



DCV TODAY

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

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

DECEMBER, 2011

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

How time flies! It seems like only weeks ago that we were getting together in Fort Worth for our annual reunion and here we are approaching 2012 and what promises to be another great get together. I hope everyone has marked the dates on their calendar and are making their telephone calls to the Jefferson Hotel for a room reservation. We have to call them for reservations, but if we can fill the hotel we can have the whole place to ourselves. They're holding it for us...all we have to do is fill it up. What a treat! I know a number of folks have already made that call so please get on the phone and give those nice folks a call (903-665-2631) and we'll have a great time in February.

Thanksgiving has come and gone and I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends and was able to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. I also hope you were mindful to educate folks that Thanksgiving really started in the South, in Virginia, long before those Pilgrim folks ever thought about having anything in Yankee land up in Massachusetts. It's true – you can look it up. Just as decoration day started in the South prior to it becoming a tradition in the north and becoming Memorial Day, if it's a good idea – it likely had its origins in the South and we were kind enough to share it with others.

On the business side, please remember that dues will be coming due soon so please make plans on making a timely contribution through your Chapters so the business of the association can keep on track. For members at large, your dues go straight to the state Treasurer. Our Membership Chairman will be contacting you soon.

The Christmas season is upon us and the time of year when we are most reminded that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Please remember those less fortunate than ourselves as we go through our daily lives. Our Confederate ancestors, even during their times of depravation pitched in to help each other and shared their last morsel of food or drink from their canteen. It was the same on the home front as those who had been made homeless were taken in by those who still had a roof over their heads and everyone realized that acts of mercy and kindness were the only way they were going to survive. The Descendants of Confederate Veterans is an organization of giving. We give of ourselves to honor those who have gone before us. That giving takes many forms, be it marking graves, raising markers and monuments, giving school programs, speaking to civic groups, making donations to organizations such as Blue Santa, etc. Those who have gone before us have given us a great gift...the opportunity to give back. Please take advantage of that opportunity when and where you can.

We are all aware of the battles we face in preserving our Confederate history and heritage. Public perception and lack of adequate education of most people is against us. However – we can't win any

battles unless we're actually in the fight. Nobody ever won a battle by sitting on the sidelines waiting for the other side to decide to give up. It's taken since 1865 to get into the mess we're faced with today and we can't get out of it overnight, but that doesn't mean we can't do anything. If you can place a marker at a park or cemetery you have won a battle. If you can win over half the folks at a Kiwanis meeting you have won a battle. If you can educate some school kids and make them curious enough to look up their ancestors or find out some additional truth, you have won a battle. You might be the person to inspire the next Douglas Southall Freeman, Bud Robertson or Shelby Foote. I know one thing for sure, though – if you aren't out in the fight, you're not inspiring anybody and you're not winning any battles. Please do something. One person makes a difference...really. Look up the name Richard Kirkland and the battle he was in if you don't believe me.

As we prepare for Christmas please remember the reason for the season and also keep Santa in mind. You really can do both, you know. Keep an eye on your neighbors and friends as the weather turns colder and don't forget about those pets outside, either. I am very thankful and very proud to be associated with each of you. Your actions inspire me and convince me that the battle is worth continuing and that we are all in the right place for the right reasons. Please continue to carry on your outstanding work.

God bless you all and,

Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Night.

Steve Lucas

DCV Board President

EDITORS CORNER

As I sit here on Thanksgiving Morning with an aroma from the kitchen that foretells of another fantastic meal, I think of all that has been done by the DCV and its members. It has been an up and down ride from that

day in May that 13 of us sat down in Templin's dining room.

We have gained some great new members while losing some great members. I guess it's the tides of the times. From what I can deduce from all the heritage organizations I belong to, as well as Kay, that is pretty much normal. We are still a strong viable organization and will continue to be.

DUES TIME

As we all know, no organization like ours cannot operate without some sort of monetary intake. We in the DCV elected to, without access to government spending, get our funds from a modest dues system.

That time comes up, like the holidays, every year, and now is the time to renew your dedication to our organization. Please do so as we strive to honor our ancestors and their memory.

DCV State dues are only \$16.00 per year to be paid directly to Dr. Sam in Austin.

Chapter dues along with state are to be paid to chapter treasurer, at which time he will forward to state.

Hey, it's not that much. To make it simple:

E. T Chapter pays: \$26.00 to Chapter treasurer Van Matthews via mail or at the party after Christmas.. He can then forward to Dr. Sam by the first of the year.

Capitol chapter pays the chapter treasurer who can forward to Dr. Sam.

At large members need to forward their \$16.00 direct to Dr. Sam at:

Dr. Sam Bennett
3300 Barton Point. Dr.
Austin, Tx., 78733

Please renew your dues as this is the only money we will receive during the year for our operation as well as other activities. IT IS IMPORTANT.

