



## S.C.V. Mission Statement (The “Charge”)

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906

# THE FIRST SHOT

Newsletter of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000

March 2017

Volume 4 Number 3

## Commander’s Corner

Spring is finally here. Soon the Virginia Division, SCV will hold its Annual Convention in South Boston. I hope you will consider attending as there is an important Constitutional Amendment to be voted on. At our April 5th Meeting, we will have our Convention Credentials and will be seeking delegates to represent the Camp. We will discuss the amendment then.

Another event the membership should consider is the National SCV Chaplains Conference that will be held on May 18th (7:30 PM) and 19th (9 AM – 3:30 PM) at the Providence Baptist Church. The address is 1441 Erickson Avenue, Harrisonburg, Virginia. No registration is necessary. Just come and enjoy good Southern preaching and fellowship. Dr. Ray L. Parker, Chaplain-in-Chief will be the MC.

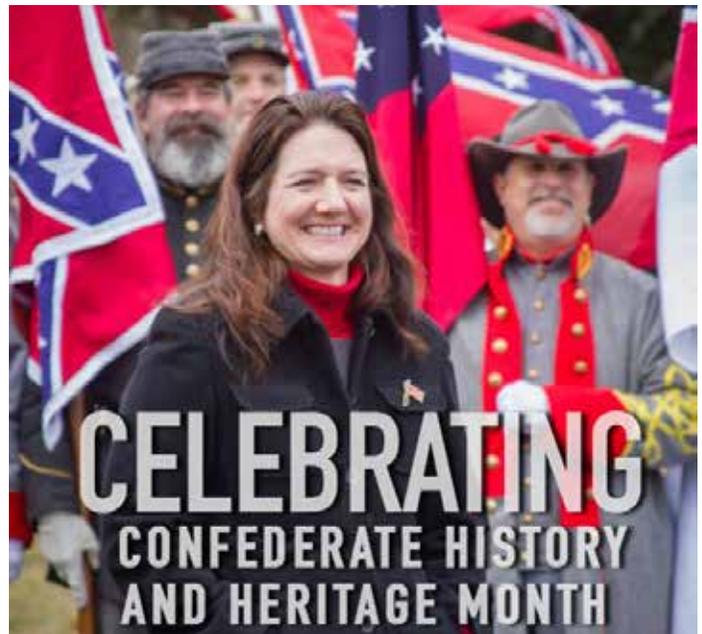
Our speaker this month will be Susan Hathaway. Head of the Virginia Flaggers. Her topic is “*Raise Your Battle Flags*”. I’m sure this will be interesting.

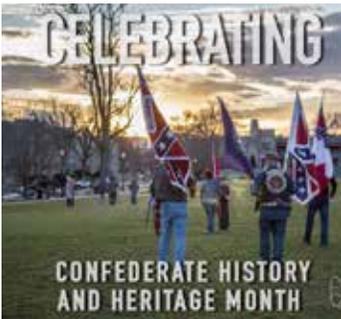
I would like to commend the work of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Graves Committee for their cleanup activities at the Confederate Sections of both the Oakwood and Hollywood Cemeteries.

They are also making repairs on the gate to Edmund Ruffin’s gravesite.

Remember April is Confederate History and Heritage Month. Show your support by attending events and learning about your history.

Joe Wright  
Commander





## 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander's Report

Compatriots, Friends, Ladies of the Camp:

The first quarter of 2017 is already, and the upcoming April Fire Eaters Meeting will begin a brand new quarter. We are blessed to have a solid camp, with many dedicated members working hard on behalf of the Camp, the Cause and their ancestors. The Camp has gotten the year off to a great start, so we want to keep up that momentum. We have had good speakers, made some decisions and have taken action on those decisions, including expanding our Wreaths Across America program, purchasing rolls of Confederate History Month stickers to had out at major events like the Tomato Festival and Field Days of the Past, and awarding Jim Tingle the War Service Medal for his service in Viet Nam.



You can more fully enjoy the benefits of your membership in the Fire Eaters Camp by attending our meetings, getting involved with one of our committees and participating in the major events of the Camp. The more you participate in Camp activities, the more you will learn about the South during the War years, as well as battles and battlefields of the War. In addition, you will be able to socialize and fellowship with like-minded individuals, have a good meal, and enjoy a relaxing evening away from other responsibilities.

You really need to attend our April meeting, on the first Wednesday of the month, April 5, at 6:00 p.m. at Anna's Italian Restaurant on Mechanicsville Pike, with the business meeting starting at 7:00 p.m., after we enjoy a fantastic dinner meal. Our guest speaker for April is Susan Hathaway, President of the VA Flaggers. As you undoubtedly know, Susan is the featured speaker in numerous locations, including down to Florida and out to Texas. We are very fortunate to have her with us for a presentation in her dynamic style. Please be there to hear a super interesting speaker.

