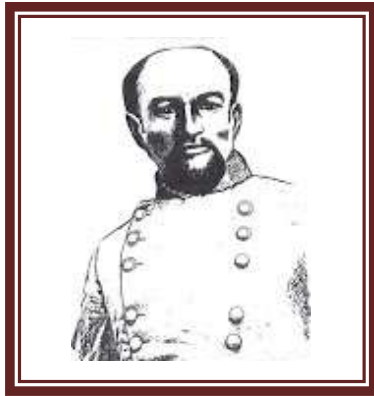


# CALCASIEU GREYS

Volume 39, Issue 4 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lake Charles, Louisiana April, 2020



**Captain James W. Bryan**

## **NEXT MEETING**

The April meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus emergency. Gov. Edwards ordered the closing of nonessential businesses, which eliminated our regular meeting place, as well as our assembly being limited to 10 persons. These mandates last until April 30, so we'll have to see what happens in May and what happens to our meeting places. We'll keep camp members updated on the news.

## **LOUISIANA DIVISION REUNION**

Also due to the coronavirus emergency, the La Division Reunion has been postponed until June 19-21, 2020. It will be held at the Best Western in Natchitoches Parish. 5131 University Parkway Natchitoches, La 71457. Room rates will be 85 per night plus tax when you call 318-352-6655 to reserve under Sons of Confederate Veterans.

If you have and questions, please contact Camp Cmdr. James Cryer, Col. Samuel D. Russell Camp 1617, Natchitoches, La.; email: [Weazel696979@gmail.com](mailto:Weazel696979@gmail.com).

Program ads for the 2020 Division Reunion will cost: \$20 for ¼ page; \$40 for ½ \$40; \$60 for Full page.

Please email Brittany Cryer at [Brittanycryer1427@gmail.com](mailto:Brittanycryer1427@gmail.com) or James Cryer at [Weazel696979@gmail.com](mailto:Weazel696979@gmail.com) if you would like to put an ad in the program.



**SCV NEWS**

*Mike Jones, editor/historian*

The coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent government mandates with regards to businesses, social distancing, limiting assemblies to 10 persons, etc. has resulted in the cancellation or postponement of our monthly meeting and other activities we might have wanted to have in April, which is Confederate History Month. Hopefully all in your families are safe and healthy and things will start getting back to normal in May. You can read our division commander's comments on Page 2. Our main focus must be at this time the health and safety of our families. We can also pray to God for a quick recovery from this emergency and for all those who have been stricken by the coronavirus, and those medical personnel and families caring for them.

So far our National Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida in July has not been impacted, but our major national event in May has been. The reburial of General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife in May at Elm Springs has been postponed. The delay is caused partly by the virus and by delays resulting from the legal technicalities. A new date for the reburial ceremony is pending. The grand opening of our new National Confederate Museum, which is being coordinated the the reburial, has been postponed as well. If you made hotel reservations for these events you'll need to cancel them.

If you have internet access you can keep in touch with the latest happenings with regard to Confederate heritage on such sites as Facebook, although you'll also be exposed to things you don't like or agree with as well. Both our Louisiana division and our national headquarters send out plenty of updates via email on things going on that you can sign up for if you haven't already. Have a blessed and holy Easter this Sunday and God Bless Our Southland.

## A MESSAGHE FROM OUR LOUISIANA DIVISION COMMANDER

Gentlemen:

First and foremost, I hope this correspondence finds you and yours safe.

April is Confederate History Month. Every month should be Confederate History Month to those of us in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We should do all we can throughout the year to salute and honor the memory of all those who honorably wore or supported the men in gray.

With that said: During this crisis we must likewise do everything we are asked to slow the spread of this virus by being good citizens, friends, and family members. President Trump and Governor Edwards have extended their stay-at-home directives, in regards to COVID-19 (the Coronavirus) to April 30, 2020. Through that date, I **urge** all members of the division to limit unnecessary risks and cancel or postpone **all** face-to-face SCV gatherings. Instead burn up the internet, social media, and your cell phones to get the word out about our Confederate Heritage. The officers of this division truly value all of our compatriots, and wish to do everything we can to ensure your safety while we all carry on with our mission.

