild the South even with the barriers placed by the North. The stories of our Southern survival should be included in our other stories of the season.

The best gifts of this season that we have and owe to our forefathers are the ones we've had all year: a roof over our heads, food in the fridge, and family to enjoy it with.

Remember what the true meaning of Christmas is really about. Take time to thank our Lord for all of our blessings.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!

Tommy Rhodes, DCS
Commander General

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*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

Friends of Beauvoir

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.



*The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library located on the grounds of
Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Forrest S. Daws for Army of Tennessee Councilman in 2026



Gentlemen of the Army of Tennessee,

If I have not yet had the honor of meeting you, my name is Forrest S. Daws and I am the current Commander of the Mississippi Division and Historian-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I am from and currently live in Wayne County, Mississippi. If you don't know where that is, it's about 90 miles up from the Gulf Coast right on the Alabama/Mississippi state line.

After graduating from high school, I attended Jones County Junior College for a year before I enlisted in the United States Navy. After my brief time in the Navy, I was blessed to attend several colleges and universities during my formal educational journey. Some of those schools were The University of Mississippi, William Carey University, Duke University, The University of Texas, and the University of West Florida. I have an AA degree in General Studies, a BS degree

in Social Science, a second BS degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations, a MEd degree in the Art of Teaching, and various post graduate studies and certificates in multiple areas such as land management, archaeology, and non-profit management.

I am currently the Athletic Director at Wayne Academy, a small private school in Waynesboro, Mississippi. I previously taught AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government and Politics, in addition to spending 22 seasons as a high school basketball coach. I am also a third generation Petroleum Landman and I currently manage our family's petroleum land management business, and industry we've been involved with since 1939. My son and I also own and operate a small farm in Wayne County, where we raise Texas Longhorn Cattle, American Quarter Horses, and British Labs, in addition to growing and managing timber.

As you can probably ascertain from my brief biographical background, my life has provided me with numerous experiences that have helped prepare me for my various positions in the SCV. A Coach is the leader of a team, teaching and strengthening the skills of the players, formulating strategies to best help the team win, managing egos, and putting the right people in the right positions to best maximize your strengths and limit your weaknesses. As a Coach, I compiled a winning record over my 22 years on the bench, winning multiple district and regional state championships along the way. I mentored young men and women who went on to sign college scholarships, furthering their education and bettering their lives. As a Landman, I spent countless hours in courthouses, reading legal documents to determine ownership of both surface land and mineral and royalty rights. Once ownership was determined, I would then negotiate leases or sales with owners on behalf of various individuals or companies who hired me. This experience has been invaluable to me in the SCV. My time in education has provided obvious benefits, while my time in sports administration has seen me juggle the scheduling and managing of almost 20 different sports teams. The additional responsibilities of planning security, coordinating EMS services, assigning concession duties, handling finances, etc. have all be beneficial.

However, as helpful as my real-world experience has been, nothing has prepared me more than the various positions I've held in the SCV. I can honestly say I have learned something in every position I have held thus far. Whether it be spending 20 years as a Camp Commander leading a small, rural Camp to a 264 percent growth in membership, serving on the Mississippi Division Executive Council for the first time and working to improve communications between Camps as a Brigade Councilman, fighting to protect Confederate Monuments as Chairman of the Mississippi Division Monuments Committee, working at the National level as Historian-in-Chief to document and preserve the history of the SCV, or taking the reins of the Mississippi Division as Division Commander, it has shaped me into a better member and a better, more qualified leader. I have been blessed to receive additional experience by serving as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, for the last two years. During that time, I helped guide the corporation through a successful external audit while working with the Executive Director to cut spending, eliminate debt, and improve facilities. We have completed a completely new website, which is much more informative and user friendly than the previous site. We are in the middle of a massive overhaul of the museum in the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, presenting more engaging and historically accurate exhibits.