With springtime now actually arriving (I hope!), there will be opportunities to participate in outdoor activities in support of the Camp. Come on down on April 5 to find out what events fit your schedule and would be meaningful for your to be involved with.

See you all on April 5.

Joe Howard  
1st Lt Commander

### Mark Your Calendar

**4/05/2017**

FireEater Meeting

**4/08/2017**

Old South Ball -  
Danville, Virginia  
(See Page 3)

**4/08/2017**

Confederate History  
& Heritage Month  
Service - Blandford  
Church, Petersburg,  
VA - Speaker: Pastor  
John Weaver 8:00 am  
(See Page 3)

**4/10/2017**

OCR Meeting

## Save The Date

## Upcoming Color Guard Events

**May 11, 2017**

JEB Stuart Yellow  
Tavern Ceremony -  
Color Guard

**May 13, 2017**

Confederate Memorial  
Day, Oakwood  
Cemetery - VA  
Flaggers

**June 2017**

Jefferson Davis  
Birthday Service -  
Hollywood Cemetery

**July 2017**

SCV Reunion,  
Memphis, TN

### Color Guard Report – March 2017

At this time, the list of requests for the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp Color Guard is limited but as it is now Spring I'm sure many Camps, Chapters, and organizations are in the planning stages of ceremonies to dedicate headstones, Iron Crosses, and monuments and we will soon receive requests.

The Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter, UDC has asked that we post the Colors for their May 11 Yellow Tavern Ceremony. The location is where J. E. B. Stuart was fatally shot. The address is 10112 Telegraph Road, Glen Allen, 23059. It will take place at 11 AM. The speaker is Mrs. Lynn Willis on the subject of J. E. B. Stuart monument in 1898. All are welcome to attend.

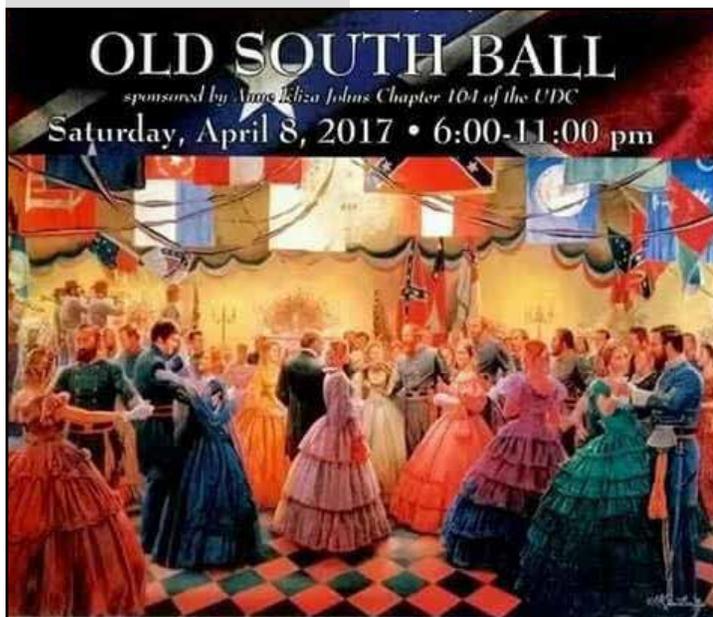
We are always looking for new members for the Color Guard so if anyone is interested in participating in the Color Guard, please contact me.

### Upcoming Events:

May 13 – Virginia Flaggers Confederate Memorial Day at Oakwood Cemetery, RVA

Joe Wright  
Color Sergeant

**Any members not already on the Color Guard email list with enlisted uniforms of the Confederate Army, Navy or Marines who would like to participate in honoring Confederate Soldiers at graveside headstone and Iron Cross dedications, Monument Dedications and displaying the Confederate Colors in parades, please, contact me at [varebel@embarqmail.com](mailto:varebel@embarqmail.com)**



**OLD SOUTH BALL**  
*sponsored by Anne Kliza Johns Chapter 104 of the UDC*  
Saturday, April 8, 2017 • 6:00-11:00 pm

Featuring  
**The Stragglers Band**

\$35 per person (Price includes Hors d'oeuvres)  
*Period Dress or Formal Attire*

Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History  
*The Last Confederate Capital*  
975 Main Street, Danville, VA  
*For tickets or more information, email [aejtickets@centurylink.net](mailto:aejtickets@centurylink.net)*

### Confederate History & Heritage Month Service

April 8th - 10:00AM  
Historic Blandford Church  
Petersburg, Virginia



Principles of Southern  
Secession: Why Confederate  
History Matters in 2017

A.P. HILL CAMP 167



PETERSBURG, VA

Special Guest Speaker:  
**Pastor John Weaver**



# OAKWOOD CEMETERY CONFEDERATE SECTION

## GRAVES & MONUMENTS COMMITTEE



The Graves Committee went out to Oakwood Confederate Section to clean years of growth along East Richmond Road that have obscured the first row of Section A. It will really look outstanding for the Division Flag Day tomorrow.

