



DCV TODAY

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

A Texas Based Association, with groups meeting near your location.

JUNE, 2012

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,

With Memorial Day now come and gone, I would like to share some of my reflections with you about the holiday. It is absolutely astounding that many Americans are totally unaware the observance originated from Civil War memorials for the dead all the way back to May 30th, 1868. Equally appalling is the huge number who believe Memorial Day is dedicated to all those who have died, with little or no focus on the sacrifice made by members of the military. There is no doubt in my mind the culprit is the three-day weekend instituted by Congress some years ago. Not celebrating the holiday each and every year on its actual day of observance, May 30th, has diluted and undermined its original purpose and intent.

Most Americans, and not just young people, now associate Memorial Day with car racing, trips to the lake with the boat, backyard barbeque and beer. With them,

this is the beginning and end of it. There is no recognition or understanding of the true spirit of Memorial Day. What may be needed to return the solemn and even sacred spirit back to Memorial Day is a return to its traditional day of observance. Many people besides me feel when Congress made the day into a three-day weekend in with the National Holiday Act of 1971, it made it all the easier for Americans to be distracted from the meaning of the day. Ten years ago the VFW stated in its Memorial Day address, "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

On January 19, 1999, Senator Inouye introduced bill S 189 to the Senate which proposes to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day back to May 30th instead of "the last Monday in May". On April 19, 1999, Representative Gibbons introduced the bill to the House (H.R. 1474). The bills were both referred to committee. To date, after all the intervening years,

there have been no further developments or action on the bills.

If you feel strongly about this subject, please write your Representative and Senators, urging them to support these bills. You can also contact Senator Inouye (D-Hawaii) and let him know of your support for Senate Bill 189.

With Best Wishes,

J. D. Boydstun

President, Board of Directors

Descendants of Confederate Veterans of Texas

EDITORS MUSINGS

MARKER

Hopefully all had a great Memorial Day with flags flying and lots of hot-dogs. Hopefully, all remembered those that made this day possible and those that are defending it.

The East Texas chapter finally got the cemetery marker in place this week. It is located at the front gate of the Gum Springs Cemetery on Gum Springs Rd.

Chapter President Mark Appleton, who did most of the work in obtaining the marker, did the final honors by setting it.

We would like to be able to do this yearly, but finances are such that it may take a little finagling. However, we do have a Confederate Grave Marker we can set this fall, if approved. This marker program, initiated by past President Lucas, is to me, a worthy project and one that should be continued as best as possible. I know we will be doing our best to get it done on a yearly basis.

The dedication will be on the first week-end of June. Member Liz Hedges is working on the program now and should be ready this week. It will coincide with the Gum Springs annual Church and Cemetery Association meeting. Where, I might also add, they have a GREAT covered dish lunch at the cemetery.

USS DIXIE By Frank L. Stanton

From THE LONG ROLL

They've named a cruiser Dixie – that's what the papers say-An I hear there going to man her with the boys that wore the gray; Good News! It sorter thrills me, an makes me want ter be Where the ban playin DIXIE an't the Dixie put to sea!

**They've named a cruiser Dixie,
An fellers, I'll be boun youre goin
to see some fightin ' when the
Dixie swings aroun! Ef any o
them Spanish ships shall strike
her east or west, Jes let the ban
play Dixie, an the boys will do
the rest!**

**I want to see that Dixie, - I want
to take my stan on the deck of
her and holler: "Three cheers for
Dixie Lan!" She means we're all
united, - the war hurts healed
away, An " Waay down South in
Dixie" is national today!**

**I bet she's a good un! I'll stake
my last red cent, there aiant no
better timber in the whole blame
settlement! An all the shiney
battleships beside that ship arir
tame, When it comes to "Dixie"
thar's something in a name!**

**There's three cheers an a tiger,-
as hearty as kin be, An let the
ban play "Dixie" when the Dixie
puts to sea; She'll make her way
and win the day from shinin Est
to West- Jes let the ban play
"Dixie", an the boys will do the
rest!**

