

Old Dominion Voice

Official Newsletter of the Virginia Division - Sons of Confederate Veterans



June/July 2011

Celebrating Jefferson Davis' Birthday



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The Jefferson Davis Memorial Committee held its 16th annual anniversary of Jefferson Davis birthday at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia, on Saturday, June the 4th, at 9 am. This was the 203rd celebration of Confederate President Jefferson F. Davis. President Davis who was reentered at Davis Circle, Hollywood Cemetery, in May, 1893.

The keynote speaker was Lt. Commander in Chief Kelly Barrow. The committee also provided us with bag pipers, honor guards, musicians, songs, lots of Confederate flags, and an unforgettable artillery salute on the banks of the James.

Special thanks go to Everette Ellis and Jim Cochrane for all their hard work in putting this event together. This event was sponsored by the Virginia Division, Sons Of Confederate Veterans. Thanks to everyone that attended.

Images from Jefferson Davis Ceremony



SCV National Reunion, Montgomery, AL



1st Battle of Manassas UDC Commemoration

Greetings all,

The 2011 First Manassas Commemoration continues through tomorrow and for all who participated in 2011 United Daughters of the Confederacy's program this morning, I'm sure you will long remember the day. It was as hot today as fifty years ago when the Centennial reenactment was held on the actual Manassas battlefield including the area where today's commemoration program transpired. Mercifully the UDC held their commemoration in the shade of large trees with a refreshing breeze blowing for it was hot as Hades in the sun.

John Sharrett of the Stonewall Camp in Portsmouth, VA joined our Maryland Division SCV Color Guard and we reminisced about that day in 1961 when we were on this very field with thousands of our fellow members of the North-South Skirmish Assn who were firing guns of the Civil War period since the age of mass produced replica firearms had not yet evolved. John had on his medal from the 1961 reenactment while I wore my belt and buckle and carried the First National Flag the Maryland Governor had given to all the Maryland N-SSA organizations that were to participate at the 1961 Manassas reenactment. This flag is in the photo below along with the jacket I wore in 1961. Scott Van Ness of Alexandria's R. E. Lee Camp also was a member of this morning's color guard. In July 1961 he was a 12-year old spectator in the stands critiquing the reenactment for non-authentic uniforms and equipment.

Today's color guard under the experienced leadership of color sergeant Ray Rooks was a successful collaboration of Maryland and Virginia SCV compatriots to honor the valiant deeds of young men 150 years ago who are our forbearers .

John Zebelean





John Zebelean, Scott Van Ness and John Sharrett participated in the Maryland SCV Color Guard at the Manassas National Park during the UDC program on Saturday July 23. Zebelean and Sharrett participated in the Centennial Reenactment in 1961 and Van Ness was 12 years old and came with his father.

**OAKWOOD CONFEDERATE CEMETERY
RICHMOND, VA**

THIS IS THE LARGEST PROJECT THE SCV HAS UNDER TAKEN!

HISTORY:

- There are over 17,000 Confederate Veterans buried at Oakwood from virtually every state in the Confederacy.
- The original wooden markers were to be replaced with stone. This never happened.
- 6"X6" marble markers with 3 numbers and a letter represent 3 or more soldiers.

PLAN:

- The Oakwood Committee, under the direction of the SCV, proposes to mark each soldier with an upright headstone, including name, date of birth/death and military data (if available).
- The cemetery will receive the attention to detail necessary to make this a place of HONOR for our CONFEDERATE DEAD.

PROBLEMS:

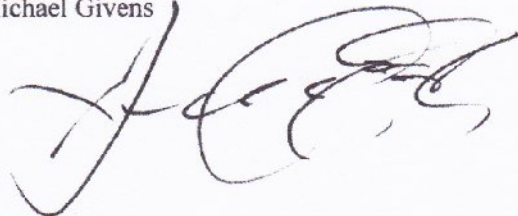
- The VA denied our request for headstones because "the soldiers buried at Oakwood have 6"X6" marble blocks with numbers on them therefore they are sufficiently marked."

WHAT EACH MEMBER OF THE SCV CAN DO:

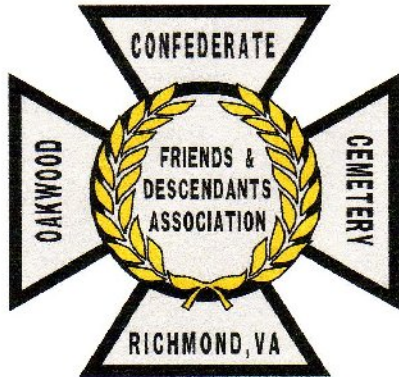
- Send letters to members of the House.
- Send letters to members of the Senate.
- Website, <http://www.contactingthecongress.org>, can be utilized to find Compatriot's Congressmen.
- Send letters to the Veterans Administration. <http://www.va.gov> (references U.S. codes)
- In 1958 Congress pardoned Confederate service-members and extended benefits therewith. Section 2306 of Title 38 of the U.S. Codes states "headstones may be furnished by the VA if the grave is unmarked", which includes name as minimal.
- Tell your Congressmen and Senators that these men deserve headstones with their name and other information on the marker. **IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION THAT THEY ARE NOT GIVEN THE DIGNITY OF THEIR NAMES ON THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE!**

If the Government can go against their own policy and deny us these grave markers, what will be next? The implications can and will spread to all Heritage issues, throughout the Confederacy. We are not requesting money, but it is of the utmost importance that each and every Politician knows of this issue and will address their concerns to the VA. The third appeal is within 60 days so please do not delay in responding.

