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DCV TODAY

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

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

JUNE, 2011

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I sit contemplating what to write to you this month it is the Memorial Day weekend. It seems somehow appropriate that it is on this weekend that we had the funeral for, and celebrated the life of, our good friend and one of our DCV founding members, Ralph Green. Ralph passed away last Wednesday. I wish he could have lived another 50+ years but if the good Lord had to pick a time to call him home, perhaps this particular time of year was appropriate. Ralph served our country honorably during World War II and was, quite justifiably, proud of that service the remainder of his life. Freedom is not free. It never has been. A service member/veteran is a person who signed a blank check to Uncle Sam to do with as he wishes, to cash as he sees fit for any amount at any time...up to and including the forfeiture of that service member's life. That began with

the very beginning of our country and continues to this day.

We all know, or should know, that Memorial Day began as Decoration Day...a tradition started during the War Between the States by the ladies of the South to honor the cherished dead. It was picked up all over the country and continues to this day and is so important that it was designated as a national holiday.

Honoring those who fought under the flag(s) of the Confederacy and honoring those who have fought under the Stars and Stripes since inception of that flag are not mutually exclusive. You can do both. Remember...your War Between the States forebears did so for many, many years; and if it was good enough for them, well... Many who fought for the Confederacy also fought under the Stars and Stripes both before and after the WBTS. The veterans of today who are reading this fought under the Stars and Stripes, and those in the military who are fighting and dying for you today are fighting

under that proud flag. Our friend Ralph Green, as staunch a Confederate and Southern supporter as I have known fought under it and honored it until the day he died, and it was displayed proudly at his funeral. He earned it.

Our Confederate ancestors recognized the need to commemorate those who perished during war as well as those veterans who lived through the war but had since crossed over the river. It was THEY who began the formal commemoration with Decoration Day and it was THEY who continued long after the War was over by not only marking the Confederate graves but also the graves of their friends and family members who fought for the United States for years and years following that War. Today we once again follow THEIR wise example and again follow in THEIR footsteps as we do the same. We in the DCV are proud of our Confederate ancestors and stand proudly for the same things they so gallantly stood for. We are also proud to be Americans, citizens of the greatest country in the world. We stand for and sing the National Anthem just as we do for Dixie and we place our hands over our hearts and recite the Pledge of Allegiance just as we salute the Confederate flag. Brave men and women served and died...and continue

to serve and die...so we can do just that.

To our veterans...Thank you for your service. Thanks to you our shores have been safe for decades on end and people across the world have been given the opportunity to experience the freedoms we enjoy here at home. To our active duty military personnel...may God bless you and keep you safe as you protect us from those who would do us harm and allow us the luxury to sleep easy at night knowing you are there. To the veterans who are no longer with us, who have fought in defense of their loved ones in this land since the Jamestown landing in 1607...we give thanks that you have always been there for us. You have fought under many flags on our shores and abroad but you always fought for truth and justice, for your homes and families and so that hopefully no one would ever have to fight another war. Whether you were with Washington at Valley Forge, Jackson in the Valley, Patton in Europe or anywhere from the jungles of Vietnam to the desert of Iraq or Afghanistan...you are not forgotten. We owe you a debt that can never be repaid, and we thank you.

May God bless our old Southland and all who honor her.

MILLVILLE DEDICATION

Steve Lucas

DCV Board President

EDITORS MUSINGS

Have just returned from the funeral of DCV Founding Member Ralph Green. It was held at Restland Cemetery in Dallas. Ralph was a friend and sometimes mentor to the writer and he will be sorely missed.

As editor, of sorts, of this monthly enterprise, I have been accused of showing favoritism to several DCV Chapters, namely the Capitol Chapter and East Texas Chapter. Yes, they are mentioned in almost every newsletter, for a reason. They are the most active and do more for the DCV than any other chapters. Now to correct this; if you in other chapters want to be mentioned...**DO SOMETHING!**

I will continue to relay information from any and all chapters that are active.

I would love to have all chapters send me events or activities monthly to publish, even if it's going to a cemetery and placing flags, a school program, just something.

Otherwise, just sit back and see what else is going on within the DCV.

The East Texas Chapter was privileged to be the designated honor guard for the annual Millville Church and Cemetery Meeting and Picnic. A dedication was held for Pvt. John Bell, who was also a Republic of Texas Citizen. We were also honored to have a mountain howitzer, brought in by Ronnie Littles, for assistance with the ceremony.