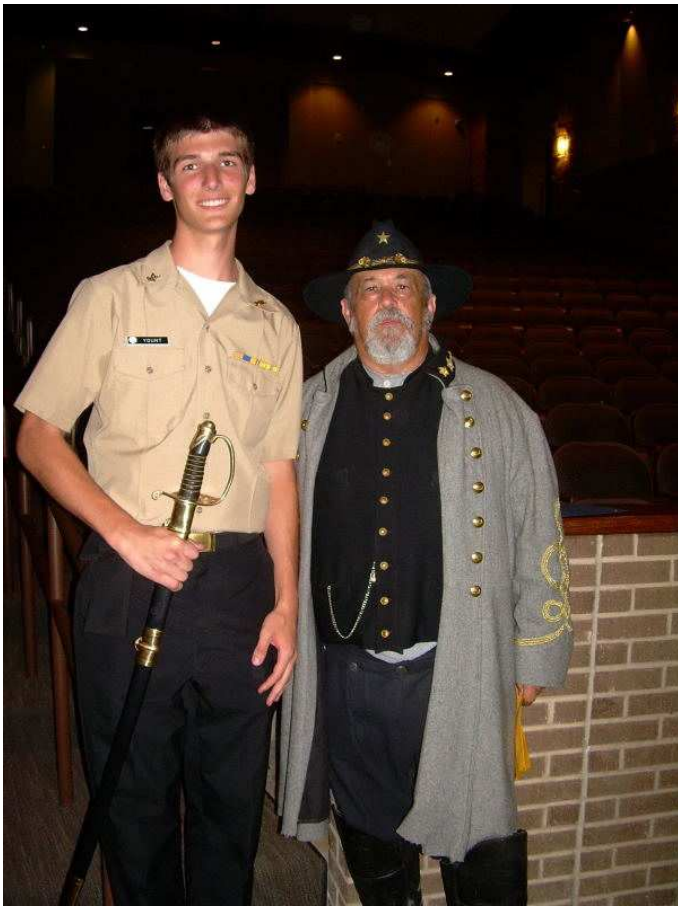
R.E LEE SABER PRESENTATIONS

The Capitol Chapter in Austin has once again presented two sabers to outstanding NROTC cadets. This is a great program and I wish each of us could do something like this in our local ROTC units.



This is cadet Elihu Navarez from Seguin ROTC with Steve von Roeder. This is the second or third time the Austin chapter has presented this award at Seguin. The cadets look forward to the presentation each year, as they do at Bastrop, below. Below:

This is Aric Yount of Bastrop ROTC after his presentation of the saber. Thanks Austin for this first class work.



WILSON AGAIN

This from Gary Loudermilk:

Notice how xxx treats its old heroes.

Old Ron coordinated and led the illegal convention in 2005 that expelled many past commanders, degenerating the MOSB and was highly praised for his efforts, at least by the less than the 10% in attendance at the convention. This from the xxx web site.

2008-2010 Chuck McMichael

2006-2008 Chris Sullivan

2004-2006 Denne Sweeney

2002-2004 ??? (Wilson removed)

2000-2002 Edwin Deason

1998-2000 Pat Griffin III

Etc

I have the complete list if you are interested.

MOH PACIFIC WINNERS WWII

PFC. Luther Skaggs, Jr.

Guam, Mariana Isle, July 21-22, 1944

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as squad leader with a mortar section of a rifle company in the 3rd Btn., 3rd Marine Div, during action against enemy Japanese forces on the Asan-Adelup beachhead, Guam, Mariana Islands, 21-22 July 1944.

When the section leader became wounded under a heavy mortar barrage shortly after landing, Pfc. Skaggs promptly assumed command and led the section through intense fire for a distance of 200 yards to a position from which to deliver

effective coverage of the assault on a strategic cliff. Valiantly defending this vital position against strong enemy counterattacks during the night. PFC. Skaggs was critically wounded when a Japanese grenade lodged in his foxhole and exploded, shattering the lower part of one leg. Quick to act, he applied an improvised tourniquet and, while propped up in his foxhole, gallantly returned the enemy's fire with his rifle and hand grenades for a period of eight hours, later crawling unassisted to the rear to continue the fight until the Japanese had been annihilated.

Uncomplaining and calm throughout this critical period, PFC. Skaggs served as a heroic example of courage and fortitude to other wounded men and, by his courageous leadership and inspiring devotion to duty, upheld the highest traditions of the U. S Naval Service.

HEADLINES IN THE NEWS

“Astronaut takes blame for gas in Spacecraft”

AND

“Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge”

Last but not least....

“War Dims Hope For Peace”

Marker Dedication

Remember this Saturday, 6-2-12, is the marker dedication at the Gum Springs Cemetery. A lot of work has gone into this and it would be nice for all to attend. However, that isn't possible, but I know some can come on by. A great lunch will be served by the church group after a short association meeting.

Come on by.

Barney Hilburn

{Editor, of sorts}