

# CALCASIEU GREYS

Volume 37, Issue 2, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Feb. 2018



Captain James W. Bryan

## NEXT MEETING

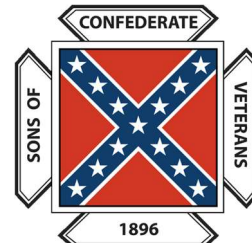
The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018 at Ryan's Buffet at 4051 Ryan St. in Lake Charles. We're holding the meeting a week later than usual this month because the second Tuesday this month was on Mardi Gras and the annual Mardi Gras parade on Ryan Street would have caused difficulties. Our program at this month's meeting will include a "State of the Camp" report from Adjutant Luke Dartez. There will also be a report by Compatriot Houston Middleton on the Stephen Dill Lee Institute, which was held in Shreveport earlier this month. The Stephen D. Lee Institute's goal is to organize accomplished and distinguished professional scholarship to inform our members and the general public of the Southern side of the war. Please come and enjoy great food and Confederate fellowship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3, 2018, Louisiana Heritage Ride/Confederate Flag Day.

### Southwest Brigade

Line up in Lafayette at Buffalo Wild Wings located @ exit 1C off I-49, at 10:00a.m. We will proceed west on I-10 and take a midway break at the Love's Truck Stop in Iowa, La (Exit 43). We will continue west and after a stop at the Texas Welcome Center, we will travel onward to the Confederate Park located off Exit 875 for lunch. From there we will travel back east on I-10. Participants are encouraged to travel back into Louisiana together until they reach their respective exits.



**SCV NEWS**

By Mike Jones,  
Camp editor/historian

Good news has been hard to find with Confederate monuments these days, but there have been reports over the last month of a positive nature for our heritage. In Denton, Texas recently a committee charged with making a recommendation in that city, recommended by a 12-3 vote to keep the monument and add a plaque with language denouncing slavery, plus a video screen showing videos that tout the racial progress the area has made.

The monument is of a Confederate soldier standing on an arch in the town square. It was dedicated to Denton County in 1918 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and sits above the south-facing walkway toward the historic Courthouse there.

Then a few days later, the County commissioners voted unanimously to accept the committee's recommendation to keep the monument and to add a kiosk honoring soldiers from Denton County who lost their lives in the War for Southern independence. There will also be a display that will explain the historic significance of the century-old monument and will include information about the county's past history of segregation.

There have been many victories around the country but with little coverage by the biased news media, other than locally.

It is also good to remind ourselves that the monuments taken down have been removed without the people getting a vote. It has usually been done, such as in New Orleans and Memphis in the dark of night and using shady, underhanded tactics. Unlike in Louisiana, at least the state legislature in Tennessee and the state historical commission is giving some help in possibly returning the statues. There are glimmers of hope out there.



2018 Lee-Jackson Banquet speaker Shane Kastler  
(Photo by Mike Jones)

### **CAMP 1390 LEE-JACKSON BANQUET**

LAKE CHARLES, La. -- Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390, Sons of Confederate Veterans, memorialized the great Southern heroes, generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson with inspiring talks at its annual Lee-Jackson Banquet Saturday, Jan. 20, 2008 at Pat's of Henderson Restaurant. Shane Kastler, author of *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Redemption* (Pelican Publishing, 2010), gave the keynote address. Tommy Curtis paid tribute to General Lee and the Rev. Ben Lyons to General Jackson.

Kastler's topic was "The Ongoing Persecution of Lee and Jackson" in the current widespread witch hunt against everything Confederate. He said his book, which highlights Forrest's transformation to a sincere and devout Christian later in life, was both praised in a resolution by the Tennessee State Legislature, and criticized by the New York Times. In his talk, he also detailed the devout Christianity of both Lee and Jackson and how unjust it is for politicians and people with a modern political agenda to be demonizing two very honorable Christian gentlemen. In response to critics who don't understand why some Southerners defend their Confederate ancestors, Kastler noted it is all about family. He said most people would stand up for their family members, be it their father, grandfather or great-grandfather, who are being unjustly defamed by those with a political agenda that includes attacking past heroes of American history.