National News

Announcement for Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Compatriots,

It has been my honor to serve our great organization as your Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. After much thought and prayer, I am announcing my candidacy for Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

My years of service at the Camp, Division and National level, have deepened my commitment to the Cause we all hold dear. I have seen firsthand the strength, dedication, and brotherhood that make the SCV unique.

If entrusted with the leadership of our organization, my focus will remain clear: Recruiting and Retention will always be a priority, ensuring that our camps grow stronger and that every member feels valued and connected. We will continue the Defense of our Heritage—standing firm against those who would erase or distort our history. We will also continue the vigorous promotion of our Cause and mission in adherence to the Charge.

Equally important, I will continue to improve communications and our social media presence, so that our message of honor, history, and brotherhood reaches a wider audience and engages the next generation of Compatriots.

Together, we will preserve the memory of our ancestors, strengthen our fellowship, and carry the banner of the SCV proudly into the future.

I humbly ask for your support and your prayers as we continue this journey together.

Yours in the Cause,
Anthony M. "Tony" Griffin

Lt. Commander-in-Chief
& Candidate for Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Lt Commander-in-Chief Candidacy Announcement Roy P. Hudson

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose that I announce my intent to run for the esteemed office of Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief of The Sons of Confederate Veterans in 2026. My journey as your AOT Councilman has allowed me the privilege of traveling extensively throughout our Confederation, meeting so many of you and, most importantly, truly listening to your concerns. I am now ready, more than ever, to act decisively on those insights.

This decision to seek higher office was affirmed by the unwavering encouragement of compatriots from all three armies. I eagerly anticipate making formal announcements at our reunion in Houston, where I look forward to engaging in meaningful conversations with many of you.

We are part of a truly great organization, and I firmly believe we possess the potential not just to survive, but to truly thrive and grow even stronger! It's time for the SCV to boldly go on the offensive to attract new members and expand our reach, and I have a clear plan to accomplish just that. My vision for our future is rooted in a fundamental truth: the undeniable strength and vitality of the SCV lie within our local Camps. Therefore, I commit to dedicating every ounce of my authority and effort at the National Level to ensuring that all our actions and initiatives are squarely focused on empowering and supporting our Camps, providing them with the resources and guidance they need to succeed and flourish.

With your steadfast support and the help of God, I am confident that we will achieve remarkable success together.



I invite you to reach out to me directly at scvroyhudson@gmail.com with any questions or thoughts you may have. I look forward to hearing from you!

Deo Vindice
Roy P. Hudson

Candidate Announcement - Charles Lauret for Lt. CiC, 2026

"I, Charles E. Lauret, am officially announcing my candidacy for the position of Lieutenant Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the 131st Annual Reunion which will be held next year in Lexington, Kentucky. I am excited at the prospect of serving you and the Charge on the SCV national level and at a time when the man in charge of recruiting and retention is so vitally important in the face of dwindling numbers. Stepping up to take charge in these times when many historical and genealogical organizations are suffering similar membership issues is no small task. I am eager and excited to take on this challenge. I am asking you to put my experience and knowledge to work toward this goal as your Lt. CiC. I feel confident that with the men and talent we have, that working together we can not only stop this trend, but grow instead.



I am married to my wife of 33 years, Amy and we have three grown children and two grandchildren. I am a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church and serve as Deputy Grand Knight in our Knights of Columbus Council. I am a Marine Corps Veteran, a retired law enforcement officer with over 28 years of service. I am a 2009 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, having obtained a B.S. degree in Behavioral Science.

I have been a member of the SCV since 2000 and have since become a life member of both the SCV and the Louisiana Division. I originally joined as a member of the Bernard Eble HQ Camp in Louisiana and went straight to work helping to form the Gen. Alfred Mouton Camp #778 of Opelousas, La. Upon chartering, I served as 1st Lt. Commander and subsequently Commander, an office which I am currently acting in until elections in the fall. In addition to serving my Camp, I have also served the Louisiana Division. I have served as Commander of the Southwest Brigade, 1st Lt. Commander and then Commander 2008 to 2010. In 2010, I was appointed Chief Aide de Camp serving on CiC Givens's staff. From 2012 to 2016, I served as Councilman and Commander of the Army of Trans Mississippi. From 2016 to 2020, I had the distinct honor and privilege to serve in the appointed position of National Chief of Staff for Commanders in Chief Tom Strain and Paul Gramling. I also served as Chief of Staff of the Louisiana Division from 2018 to 2022. I served again as ATM Councilman from 2022 to 2024. My previous service on the General Executive Council for ten years was enriching and provided me with vast experience in the operation of our organization. I am proud to say that during my tenures in all of the aforementioned positions, I have cultivated and always had positive working relationships with fellow GEC members and members across the Confederation.