Those present were Chairman James Tingle, Herb Carber, Charles Martin, Sr., Alvin Mills. Joe Wright joined in.

## CAMP OFFICERS

**Edmund Ruffin**  
Fire Eaters S.C.V.  
Camp #3000

**Joeph "Joe" Wright**  
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varebel@embarqmail.com

**Joe Howard**  
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**Willie Wells**  
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**Jim Tingle**  
Sergeant at Arms  
804.292.5457 (Cell)

**Brandon White**  
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brandonwhite88@gmail.com

**J. Walter Smith**  
Adjutant/Treasurer/Judge  
Advocate  
JudgeAdvocate@  
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

## Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has **1095 likes**.

Members are reminded that they may also keep up with camp activities on our website:

EdmundRuffin  
FireEaters.org

## UPDATE: Oakwood Restoration Committee

Gentlemen -

This is an important announcement from the Virginia Division Commander Tony Griffin in regards to the Oakwood Restoration Committee.

From: rebtg@aol.com  
Subject: **Oakwood Committee Changes**

All,

There is no requirement for the Commander to get approval, contact or consult the Oakwood Committee prior to appointments. I did not replace the Committee last April due to the contract issues going on with the City of Richmond. That issue is now finally resolved and I am now going to do what I think is best for the Division. The first appointments have now been approved and these men will be replacing current Oakwood Committee members. The feedback I have been receiving from across the Division, is that this is a positive and welcomed move.

Lee Hart put out at the ORC meeting in late 2015 that he would be stepping away from the committee. At this time I would like to put Lee on the Advisory Board to keep his technical expertise and knowledge readily available, Brag Bowling for his contacts and Darryl Starnes for his work in repairing and cleaning stones. I will also be reevaluating the rest of the current Advisory Board and making further changes as necessary.

The Oakwood Restoration Committee membership will be as follows until the next round of appointments/replacements. Edwin Ray will remain on the ORC until such time as Johnny Neville is brought up to speed.

Johnny Neville - Chairman  
Fred Chiesa  
Frank Earnest  
Tommy Thomas  
Rick Moomaw  
Eric Richardson

### Advisory Board - new members

Lee Hart  
Brag Bowling  
Darryl Starnes

I would like to thank Lee Hart, Brag Bowling, Darryl Starnes, Phillip Wood, Jason Colbert, Edwin Ray and all those that have served on the ORC since its inception and would remind them that help is always welcome whether you are a voting committee member or not.

We are looking at a lot of good things going forward at Oakwood. The GPR survey is getting closer to being started and will give us a picture of what we actually have underground. We will soon be starting regular scheduled workdays to cut back the overgrowth along the road and the wood line. We will also start the process of getting the current 6 x 6 markers reset after years of abuse by lawn equipment and the ravages of time.

The Veterans Administration has promised the 10 stones that we filed suit over but that's all. I'm not holding my breath on getting any further stones from them and will have the ORC implement an Adopt a Stone program to be advertised in the

**FIND US ON FACE BOOK and BE SURE TO LIKE US!**

<https://www.facebook.com/FireEaters3000>

Confederate Veteran. We will get back to the basics of why the ORC was originally created and that is to mark all OUR soldiers graves in the Confederate Section of Oakwood Cemetery.

We will not be installing any further stones until we have the GPR project completed and a reliable list of those buried there to obtain the best information we can get to put on the markers.

This is the beginning of an exciting future for Oakwood Confederate Cemetery and I hope you will support the new ORC and OUR heroes that lie in that sacred soil.

