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January 2017

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# CALCASIEU GREYS

Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390, Lake Charles, La.

Sons of Confederate Veterans

calcasieugreys.blogspot.com

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## NEXT MEETING:

**Lee-Jackson Banquet 2017**

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Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390's annual Lee-Jackson Banquet 2016 will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, with our social at Pats of Henderson Restaurant, 1500 Siebarth Drive, Lake Charles. The program will get underway at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Fred Adolphus, curator of the Fort Hood, Texas Military Museum. His topic is "Origins and History of the Confederate Flag." The cost will be \$30.00 per person with a delicious selection of menu items, which includes tea, appetizer and dessert. Please make your remittance of or by check payable to SCV Camp 1390. Mail the check to Adjutant Luke Darte, 908 Henning Road, Sulphur, La. 70665-7673, by Jan. 16 so he can give the restaurant a notice of how many to expect. We are not set up to take debit or credit cards. The price is all inclusive—meal, drink, and gratuity. Cocktails are not part of price. Please come and celebrate our great Confederate heritage with this special annual event.

## QUOTES

Robert E. Lee:

*My Loyalty to Virginia ought to take precedence over that which is due to the federal government. If Virginia stands by the old Union, so will I. But, if she secedes, then I will still follow my native state with my sword, and need be with my life.—Lee to Charles Anderson, February 1861*

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson:

*Once you get them running, you can stay on top of them, and that way a small force can defeat a large one every time.—Stonewall Jackson*

Nathan Bedford Forrest:

*War means fighting, and fighting means killing.*

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## Upcoming Events

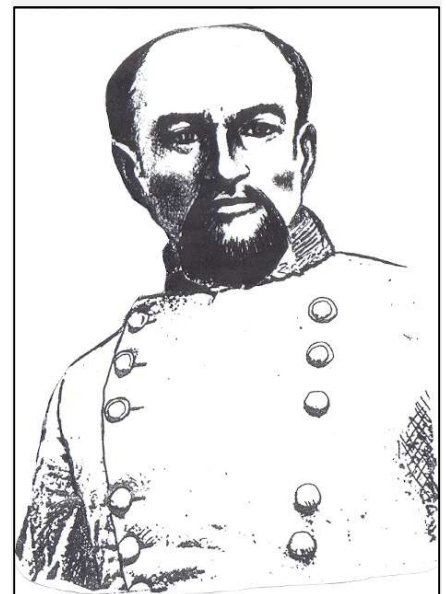
**January 21**

Lee-Jackson Banquet

**January 28**

Lake Charles Gun & Knife Show, 9-5 Sat. & 9-4 Sun.  
Admission \$8 and kids under 12 free.

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Capt. James W. Bryan

# SCV NEWS & Views

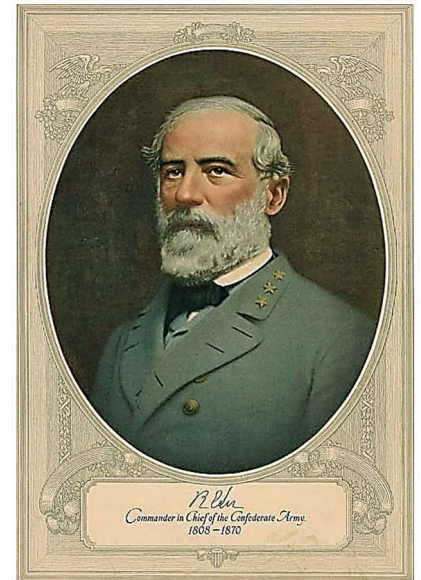
BY MIKE JONES

CAMP EDITOR/HISTORIAN

I recently read E.P. Potter's definitive biography of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the great World II commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Of particular interest to me was what a large part Nimitz's own Confederate heritage played in his successful career in the U.S. Navy, and his genius for commanding men in war. Nimitz was born Feb. 24, 1885 in Fredericksburg, Texas to Chester Bernhard Nimitz and Anna Henke. His father died before he was born and his Confederate veteran grandfather, Captain Charles Henry Nimitz stepped in and raised the boy in his early formative years. Admiral Nimitz said it was his grandfather who developed his character and values. Captain Nimitz was born in Bremen, Lower Saxony, Germany—then an independent city-state—, Nov. 9, 1826 and entered the German Merchant Marines at age 14. He later immigrated to Charleston, S.C. and then to Fredericksburg, Texas where he established the Nimitz Hotel.