In choosing to run, I want to bring to the table a positive solutions-based approach to challenges we face, develop plans to continue the making of a larger footprint in the digital landscape, improve upon the efforts that increase visibility and fundraising for the Southern Heritage Center and all of its facilities. I have some great ideas that I look forward to sharing with you in the coming months. Just remember, the Lt. CiC is one person and one person cannot and should not fight this fight alone. It's going to take all of us and I want to be the man in that position to work with you and for you to capitalize on the promotional successes and programs we have seen over the last few years and to implement new and more successful ones. If you want someone with the success of the SCV and its future in mind, someone with a proven resume of dedication to service on all levels and someone ever mindful that all we do is for the honor of our illustrious Ancestors, I ask for your support in electing me as Lt. Commander in Chief in 2026." Charles Lauret Website: www.LAURET4DIXIE.com Contact: clauret.scv@gmail.com Facebook: Charles "SCV" Lauret/Instagram: [@LAURET4DIXIE/X](https://www.instagram.com/LAURET4DIXIE/X) @Lauret4Dixie

Monday and Thursday Nights @7:00 PM CT. Go to Facebook and look it up.

SOUVENIR

2026 KENTUCKY CAMPAIGN

131st Sons of Confederate Veterans



National Reunion
131scv.org



JULY 16-19
LEXINGTON

HOSTED BY THE KENTUCKY DIVISION BLUEGRASS BRIGADE









TO ALL SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, WHERESOEVER DISPersed THROUGHOUT THE BROAD LAND,
AND GIVE YOU GENUINE FRATERNAL AND KENTUCKY WELCOME TO OUR METROPOLIS OF THE SOUTH

FOR FULL REUNION DETAILS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS, AND REUNION REGISTRATION:

131scv.org

CONTACT INFORMATION: KentuckyBlueGrass2026@gmail.com (606) 289-2925



EASILY REACHED BY INTERSTATE OR WITHIN AN
HOUR OF CINCINNATI AND LOUISVILLE AIRPORTS



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE BLUEGRASS,
JUST MINUTES FROM THE LEXINGTON AIRPORT!

131scv.org



Griffin Gate Marriot

See the Marriot

Lexington, Kentucky - the heart of the Bluegrass!

*We have reserved a select number of rooms - Monday & Tuesday nights are already near capacity. Consider staying at **The Beaumont Inn** in Harrodsburg, Kentucky (same group rates) and touring the nearby Perryville Battlefield early in the week.*

Still plenty of available rooms - Thursday thru Saturday, but they are filling quickly. Reserve your rooms early.

If the hotel site will not easily accept your reservation - call 502-229-2925 and we will increase the number of available rooms.