We encourage all of our members to pray for the health and well-being of each of us, our families, friends, and everyone in danger. Check in on each other, especially on those who are more at risk (age 60 & above and/or have existing health issues, etc.). As always, if you need assistance, or have news, please inform an officer in your Camp.

**IMPORTANT:** Louisiana citizens can dial 211, 24/7 and reach a live 211 specialist to discuss available help and information for COVID-19. Citizens can also text the keyword "LACOVID" to 898-211 to have instant access to the most current information available in our state, or you can visit [www.LA211Help.org](http://www.LA211Help.org) >< Background: The Louisiana 211 Statewide Network has partnered with the LA Department of Health to ensure citizens can access the most current information available for Coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you wish to view any of the Governor's official proclamations on this or any issue, go to Governor's website at Gov.La.Gov >< Again, unfortunately, there is NO Confederate History Month Proclamation (proof that we still have much work to do).

May God keep us all in his Grace.

*Randy Jarreau, Commander*

## MESSAGE FROM LA. DIVISION CHAPLAIN

Greetings, Fellow Compatriots,

The other day I got into a Facebook discussion with someone who said he did not believe God would allow something like the COVID-19 pandemic. I responded with the question, "Have you ever read the Book of Job?". I went back to the thread the next day and the gentleman had removed his original post. He must have taken the time to read Job's story.

God does allow these things to happen. He always has and always will until Jesus' return. We could get into a theological discussion why, but I haven't the space nor the intelligence.

I do know these two things:

1. Whatever God does it is for HIS GLORY
  2. Whatever we do should be for HIS GLORY
- Like Job, we are in a time of testing. Job lost everything except his faith. That remained strong. Job praised God regardless of the situation.

Suffering and death are part of life and have been since the Garden of Eden. There is a reason and purpose in them. These events are to strengthen our faith. They are also a wake-up call to those who have turned from the faith.

Our God never promised us a smooth flight, but He did promise a soft landing. Trust Him! I pray that this finds you healthy. I pray your faith will become stronger in these rough times. God is in control. This will pass and we have a lot of catching up to do afterwards!!

This is Easter. It is the celebration of Christ Risen. He was victorious over death. Jesus lives today. Believe in Him, and you will have eternal life.

In Christ,

*Donald Kimbell, Chaplain*



## A summary of why we celebrate Confederate History Month:

(From Beauregard Camp 130)

One hundred and fifty-nine years ago, the South voted to secede the Union of her Revolutionary War Grandfathers. Reasons for secession were varied and many, and did not happen overnight. The states did not leave the Union at the same time, nor on the same day, but one by one. The Confederate States formed to preserve self-government, but Abraham Lincoln was out to change that. On April 15, 1861 Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to invade the South to force the seceded Southern states back into the Union. That was unconstitutional and illegal (Article IV Section IV of the original Constitution debated for 13 years to become law). The union was to be an umbrella, not a binding, grabbing chain.

One by one the citizens of the South enlisted to defend their homes from illegal invasion. These citizen-soldiers were overwhelmingly farmers, but among them were shop-keepers, tailors, blacksmiths, educators, clergy, college students, and some already in the Armed Forces of the United States. Among these citizen soldiers was every race, every nationality and every age like R.B. Freeman of the 6th GA Cavalry who enlisted at 10 years of age, to John Roy of the 24th TN who enlisted at 76. These citizen-soldiers were red, yellow, black white and brown; both free and bond. These citizen-soldiers were husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, grandsons, uncles, nephews and cousins. Among these citizens were the very wealthy, but the vast majority of these men, some 95-97% were not wealthy and had no hopes of being so.

It is the citizen-soldiers and sailors of the Confederacy who died far from home who are memorialized in marble and statues that salt the South. Some are to generals and the well-known, but the vast majority are to the average citizens who made up the Confederate army. OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD, ALL of them.