Admiral Nimitz said his grandfather, who had also served as a Texas Ranger in 1851, once told him, “the sea—like life itself—is a stern taskmaster. The best way to get along with either is to learn all you can, then do your best and don't worry—especially about things over which you have no control.” Captain Nimitz had become acquainted with Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry, when Lee was stationed in Texas in the 1850s. Nimitz got to know Lee as an occasional guest at the Nimitz Hotel, during his travels around Texas. Lee stayed there enough that Nimitz would give him the same room whenever he stayed there. When Lee was ordered back to Washington, D.C. in early 1861, Nimitz bought Lee's furniture.

With the coming of war in 1861, Nimitz organized the Gillespie Rifles, which became Co. A of the Third Texas Infantry. But two months after he organized his company, he was appointed enrolling officer for the Frontier District, under Colonel John S. “Rip” Ford. Captain Nimitz held that post for the rest of the war and was paroled at Fredericksburg by Federal authorities in July of 1865. (Continued on page 3, Col. 1)



## HISTORICAL FACT

### HUNLEY –Submarine Pioneer

Submarine pioneer Horace Lawson Hunley was a resident of Louisiana who began his historic development of the first successful submarine in military history at New Orleans, Louisiana.

He was born June 23, 1823 in Sumner County, Tenn. He moved with his parents to New Orleans. By profession, he was a lawyer but he was fascinated by the development of an undersea boat to help the Confederacy defeat the Federal blockade. He became a partner with James R. McClintock and Baxter Watson in building an experimental submarine in New Orleans named the Pioneer. When the Federals captured New Orleans, the destroyed the Pioneer and moved to Mobile. There they developed another submarine.

Hunley died Oct. 15, 1863 when the vessel accidentally became stuck in the mud.

(Continued from Page 2)

As a youth, Admiral Nimitz would listen to his Confederate veteran grandfather's stories and go on hunting and fishing expeditions with him. They remained close until the grandson left for the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Admiral Nimitz was also very well read on military history, including Douglas Southall Freeman's definitive 4-volume biography, *R.E. Lee*. Nimitz had the opportunity to meet Freeman in World War II, and the two became friends. Freeman was later responsible for getting Nimitz an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Virginia.

I also noted that Nimitz's personality, command style, the tactics he used and the way he handled personnel, were all very similar to those of Robert E. Lee. For example, I found that tactics used by General Lee and the Second Battle of Manassas, and those used by Admiral Nimitz at the Battle of Midway, were very similar. Basically, at Second Manassas, Lee sent Stonewall Jackson's corps on a flank march and got behind General John Pope's Federal Army of Virginia. While Pope was fixated on direct frontal assaults on Jackson's men, Lee had General James Longstreet's corps come down on the Federal left with a crushing flank attack completely routing the Northern invaders.

Likewise, at the Battle of Midway, Nimitz, after learning that the Japanese were planning to invade Midway Island, sent all three carriers from his U.S. Pacific Fleet northeast of the island, outflanking the Japanese, to wait for the enemy to start their attack on Midway. While the Japanese were fixated on attacking Midway Island, the American carriers launched their bomber aircraft which staged a crushing left flank aerial attack on the Japanese fleet and sank all four enemy carriers. Midway is considered a turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Both Nimitz and Lee had similar command styles. In both cases, they believed in putting their forces in the right places at the right time and when the battle started, not interfering with their commanders on the scene of action. In addition, both men had to deal with frequent internal conflicts between subordinate commanders, which they both handled in similar ways. Lee and Nimitz would both quickly move out commanders who didn't live up to their expectations.