131st Sons of Confederate Veterans National Reunion

Griffin Gate Resort and Conference Center Lexington, Kentucky

July 15-19, 2026



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

SVC Camp Name _____ Camp # _____ State _____

Your Rank, Title or Position _____

Spouse Name (for name badge) _____

DATE:	TIME:	EVENT:	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
ALL		SCV Only Reunion Registration includes 1 Medal (All SCV Members must pay for Registration.) Early Registration at: Houston \$90/After Houston \$110) Registration Ends June 20, 2026	\$90.		
Sat July 11, 2026	5:00 pm	"Welcome to Kentucky!" BBQ No Charge . Please check for attending/how many			
Tues July 14, 2026	6:00 pm	Dinner- Battle of Richmond - Phil Seyfrit	\$85.		
Wed July 15, 2026	9am-5pm	Richmond Battlefield Tour - Lunch included	\$90.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	6:45-7:45	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$55.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	12:30-1:30	Heritage Luncheon	\$65.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	1:45-6 pm	Kentucky Military Museum Tour and Bourbon Tour	\$85.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	History Breakfast	\$55.		
Fri July 17, 2026	12:15-1:30	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$65.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$55.		
Sat July 18, 2026	6-7 pm	SCV Awards Banquet and Ball	\$130.		
		EXTRA Ancestor Memorial Ad (1 free with registration) to submit extra ancestor use the back of this form or separate sheet	\$10.		
		EXTRA Reunion Medal (note: 1 medal is included with registration)	\$35.		
		2026 Numbered (1-25) Reunion Medal (This medal is NOT included with registration)	\$110.		
		FINAL TOTAL - Registration Only _____ PAID _____ CHECK _____ <i>Prices for Tours and Meals will be determined at a later date.</i>			

Make Check Payable to : 2026 SCV Reunion
Mail to: Kentucky Bluegrass 2026 / Kris Hawkins
P.O. Box 122 Harrodsburg, KY 40330



THE SCV WINS IN FLORIDA!!!

November 15, 2025 was a warm day in Jacksonville Florida made even more feverous by the SUCCESS of Kirby-Smith SCV Camp 1209 and the Florida Division and their dedication of the Florida Confederate Soldiers Monument.

The monument was first unveiled on June 16, 1898. After a heroic fight by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to keep the Memorial in place, the city removed it during the night on June 10, 2020. In 2023, the Memorial was returned to the Hemming Family, who's ancestor, Charles C. Hemming, was a Confederate Soldier and he had a plan to erect a Memorial to Florida's Confederate Soldiers. The Memorial was deeded to the Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 in Jacksonville Florida. The camp began the process and work to clean, place and erect the Florida Confederate Soldiers Monument in Kirby-Smith Confederate Park.

The result is a solid SUCCESS!!! A Memorial was removed like a thief in the night. Through hard work, dedication and perseverance, it was returned to the light. Because of the work of the Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 and the Florida Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, the SCV and the Southland won. We had SCV SUCCESS!!!



If you have achieved SCV SUCCESS!!!, email scvsuccess@scv.org so we can let the world know that the Good Guys got a "W" in the win column.

Sons of Confederate Veterans | PO Box 592357 Park Plus Dr | Columbia, TN 38402 US



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Attn: National Confederate Museum
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

www.theconfederatemuseum.com

CHRISTMAS DURING THE WAR

The irony and bitterness of celebrating Christmas during wartime is poignantly described in the words to Longfellow's poem "Christmas Bells." Longfellow's deep despair during the Civil War started in 1861 following the untimely death of his wife Fanny. On the first Christmas following Fanny's death, Longfellow wrote: "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays, A year later on Christmas day 1862, Longfellow wrote in his journal: "A merry Christmas' say the children, but that is no more for me." In 1863, Longfellow found out that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded in battle. His deep personal despair was reflective of the despair and loss suffered by so many Americans, both in the North and in the South, during the long, terrible Civil War. Shortly after a visit to his son Charles, who was still struggling to recover from his war injuries, on Christmas Day, 1864, Longfellow penned the words to his poem, "Christmas Bells.", which later was put to music known as "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

"I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Till ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Even more reflective of the awful despair felt by many were Longfellow's original stanzas 4 and 5 which are not commonly included in the modern hymnals:

"Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound the carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn, the households born
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Though the Civil War literally tore the country in two and brought pain and suffering of all kinds to American families,

many of our modern Christmas traditions first found their acceptance with American families during the Civil War. One of the earliest depictions of Santa Claus, with his sleigh and reindeers, and Santa crawling down a chimney is found in a Thomas Nast drawing appearing in the January 1863 edition of Harper's Weekly. Christmas trees, gift giving, caroling and Christmas feasts seemed to be firmly established as part of American culture during the Civil War period.