DCV Flags and marker for John Bell



East Texas Chapter President Mark Appleton waits while DCV Chapter member Liz Hedges gives greetings from UDC as well as DRT at Millville Dedication.

SEGUIN PRESENTATION

The Austin DCV Chapter was invited again to present the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award presentation Saber to the outstanding JNROTC cadet at Seguin High School. Past Board President von Roeder was the presenter to Cadet Isaiah Johnson.

This is the third or fourth time the DCV has made this presentation.



Thanks Steve for job well done.

These presentations are something any chapter can do at any school that has ROTC. We need to do more of this.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Memorial Day was another opportunity for the Hilburn family to visit with old friends at the Blacklands Prairie Chapter in Ennis. The memorial took place at the beautiful Myrtle Cemetery. Where they have placed a flag at every and all veterans graves. Is quite impressive. They have a united event with the Daffin-Latimer, UDC , Chapter as well as the Wm. H. Parsons Chapter of the MOSB. The event was well attended.



DCV members, l-r, Barney Hilburn, Amy and Kay Hilburn, Craig Slayton, Jim Templin, Glenn Toal, Tony Sinclair, Robbie McKeezer, Larry Wilhoit.

This event could and should be a pilot for any chapter that wants to do memorials .



Amy and Kay Hilburn, DCV members, ET Texas chapter

After the cemetery observance all gathered in the back yard of Jim and Helen Templin for a real sure-nuff picnic with all the trimmings. Thanks Blacklands for a good memorial day.

BASTROP PRESENTATION

The Capitol Chapter was asked to do the R. E. Lee Leadership Award Saber this year for the first time at this school. The recipient was Cadet CPO Brad Wilbourne. Again, Job well done Capitol Chapter.



Shown Past Board President von Roeder, Cadet CPO Brad Wilbourn and his mother.

PACIFIC WWII MOH RECIPIANTS.

Lt Cdr. Bruce McCandless

In the midst of a violent night engagement, the fire of a determined and desperate enemy seriously wounded LT. Cdr. McCandless rendering him unconscious, killed or wounded the admiral in command, his staff, the captain of the ship, the navigator, and all other personnel on the navigating and signal bridges. Faced with the lack of superior command upon his recovery, and displaying superb initiative, he promptly assumed command of the ship and ordered her course and gunfire against an overwhelmingly powerful force. With his superiors in other vessels unaware of the loss of their admiral, and challenged by his great responsibility, Lt. Cdr McCandless boldly continued to engage the enemy

and to lead our column of following vessels to a great victory. Largely through his brilliant seamanship and great courage, the (USS) San Francisco was brought back to port, saved to fight again in the service of her country.

GAINES MILL submitted by Steve von Roeder

Gaines Mill was the third of the Seven Days Battle. On June 27, 1862, Gen. Robt. E. Lee renewed his attacks against Porter's V Corps, which had established a strong defensive line behind Boatswain's Swamp north of the Chickahominy River. Porter's reinforced V Corps held fast for the afternoon against Confederate attacks, inflicting heavy casualties. At dusk, the Confederates, (Hoods Texans), finally mounted a coordinated assault that broke Porter's line and drove his soldiers back toward the river. The Federals retreated across the river during the night. The federal defeat at Gaines Mill convinced McClellan to abandon his advance on Richmond and begin the retreat to the James River. Gaines Mill saved Richmond for the Confederacy in 1862.

WILL ROGERS ONCE SAID:
"Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco"

DCV MARKERS

Each chapter should be looking at locations for the placement of DCV Markers. This is a great opportunity to have the DCV placed in front of the public eye, as well as honor the CSA. Admittedly, there are some costs involved, but nothing like the cost involved in having a State Historical Marker placed.

The East Texas chapter has located and is starting the process for its first marker. Should be placed late summer or early fall. Will be at the historic Gum Springs Cemetery in SW Harrison, County.

REAL SON

Tyus K. Denney. 90, of Tarrant, Al., is a real son of Thomas Jefferson Denney, Co. H, 31st Al, Inf., captured and held at Rock Island, Ill., where he was released 6-18-65.

Tyus said "his daddy was 80 years old when he came into this world". He was 13 when Thomas died.

Another of a dwindling number of a "great generation".

STUPID HEADLINES FROM MAINLINE MEDIA

"Typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead"

Really ????????



Descendants of Confederate Veterans spray at Ralph Green's funeral.

Hope all had a good Memorial Day and thought about why we celebrate this occasion. Our thanks to all those who served.

Barney Hilburn
Editor (of sorts).