I was also fascinated with how similar the relationship between Lee and Stonewall Jackson were to the relationship between Admiral Nimitz and Admiral William "Bull" Halsey. Like Jackson, Halsey was the same type of hard-driving, aggressive commander as his Confederate counterpart was. When Lee needed a sharp aggressive attack on the enemy, Stonewall Jackson could usually be counted on to deliver it. Nimitz used Halsey in a similar way time and time again. Nimitz also had a subordinate admiral, Raymond Spruance, that reminds me of General James Longstreet. Both Longstreet and Spruance were slower, more careful and deliberate, but also dependable when those attributes were needed the most.

Admiral Nimitz is a good example of how our Confederate heritage has impacted American history for the better. Some of the best World War II generals had Confederate heritage, such as General George S. Patton, or were influenced by Robert E. Lee, such as General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Although Eisenhower had no Confederate heritage, he was an admirer of Robert E. Lee and hung his picture in the White House while he was president. Confederate heritage greatly benefits all of America, not just the South.

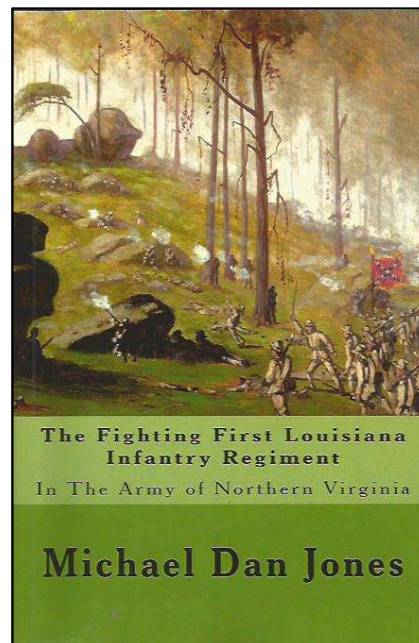
## Monument Protection Resolution

The Attakapas Chapter, Louisiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution does hereby urge an request that the Louisiana Legislature, and each chamber thereof, pass a constitutional amendment for submission to an review and consideration by the citizens of the State of Louisiana prohibiting the destruction, dismantling, removal, moving, storage or hiding of historic monuments, structures, images, plaques and things and any vestiges thereof and forbidding the elimination of historic sites and particularly those monuments, buildings, structures, images, plaques, things and sites pertaining to the American Revolution and its patriots and those who gave aid and comfort to the cause of the American Revolution, our Founding Fathers, or nations presidents, supporters of our nation's Constitution and the officers and soldiers and sailors of the Wars of the United States of America.

This resolution shall be transmitted immediately upon passage to all members of the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives and the leadership of each chamber and forthwith disseminated to the press and major news organizations in Louisiana so that the citizens of Louisiana, and each and all of them may participate in an open and uninhibited debate and final resolution of this most important and vital issue that affects all Louisianians living and yet unborn.

## EXPANSION OF PETERSBURG BATTLEFIELD

With a vote in the United States Senate recently, Congress passed legislation to expand the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield by 7,238 acres, according to the Civil War Trust. The bill gives the site potential to become one of the largest historical parks in the nation. Although no properties will be immediately added to the existing park, the legislation authorizes the National Park Service to incorporate historic battlefield lands previously located outside the park boundary. Petersburg National Battlefield commemorates 18 separate battlegrounds associated with the 10-month siege of Petersburg, one of the most extensive complex struggles of the War for Southern Independence.



## NEW REGIMENTAL HISTORY OF 1<sup>st</sup> LA. INF.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Infantry Regiment was one of the hardest fighting units in the War for Southern Independence. It was raised from Louisiana militia units from New Orleans, central and western Louisiana in April, 1861.

Soon dispatched to Richmond, Virginia, it was assigned for the first year of service to safeguard the vital naval port of Norfolk, Virginia. In the summer of 1862, it battled the North's invasion on the Yorktown Peninsula and McClellan's drive on Richmond. Under the leadership of Robert E. Lee, it fought in most of the major battles of the Army of Northern Virginia from the Seven Days to the bitter end at Appomattox.

This is the story of the men who fought in that legendary army through those fateful years. The book contains a roster of the men who served in the Fighting First Louisiana, photographs, maps, bibliography and index.

The book is available on Createspace.com, Amazon.com and other online book sellers for \$17.98 plus shipping.