While introduced much earlier by European immigrants, the Christmas tree as a family Christmas tradition was popularized by illustrators in national weeklies. The Christmas tree, which became the center of the Christmas festivities, was decorated with strings of pine cones, popcorn or dried fruit, colored paper and silver foil. Soldiers, longing for home, would use Christmas trees to bring some cheer to the frontlines. One Union soldier from New Jersey in a letter home commented: "In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tents, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc."

The singing of Christmas carols was also a popular Christmas tradition both at home and on the front. The most popular carols included: "Silent Night", "Deck the Halls", "Away in a Manger" and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful".

Even during wartime, the Christmas message of charity and love motivates soldiers otherwise engaged in the ugliest of mankind's activities to take care of the poor and needy. On Christmas Day, 1864, after General Sherman's capture of Savannah, Georgia, 90 soldiers from Michigan loaded several wagons full of food and other necessities to distribute to impoverished Southerners living outside of Savannah. To add to the holiday cheer, the soldiers fashioned branches to the ears of the mules to create "reindeer antlers". The Christmas spirit prevailed and the beneficiaries of the Christmas charity were for a brief moment able to enjoy the Christmas season.

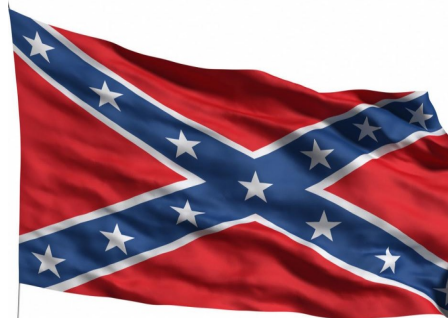
Early in the war, the soldiers might have enjoyed a more sumptuous Christmas feast. One Union officer wrote the following on December 24, 1861: "Christmas Eve, and I am on duty as officer of the day, but I am not on duty to-morrow. As much as I desire to see you all, I would not leave my company alone...I give my company a Christmas dinner to-morrow, consisting of turkey, oysters, pies, apples, etc.; no liquors." As the war wore on and the resources on both sides of the battle lines were in short supply, the Christmas meals of the soldiers were less than sumptuous. One Confederate soldier recorded the following on Christmas Day: "Had hard

Tack soaked in cold water and then fried in pork grease [sic]. Fried in a canteen, split into [sic] by putting into the fire & melting the sodder [sic] off. We pick them up on the field left by other soldiers, also had coffee & pork."

The home front was not much better as the war dragged on. One of the most charming, yet sobering descriptions of the hardships that impact Christmas celebrations is the following story of a Southern parent's attempt to reduce the Christmas expectation of their children:

"I have written so much that it is now after 9 o'clock and yet I have said nothing of Turner's and Mary Bell's party which we gave them last week in lieu of the Santa Claus presents. Mary Bell has been told that Santa Claus has not been able to run the blockade and has gone to war--Yet at this late hour when I went upstairs Thursday night of the party I found that the trusting faith of childhood they had hung their little socks and stockings in case Santa Claus did come. I had given the subject no thought whatever, but invoking Santa Claus aid I was enabled when their little eyes opened to enjoy their pleasure to find cake and money in their socks."

Through it all, Americans, both in the North and South, found hope in the eternal Christmas message of "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men".



A Confederate Soldier's Christmas

The Soldiers in the Confederate Army were so in support of their cause, that they went without many of the creature comforts that were afforded to the northern union army.

Most of the factories and companies existed in the north so the supplies to Confederate troops were few and far between. Many things were often homemade.

Christmas for the Confederate Army consisted of the possibility to rest and have a hot meal. If they were extremely short of supply, they may have only received extra hardtack, mule jerky or Sassafras Tea.

Many did not receive anything but the extra rest provided and the possibly some companionship and good music.

To the upper right; a Confederate Soldier sleeps on Christmas Day.
Please take a moment on this special day to remember
the sacrifices made by our great Southern Heroes.
May they all *"Sleep in heavenly peace"*.