Endorsed by:
C.I.C. R. Michael Givens



Friends & Descendants Association



Oakwood Confederate Cemetery

The Confederate Section of the Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond, VA contains 17, 200 Confederate Soldiers who gave their all for their State and Country.

An organization, Friends and Descendants Association of Oakwood Confederate Cemetery, under the auspices of the Oakwood Restoration Committee of the Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is being

formed to honor these men and raise funds with which to assist in this project. You have the chance to be part of an organization dedicated to bringing honor and dignity to these men. The initial membership will be \$25.00 per year. This may be a tax deductible donation. Please check with your tax advisor. Fill out the form below and send it to: Friends & Descendants Association of Oakwood Confederate Cemetery, c/o Brandon Dorsey, P.O. Box 665, Lexington, VA 24450.



Soldier's Monument in the Confederate Section

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Ancestor's Name (if any) buried in Oakwood: _____

Unit & Company: _____ State: _____

- Annual Membership \$ 25.00
- Additional Contribution \$ _____

FOR DONATIONS ONLY

If you prefer to send a one-time donation (not association membership) to help with the ongoing work, please make your check payable to Oakwood Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 114, Beaverdam, VA 23015-0114.

The Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans is a 501(c)3 charitable organization under IRS Code.

MRS Billing Information

Virginia Division Compatriots,

Please be aware that there were some issues with the recent billing for the Virginia Division, which were addressed immediately by Adjutant Mike Pullen and Treasurer Joe Wright.

These issues were created by the billing service using old information rather than the updated information provided by the Division. The problems occurred with members who have new information since last year or new Camp Adjutants.

Replacement bills have been formulated and will be mailed before the end of the week, with a letter of explanation.

This issue was solely the responsibility of the billing service and not with the Division. The Division Officers are working with Camps to ensure the process is corrected and back up to date. Replacement bills have been formulated and will be mailed before the end of the week, with a letter of explanation for those who have been affected and whose information has changed since last year. If you have any questions, please contact your Camp Adjutant, Brigade Commander or Adjutant Mike Pullen.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Rose
Commander

Camp Adjutant Guidelines Now Online

Division Adjutant Mike Pullen recently submitted the Camp Adjutant Duties document and asked that it be posted on the Virginia Division Web site. It has been posted on the Division Web site with the other division and national forms on this page:<http://www.scvva.org/Join.html>. Please refer your camp adjutant and officers to it as it is an excellent source of information and guidelines for the position of camp adjutant.

Our thanks go to Division Adjutant Mike Pullen for working on the Camp Adjutant Duties and providing us with a copy to distribute to our members.

Join the Courier !

All Virginia Division members are encouraged to join the Virginia Courier, the Virginia Division Email Announcement Network. The Virginia Courier is the official communication network of the Virginia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. The list address is vacourier@scvva.org but only authorized members can post. This is a one way information list. Note - This list is only available to SCV members in good standing of camps within the Virginia Division SCV. To join, please visit <http://scvva.org/mailman/>

In Memory of Compatriot Al Dalton (1949-2011)

To view the obituary visit: <http://bit.ly/omjSXu>

Division Officers 2010 - 2012

<p style="text-align: center;">Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael A. Rose 360 Dillon Dr Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 340-3260 commander@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st Lt. Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D. Michael Thomas 15117 Manor Gate Pl Midlothian, VA 23112 (804) 639-9058 1stltcmdr@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd Lt. Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tracy Clary 389 Fleshood Ln Lawrence VA 23868 (434) 848-4556 2ndltcmdr@scvva.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Adjutant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J. Michael Pullen 3471 Sleepy Hole Rd Suffolk, VA 23435 (757) 538-8717 adjutant@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph H. Wright 16463 Horseshoe Ln Beaverdam, VA 23015 (804) 449-6567 treasurer@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inspector</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thomas A. Blanks P.O. Box 6 Evington, VA 24550 (434) 369-7399 inspector@scvva.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Quartermaster</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alfred J. Chiesa 166 Spoon Ct Yorktown, VA 23693 (757) 617-6921 quartermaster@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chaplain</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David W. Smith 806 Westview Dr Lynchburg, VA 24502 (434) 239-7345 chaplain@scvva.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Archivist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">James Edwin Ray 10805 Brewster Ct Richmond, VA 23233-1909 (804) 967-9007 archivist@scvva.org</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Immediate Past Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John N. Sawyer 1206 Confederate Dr Locust Grove, VA 22508 (540) 972-2459 johnonline839@comcast.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Past Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B. Frank Earnest 945 Banyan Dr Virginia Beach, VA 23462 (757) 474-0624 confederatefrank@msn.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kenneth R. Harris 4495 Nanney's Creek Ct Virginia Beach, VA 23457 (757) 426-3622 Pacountyreb@cox.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Douglas Pruiett, Sr. 2725 Parkhouse Ct Sandy Hook, VA 23153 (804) 556-2195 dpruiett@comcast.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kevin D. Parker 6614 Colonial Pkwy Evington, VA 24550 (434) 821-4114 pkdp07@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Murrel L. Partlow P.O. Box 6 Aldie, VA 20105 (703) 327-6384 mpar100328@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5th Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ted Crockett 188 Melody Ln Lynchburg, VA 24504 (434) 933-3099 wtcrockett@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7th Brigade Commander</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ronald T. Graves 838 Crymes Rd Keysville, VA 23947 (434) 696-2202 thebargthree@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heritage Defense Coordinator</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thomas C. Davis, Jr. 801 Centerville Turnpike N. Chesapeake, VA 23320 (757) 288-3362 tdavis125@cox.net</p>
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Note The position of 6th Brigade Commander is currently Vacant



"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, April 25, 1906*