These citizen-soldiers grew up hearing stories of the fight for American independence. The flame of patriotism was passed to them from their Fathers. They'd heard of the Battle of King's Mountain, and knew very well what happened at Lexington and Concord, so it was natural for them to enlist to defend their families and homes from invasion. Each time they were captured by Federals and asked why they were fighting, their answer every time was, "Because YOU'RE HERE!" You see, they were taught the Constitution at home by those who won it. We don't comprehend what it cost our Fathers to defend their "country" which is what their sovereign states were before

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The war was not over quickly, nor was it easy. Four long years our Fathers battled hunger, cold, disease, malnutrition, and lack as they fought a larger, well-fed, better equipped, never-ending fighting force in the Federals. There are stories in the Confederate Veteran Magazine which tell of them leaving bloody tracks in the snow for lack of shoes, and going for days on a handful of cornmeal and tiny spoon of molasses. The fatigue was overwhelming and they were so emaciated they could not march, and they crawled into position to defend their homes. These men, our Fathers, are world renowned for their bravery, loyalty, and defense of their families and homes.

Only in recent history has it become popular to slander the Confederate soldier as our culture shifts from what is important, to what is fleeting. But make no mistake, you have NO reason to be ashamed of your ancestors. Confederate descendants, feel your own arm. Feel the warmth and flesh of that arm. That is the same flesh they bore, that same blood coursed through their veins. God Almighty has given us something the world covets. It is our Confederate heritage, bought with the precious blood, limbs and lives of our Fathers.

Family after family had their males, and sometimes from the father, to each and every son in the Confederate service. In some instances their  
(Continued on page 4 col. 1)



“ THE SOUTHERN CROSS.”\*

**GOD SAVE OUR BELOVED SOUTHLAND!**

(Continued From Page 3)

their daughters served as well. After the war, the citizen-soldiers went to what was left of their homes and most of the time it was nothing. Everything was gone. No houses or farms, salted earth to affect future crops, no animals because all were stolen or dead, nothing to plow with, burned churches, ruined families and destroyed lives. Not even a pencil was left in the south.

Many families were completely wiped out due to exposure, disease through over-crowding, lack of sanitation, and the hard hand of famine. The South lay in ruins and then, the hell of reconstruction. But these citizen-soldiers persevered. Some of them went home maimed so badly they wore veils over their faces the rest of their lives, or lived as cripples till the day they died. But they rebuilt our beloved South and gave to the country such blessings, and products, we use every day like Coca-Cola and medical advances like prosthetics. They acquiesced to the conqueror, accepted defeat as the sovereign will of God, and went home to be the best they could be.

It's time to wake up from sleep, and stop outsiders, newcomers to the country (who had no family here during that war) and agitators from wiping our family from our South.

Deo Vindice, Deo Gratias.  
**Beauregard Camp 130**

**CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH  
 PROCLAIMED**

Compatriots,

Today, being the 1st day of April, is the 1st day of Confederate History and Heritage Month. Whether your Governor or Mayor proclaims such, it doesn't matter.....WE PROCLAIM April as Confederate History and Heritage Month and WE will be the ones celebrating it.

Due to the Coronavirus situation, this year will be a lot different from years past. Several, if not all, of our events in April have been cancelled or postponed. Take this time to educate the public about Confederate History through social media. Flood the internet with facts. Promote our Confederate Ancestors in an abundance like we've never done before.

Let's make good use of our time around the homestead and celebrate Confederate History Month via the keyboard!!

*Paul Gramling, Jr.*

Commander-In-Chief  
 Sons of Confederate Veterans

**REVISED LA. DIV. REUNION SCHEDULE**

**Louisiana Division Schedule of Events:**

**Friday June 19th, 2020**

5:00pm - 7:00pm Registration  
 7:30pm DEC meeting in Banquet Room

**Saturday June 20th, 2020**

8:00am - 9:00am Registration  
 9:00am Opening Ceremonies  
 9:30am - 11:30am 1st Business Session  
 11:30am - 1:00pm Lunch on your own  
 1:00pm - 3:30pm 2nd Business Session (if needed)  
 4:00pm - 5:00pm LA SCVMC Meeting  
 6:30pm Banquet and Awards

**Sunday June 21st, 2020**

9:30am Wreath laying ceremony at the Col. Samuel D. Russell Memorial at the American Cemetery on 2nd. Street, Natchitoches, La.