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PRESIDENT DAVIS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN MISSISSIPPI

Meanwhile, Confed-erate President celebrated Christmas in his home in Mississippi. "After an absence of nearly two years," he said, "I again find myself among those who...have ever been the trusted object of my affection." But Confed-erate Christmas celebra-tions in the area were cut short by reports of Union troop movements on the Mississippi threatening Vicksburg.

In the fall of 1862, Confederate refugees from the fighting in the areas surrounding the capital began to flood into the city. They included those who fled farms and towns now in Union-held territory, wives of Confederate soldiers looking for employment, and the destitute.

This influx of refugees drove rent prices much higher than they'd been previously, and wartime inflation sent prices on everyday goods skyrocketing. In the city, ten pounds of bacon, which cost \$1.25 in 1860, now cost \$10. Four pounds of coffee jumped from \$0.50 to \$20.

Richmond diarist and author Sallie Brock Putnam wrote about the sadness of Christmas for families who had lost soldiers in the war:

The Christmas dinner passed off gloomily. The vacant chairs were multiplied in Southern homes, and even the children who had curiously questioned the cause of the absence of the young soldier brother from the festive board, had heard too much, had seen too much, and knew too well why sad-colored garments were worn by the mother, and why the fold of rusty crape placed around the worn hat of the father, and why the joyous mirth of the sister was restrained, and her beautiful figure draped in mourning. Congratulations were forced, and tears had taken the place of smiles on countenances where cheerfulness was wont to reign.

Christmas of 1862 saw an important cultural development with the emergence of the modern image of Santa Claus. Famed illustrator FOC Darley published an edition of Clement Clark Moore's A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas) featuring drawings of Santa as a plump man with a pipe, furry coat and pointed hat.

Thomas Nast, who in the late 19th century produced what came to be regarded as the definitive representations of St. Nick, published his first Santa drawing in Harper's Weekly, January 3, 1863. "Santa Claus in Camp" showed a star-spangled Santa in his reindeer-drawn sleigh handing out presents to jubilant soldiers.

General Robert E. Lee in Gordonsville A reported 40,000 soldiers watched a baseball game at Hilton Head, S.C., between the 165th New York Zouave regiment and a picked team from other units. One of the players was Abraham Gilbert Mills, later president of the National League.

Across the South there were movements of troops. Confederate General John Hunt Morgan engaged in his famous Christmas Raid in Kentucky; on that single day, Morgan's men destroyed everything they possibly could of the improvements that the Louisville & Nashville Railroad had made along 35 miles of track from Bacon Creek to Lebanon Junction.

Robert E. Lee wrote his wife, "What a cruel thing is war. To separate & destroy families & friends & mar the purest joy and happiness God has granted us in this world.... I pray that on this day when 'peace & good will' are preached to all mankind that better thoughts will fill the hearts of our enemies & turn them to peace."

Meanwhile, along the Rappahannock River, the two armies faced each other, probing their opponent's lines looking for weak spots and capturing prisoners and supplies. Soldiers in both armies did what soldiers normally do during the winter. They rested and refitted. They entertained themselves with games and tournaments. They exchanged supplies with their fellow Americans across the river.

Thanks to Peter Doré, *English Friends of the South*, for this article.

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Nevertheless, detractors of the South are too quick to issue blanket condemnations of the Civil War era southern people. Most people in that day did not step outside of their respective situation to objectively evaluate the issues like 21st century armchair quarterbacks can do. What most southern families were focused on were

the Union armies moving through their lands.

It's time for us to recognize that the South was wrong, but to also recognize that the southern people of that day paid dearly for being wrong. And, as Lincoln pointed out, the North paid a high price too. Why? Because the North was far from innocent in the nation's culpability with slavery.

Perhaps the best lesson or call to action that Americans today can take from the Civil War is found in the words of the Confederacy's leading hero. Following the surrender of his army, General Robert E. Lee said: "I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.