



# DCV TODAY

## Descendants of Confederate Veterans

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

**JUNE, 2013**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,  
June 2013 President's Message

Another Memorial Day has now come and gone and was celebrated in the same way I have done for the last 10 years. Here in Texas we have a separate Confederate Memorial Day, but I always associate the regular Memorial Day with the War Between the States because that is how it originated, at first known as "Decoration Day" when the graves of Union soldiers were honored after the war. No matter how it is viewed today, its roots are in the WBTS.

On the Gregg County court house lawn stands a beautiful monument to the Confederate soldier. I live in Gregg County, Texas, whose namesake is the brilliant Confederate General, John Gregg, and I always enjoy seeing and admiring the monument. Erected in 1911 and funded by the United

Daughters of the Confederacy, R. B. Levy Chapter, it was rededicated in 2011 with a ceremony conducted by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Children of the Confederacy were represented and one of their honored members placed a wreath at the monument, and a contingent of the SCV added a military cast to the ceremony.

The monument not only serves as a historical marker and reminder of the past for the citizens of Gregg County, it is also an aesthetically pleasing work of art. The sculpture by Frank Teiche is an exquisite Neo-Classical themed granite memorial. It can best be described as a truncated obelisk resting on a cubic base with a platform at the top where there stands a Confederate soldier at the ready. At the bottom stands a Classical Greek Goddess who is pointing to the inscription "1861 – 1865" etched into the base.

I arrive at the court house precisely at 7:00 am. It is cool and pleasant and there are no other cars or people to be seen anywhere. My son usually accompanies me but he was called out to work this year. Silence all around. Later this day there will be a ceremony on the courthouse steps, but at this moment there is only me and the one dozen beautiful orange roses I am carrying. I walk over to the monument and give the roses to the Greek Goddess to hold. I step back and close my eyes. In the silence I say a prayer for the Confederate soldiers represented here and ask a blessing for their souls. Then I return to my vehicle with only the sounds of my footsteps audible. Again, silence. The Confederate soldier atop the monument stands in silence, but today he has not been forgotten. His memory remains alive.

It is usually a few weeks before the roses will be removed. Today the court house is busy with cars and people. The Confederate Monument is extremely salient on the lawn and viewed by many passers-by. You can imagine how well the bright orange roses stand out. Thanks for spending Memorial Day with me.

With Best Wishes to Everyone,

J. D. Boydston  
President, Board of Directors  
Descendants of Confederate Veterans  
Texas and South Carolina Societies

### **EDITORS MISSIVS**

I, as editor, (of sorts), am well aware that this letter is much too late. I have NO excuse!

### **TRIP TO CHAMPION HILL**

On Friday, May 17th, J.D., Calvin Nicholson, and I joined Sid Champion V and the rest of the tour group at the Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. First, we went over to Raymond and toured the battlefield. After lunch, we met back at the church for a tour of Champion Hill. As we were walking down the Old Jackson Road from the crest towards the crossroads, I asked the gentleman walking beside me (Chris Gooch whom I had met earlier) where his ancestor fought. He said he was in the 1st Mississippi Light Artillery. I said "Oh, he must have known of The Gallant Ridley". He stopped dead in his tracks and replied "He WAS The gallant Ridley". Ridley was the last one standing at a gun placement, refusing to retreat even when completely surrounded by the advancing Union column. General McPherson gazed up

at the brave man and marveled how much courage he had shown, and tried to have the men hold up and not shoot at him but was too late. He was hit by six Minnie balls. If he had been in the Union Army he would have no doubt been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Chris is the Great-great grandson of the gallant Ridley and resides in Nashville. We ran in to him at the Vicksburg battlefield on Sunday and he showed us Ridley's powder horn and photographs. It made the hair stand up on my arm. In the photograph, I am holding a picture of his Great-great grandfather (Ridley) and his wife, and the powder horn.



## DCV DOES IT AGAIN

The Austin Chapter was again outstanding with saber presentations to outstanding cadets. They are most appreciative and the presentation is the highlight of the graduation ceremonies.



CHRIS GOOCH AND TERRY HEDRICK, HOLDING "THE POWDER HORN"



Steve von Roeder, Austin Chapter, on right, and Cadet Austin Johnston at the presentation Ceremony .



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24 May, 2013

Mr. Steve VonRoeder  
Descendants of Confederate Veterans  
10201 Woodglen Cove  
Austin, TX 78753


Dear Mr. Steve Von Roeder,

On behalf of the entire Corps of Cadets of Seguin High School, we wish to thank you, Lyn, and the Descendants of Confederate Veterans for supporting our Unit with the award and the beautiful sword you presented during our Spring Review Ceremony on 21 May, 2013. Our recipient, Cadet **Austin Johnston**, is very proud, and we are very grateful for your assistance in allowing us to recognize his superior efforts.

We thank you for your continuing support of our program. Thanks to organizations such as yours, the Seguin NJROTC Unit is able to help influence the young people of our community to get involved and do the right thing. We look forward to working with you in the future. Our Administrative Officer will contact you sometime in the spring of 2014 to coordinate your support for next year.

Thanks again for sharing in the success of the Seguin High School NJROTC Program.

  
c/CDR Danielle Terrell  
Cadet Battalion Commanding Officer

  
CDR John G. Honer, USN (Ret.)  
Senior Naval Science Instructor



## OLD IRONSIDES. FROM SAR NEWSLETTER.

Some may have already seen this, but I think it's pretty neat. Good old Navy.

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers.)

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder, and **79,400 gallons of rum.**"

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on October 6, she took on 826 pounds of flour and **68,300 gallons of rum.**

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beer and **64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.**

On 18 November, Old Ironsides set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, **salvaging only the rum** aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, **no rum, no wine, no whiskey**, but did have 38,600 gallons of water!!

## MEMORIAL DAY

Had another great memorial day at the residence of founder Jim Templin at his annual picnic. Got to see some old friends and enjoy good fellowship on this important day. Jim had his swimming pool filled in with a tree planted in the space and it was a little strange to "walk across the pool".

## BOARD APPOINTMENT

Since the DCV Convention in Brenham, there has been a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Mr. Jones of S. Carolina has been gracious to accept the position, insuring that the board is at full strength. Thanks Bob.

Barney Hilburn, Editor , (of sorts) Medical update on Barney: The chemo pill is working to lower his white blood cells. Thanks for prayers.KH