While the current situation may seem bleak, he said he has hope because both individuals and organizations, such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans, are staunchly defending Confederate monuments and heroes such as Lee and Jackson. Kastler said he was surprised and pleased by President Trump defending Lee, Jackson,

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who are being attacked by those wanting the change true American history.

Curtis spoke in tribute of Lee, noting that he was one of the most honorable and decent men in American History, who should be praised and honored, not demonized. He encouraged the group to keep sincerely, and with knowledge of their subject, defending their Confederate history and heritage. He ended his talk with a number of inspiring quotes by Lee. Rev. Lyons reviewed the life of General Jackson, who had a difficult childhood and was an orphan at seven. By dedication and hard work, he overcame his difficulties and became a graduate of West Point, a Mexican-American War hero, and a successful professor at the Virginia Military Institute. His military genius came out in the War for Southern Independence, but he personally maintained his humility and devout Christian values until his death May 10, 1863 from a mortal wound at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Other members of the SCV camp then paid tribute to their individual Confederate ancestors. Camp Adjutant Luke Dartez made a bereavement presentation of a Confederate memorial flag and certificate to the survivors of the late Nathan Curtis, a long time camp member who died in November. Survivors there included son and daughter, Tommy Curtis and Phyllis Curtis, and his widow, Mrs. Nathan Curtis. Officers for 2008 were also installed. Michael Wayne Clanton, the outgoing camp commander, and Charles Richardson, the incoming commander, presided over the meeting.

### **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Gentlemen of the SCV,

In 1896, our Confederate Ancestors, knowing the thin gray line, the Confederate Veterans themselves, would vanish in a few short years, agreed to help establish the next group of Southern Defenders - the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our forefathers knew there would come a time when the South would have to endure a continuous onslaught against everything for which they sacrificed and died. They knew they could count on their Sons to defend their good name and to vindicate the cause for which they fought. Well...that time is NOW!!!

It is said, "A man will be judged by his works." That is what I ask of you. Judge me for my works and the job I have done with the SCV, for I will be

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standing for the position of Commander-In-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at our National Reunion in Franklin, TN.

It is my desire to do my duty to the best of my ability.....that is to promote and grow the SCV, to defend our Confederate Veterans at all costs, and to teach our youth so the truth will be handed down to our descendants.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served you as your Lt. Commander-In-Chief for almost two years. I look forward, with anticipation and optimism, to serving as your next Commander-In-Chief.

It is well known, the battles we are fighting today are from the east coast to the west coast and north and south. These attacks are never ending. Just as the resolution was passed in 1991 to eradicate everything Confederate, we see that becoming more real every day. Having been given the blessing from the Confederate Veterans themselves, the Sons of Confederate Veterans WILL advance the Colors, the Truth, and the Cause for which They Fought.

However, one man cannot do it alone. It will take the COMMITMENT of EVERY member to resist the forces of destruction. WILL YOU STAND WITH ME??

Thank you for your support.

Paul Gramling, Jr.

Lt. Commander-In-Chief

Sons of Confederate Veterans

### **ARMY OF TRANS-MISSISSIPPI COMMANDER CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Fellow Compatriots of the Sons of Confederate Veterans:

These last few years have been a stressful and eye opening experience for the SCV. As our gallant ancestors faced an enemy with superior resources and manpower, we in the SCV are now facing the same powerful enemies. Our enemies of the past are still with us but now we also face enemies with unlimited financial resources and superior intelligence gathering capabilities who have total access to the media.

We have seen our monuments and history attacked at all levels. We have seen laws we felt protected us, flaunted and ignored. We have seen our resources drained due to the attacks all across the nation. We must learn from our past responses and develop new approaches to these attacks. We must learn from the past and develop

a comprehensive plan for our future.

I have held Camp, Brigade, Division and Army level offices in the SCV. I have been closely involved with legal defenses from counties all the way up to the Supreme Court of the United States. I feel I now am qualified to ask you to honor me by electing me as your Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Confederate Veterans were chosen by our enemies as the "easy target". In my opinion, we in this country now face an enemy who is intent not only on erasing our Confederate Heritage but also destroying the very foundations on which our nation was built. If they can remove our monuments and destroy our Heritage, they will, as they have shown, destroy our Constitution, our churches and all the values that our gallant ancestors fought so hard to defend.