Deo Vindice,

Tony

Anthony M. Griffin

Commander | Virginia Division

Sons of Confederate Veterans

#### **ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section 8. The Oakwood Restoration Committee** will be comprised of and chaired by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. It will be the responsibility of the committee to maintain and improve the Confederate Section of Oakwood Cemetery in the City of Richmond, Virginia to a standard befitting a national military cemetery. The committee will carry out the terms of any agreement(s) between the Virginia Division and the City of Richmond related to Oakwood. The committee will work diligently to ensure that each grave in the Confederate Section of Oakwood is properly marked with an upright individual gravestone in the apex design as provided by the Veterans Administration for Confederate Veterans. The committee is also authorized to properly mark any remaining Union graves in Oakwood. The Division Commander shall nominate members to the committee subject to approval by the Division Executive Council. The committee shall have authority to raise funds in the name of the committee for the improvement, maintenance, and protection of the Confederate Section of Oakwood and for the purpose of conducting appropriate memorial services related to the Confederate Section. Advisory boards for the purpose of ensuring historical accuracy and fundraising may be appointed by the Division Commander to aide the work of the Oakwood Restoration Committee. Appointees to these advisory boards may or may not be members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Support the Graves & Monuments Committee by helping to fund the purchase of stick flags.

**\$1<sup>00</sup>**

Fund a stick flag to mark a veterans grave.

Donate Today!

This is an ongoing project, and we thank you for your support in honoring our Confederate Veterans.

**DONATE TODAY!**

# SUSAN HATHAWAY

## THE VIRGINIA FLAGGERS



# HERITAGE DEFENSE

## About Susan Hathaway...

Born and raised in Highland Springs, a small suburb just east of Richmond, Susan grew up in the shadows of the Seven Days Battlefields, and as the daughter of a relic hunter and War Between the States enthusiast, was raised to honor and respect her Southern Heritage. She is the Great-Great Granddaughter of four Confederate Veterans, all of whom served from and for Virginia. A graduate of Highland Springs High School, she received a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is currently employed at an architecture and design firm in Richmond.

In the fall of 2011, she helped organize the Va Flaggers, who have gained national attention for their ongoing flagging protest of the Virginia Museum of Fine arts after museum officials forced the removal of Confederate Battle flags from the Confederate Memorial Chapel, as well as their efforts in numerous other heritage defense battles throughout Virginia, and beyond. Since September of 2013, the Va Flaggers have erected 26 large Battle Flags along Interstates and roadways in Virginia, and currently have several additional flag sites under development.

She is the recipient of the Advancing the Colors award from the Lee-Jackson Camp #1, SCV, Richmond; the Ladies Appreciation Medal from the Robert E Lee Camp #1589, SCV, Midlothian; the Commander-In-Chief's ladies Appreciation Medal, and received the Stephen Dill Lee Award at the 2013 SCV National Reunion in Vicksburg. She is a member of the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson #1705 Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sally Tompkins Chapter #2 of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and an associate member of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters #3000 Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

## Presentation ...

- **Raise Your Battle Flag: Heritage Defense in Post-Columbia America**

## Activities ...

I-95 Battle Flag Project - raising roadside Memorial Battle Flags. Contributions to this project may be mailed to:

Va Flaggers | P.O. Box 547 | Sandston VA 23150

## THE VIRGINIA FLAGGERS

Online: <http://vaflaggers.blogspot.com>

Email: [info@vaflaggers.com](mailto:info@vaflaggers.com)

Va Flaggers | P.O. Box 547 | Sandston VA 23150



*We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners...*

*Psalms 20:5*



I-95 Memorial Battle Flag, Chester, VA

I am a Southerner . . .  
I won't apologize  
I won't be reconstructed.  
I will not surrender  
My identity, my heritage.  
I believe in the Constitution,  
In States' Rights,  
That the government should be the  
Servant, not the Master of the people.  
I believe in the right to bear arms,  
The right to be left alone.

I am a Southerner . . .  
The spirit of my Confederate ancestor  
Boils in my blood.  
He fought  
Not for what he thought was right,  
But for what was right.  
Not for slavery,  
But to resist tyranny, Machiavellian laws,  
Oppressive taxation, invasion of his land,  
For the right to be left alone.

I am a Southerner  
A rebel,  
Seldom politically correct,  
At times belligerent.  
I don't like Lincoln, Grant, Sherman,  
Or modern neocon politicians like them.  
I like hunting and fishing, Charlie Daniels,  
The Bonnie Blue and "Dixie."  
I still believe in chivalry and civility.

I am a face in the Southern collage of  
Gentlemen and scholars, belles and writ-  
ers,  
Soldiers and sharecroppers, Cajuns and  
Creoles,  
Tejanos and Isleños, Celts and Germans,  
Gullah and Geechi, freedmen and slaves.  
We are all the South.

The South . . . My home, my beautiful  
home,  
My culture, my destiny, my heart.  
I am a Southerner.  
Deo Vindice!  
-Rickey Pittman (Personalized by me!)