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 2011

Some members of The East Texas Chapter made their annual trek to Natchez, Ms. for the Angels on the Bluff presentation at the cemetery. Again it was an outstanding affair and one that most folks should see at least once. It is sponsored by the tourist bureau and proceeds go to the upkeep of the famous cemetery.

Busses are loaded at your prescribed time at the visitor's bureau by the river and take you to the cemetery where you are met by a guide. Then you are taken down candlelit paths to 8 or 10 prescribed graves where a docent, in period dress tells you of the deceased. Lasts about an hour or two and is quite a show. Unfortunately, my camera broke and could get no pic's . However, if you are in the area around the first of November, or you want to make a special trip, make the effort to see The Angels on the Bluff. You won't be disappointed.

Also at that time we were there we visited the ghost town of Rodney, Ms... Quite an interesting place. At one time there were 5 to 6,000 folks living there and was in consideration the capitol of Ms. However

after the war, the river changed courses and left the town high and dry. Now no more than 10 folks live there and some of the buildings are used as hunting camps. One interesting thing is the cannon ball stuck in the front of the church over the front door. (See the pic.). It is the result of a yankee who lost his temper and had the gunboat on the river shell the town. Alas, the ball is still stuck there.



CRAZY NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

"Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers"

"Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash"

DCV CONVENTION

For those interested In the convention in Jefferson and hotel reservations. There was some confusion when one of the members tried to make the reservation at the Jefferson Hotel. He tried on line and received a full notice. This was in error.

Our reservations have to be made by telephone, and they are holding the entire hotel for us. We need to get as many to stay there as possible, so for those with reservations at other places, cancel and remake at the Jefferson.

SVR, fyi on small dogs. They are welcome.

JEFFERSON HOTEL
124 W. AUSTIN ST.
JEFFERSON, TX., 75657

HISTORIC JEFFERSONHOTEL.COM
866 334 6835 903 665 2631

Be sure and mention DCV when registering.
Be sure and go to the web page and look at the rooms, pick one and let them know.

PACIFIC MOH WINNER

Lt. John James Powers
May4-8, 1942, Coral Sea.

For distinguished and conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while pilot of an airplane of bombing Sq. 5. Lt. Powers participated, with his squadron, in five engagements with Japanese forces in the Coral Sea area and adjacent waters during the period of 4 to 8 May, 1942.

Three attacks were made on enemy objectives there or near Tulagi on 4 May. In these attacks he scored direct hits which instantly demolished a large enemy gun-boat or destroyer and is credited with two close misses, one of which severely damaged a large aircraft tender, the other damaging a 20,000 ton transport. He fearlessly strafed a gunboat, firing all his ammunition into it amid intense anti-aircraft fire. This gun-boat was observed to be leaving a heavy oil slick in its wake and later was seen beached on a nearby island.

On 7 May, an attack was launched against an enemy airplane carrier and other units of the enemy's invasion force. He fearlessly led his attack section of three Douglas Dauntless dive bombers, to attack the carrier. On this occasion, he dived in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, to an altitude well below the safety altitude, at the risk of his life and almost certain damage to his own plane, in order that he might positively obtain a hit in a vital part of the ship, which would insure her complete destruction. This bomb hit was noted by many pilots and observers to cause a tremendous explosion engulfing the ship in a mass of flame, smoke, and debris. The ship sank soon after.

That evening, in his capacity as Squadron Gunnery Officer, Lt. Powers gave a lecture to the squadron on point of aim and diving technique. During this discourse he advocated low release point in order to insure greater accuracy; yet he stressed the danger not only from enemy fire and the result of low pull-out, but from own bomb blast and fragments

Thus his low-dive bombing attacks were deliberate and premeditated. Since he well knew and realized the dangers of such tactics, but went far beyond the call of duty in order to further the cause which he knew was right. The next morning, 8 May, as the pilots of the attack group left the ready room to man the planes, his indomitable spirit and leadership were well expressed in his own words, "Remember the folks back home are counting on us. I am going to get a hit if I have to lay it on their flight deck."

He led his section of dive bombers down to the target from an altitude of 18,000 feet, through a wall of bursting anti-aircraft shells, and into the face of enemy fighter planes.

Again, completely disregarding the safety altitude and without fear or concern for his safety, Lt. Powers courageously pressed his attack, almost to the very deck of an enemy carrier and did not release his bomb until he was sure of a direct hit. He was last seen attempting to recover from his dive at extremely low altitude of 200 feet, amid a terrific barrage of shells and bomb fragments, smoke flame and debris from the stricken vessel.

VETERANS DAY

Got an email from Steve v Roeder with a couple of pic's and no other information other than "Vet's Day Parade". Evidently they were in the Austin Veterans Day Parade in Austin. Good show and keep up the great work y'all are doing there.

JUST A NOTE TO SAY:

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Barney Hilburn
Editor (of sorts)