To meet these challenges, the SCV must continue to modernize and strengthen our organization. We must build and supply our Museum and make it a source of information from which to spread the truth of our Cause. We must develop ways to increase our financial base through grants, fundraisers and donations from outside sources. We must reach out to Heritage groups, veterans groups, and any organizations that share our vision.

Over the next months, I will provide you specific goals that I will pursue, if elected. I am not running as a candidate from the ATM, AOT, or ANV. I am running as a candidate for Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and I ask for your support in electing me to that office.

God Bless the SCV,

Johnnie Holley

Commander ATM

Candidate for CIC

### **LA. DIV. LT. CMDR. CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Compatriots,

I am running for Louisiana Division First Lieutenant Commander.

In December 2000, I joined the Major Thomas McGuire camp #1714 of West Monroe. I am a charter member, former adjutant, and current Commander of the Lt. Elijah H. Ward camp #1971 of Farmerville. I have served as Northeast Brigade commander, Louisiana Division second lieutenant commander, Louisiana Division first lieutenant commander, and I currently serve as Louisiana Division Chief of Staff.

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If elected, I seek to increase Louisiana Division membership and promote Confederate heritage statewide. I want to see enormous Confederate flags near every major highway corridor in our state!

I respectfully ask for your support for the position of First Lieutenant Commander of the Louisiana Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Deo Vindice!

Kevin Adkins

### **LT. CMDR.-IN-CHIEF CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Fellow Compatriots,

As you can tell, we are experiencing a period of "Reconstruction" of our own reconstruction just as our ancestors predicted as our enemies embolden themselves with continued attacks upon our heritage. We see our own communities tearing down statues and monuments that they graciously accepted and honored over a hundred years ago. These attacks will continue until everything that is Confederate is erased and those people get to rewrite history until even the framers of this nation are purged from our schools. As a result, these attacks have placed the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the limelight of the world press and revealed that our organization is the protector and authority of everything Confederate. If we are to persevere we must seize this opportunity to promote Growth, Unity, and Progress by recruiting new members in our organization, educate the public about the true Cause our ancestors fought for, and promote our organization in our communities.

To accomplish this, we need the proper leadership to see this carried out in a gentlemanly and orderly fashion. To meet this challenge, we need men with new innovative ideas who are willing to work hard at bringing our membership together under a common Cause, and to meet the demands that the "Charge of Gen. Stephen D. Lee" has laid before us. Our "enemies" think they have us on the ropes and we cannot withstand the tide of change they are forcing upon us in the name of "political correctness.". They continue to paint a picture about our ancestors and the Cause they fought for was immoral, illegal, and unjust. The SCV is the largest and most recognizable organization for the promotion of Confederate Heritage and it is time we capitalize on that fact. We must hold true to Stephen D. Lee's Charge to us and make our organization something that will be perpetuated for future generations so that they too may take pride and celebrate a rich Confederate heritage.

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But, there is serious work before us that needs to be done in an aggressive and imaginative manner, emulating the principles that our ancestors fought so hard for. It is time to look at our problems with new eyes, keeping in place the wisdom gleaned from the lessons of the past. We need to use 21st Century ideas to fight this growing threat of "political correctness."

As a high school and college teacher for twenty-five years, it has been my job to teach students our nation's history. I have seen political correctness infiltrating our history books. It has been a struggle to teach the "truth" in our classrooms. Yet, the youth of today are eager to know the truth when it is presented. As a Southerner and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for over 20 years, it is my duty to teach the truth about the Cause our ancestors fought for and to uphold the "Charge" they have left for us. This, I am faithfully carrying out. As a member of the GEC for the past eight years as AoT Councilman and now AoT Commander, I have proven that I have the energy, the experience, and the right attitude to lead and represent this organization. And so, I humbly ask you for your prayers and your support as I make my formal announcement to run for the office of Lt. Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I will have a website and a face book page set up in the future to learn more about my platform in the future.

Larry A. McCluney, Jr.  
Army of Tennessee Commander,