



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

December 2016

Volume 3 Number 32

Commander’s Corner

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and that we remember the reason we celebrate this holiday – the birth of our Savior.

I also hope you have a safe, prosperous, and Happy New Year blessed with good health.

When you read this our placement and dedication at Oakwood Confederate Section, of the wreaths from “Wreaths Across America” will have taken place. I hope you were able to come to this.

There were 97 wreaths placed through this program at Oakwood. I would like to thank those who took the time to participate in this. They also placed Confederate Flags on many of the graves. I would particularly thank Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers for providing these flags.

The ceremony took place as scheduled even though it was a cold, wet, and blustery day with a small but dedicated group attending. The monument with its fence decorated with a wreath and garland decorations had 4 flags posted just outside of it. This was a festive backdrop for the short ceremony and prayer that honored these fallen Confederate Soldiers.



The Camp is planning a Clean-up Day at Hollywood Cemetery in mid-March.

We will also be supporting the Virginia Flaggers in their Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 13 at Oakwood Cemetery.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4. We will be presenting a War Service medal to our own Jim Tingle. Let’s have a large attendance. We still have a number of positions to be filled so please consider helping out the Camp and its projects.

Joe Wright
Commander

Mark Your Calendar

1st Lt. Commander's Report

1/04/2017

FireEater Meeting

Compatriots, Friends, Associates, Ladies, Guests and Prospective Members:

1/09/2017

OCR Meeting

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Ladies of the Order of the Confederate Rose for sponsoring the super Christmas Party, held on December 3. It was a huge success, with a large attendance and excellent opportunity for socializing and fellowship.

1/13-14/2017

Lee Jackson Weekend
Lexington, VA with
the VA Flaggers

Many, many thanks to Teresa and Willie Wells for opening their beautiful home to host this major event of the season! Their Party Room is absolutely perfect for entertaining such a large group. And what a magnificent banquet feast of a wide variety of fantastic food!!! No one left that party hungry for sure. I certainly overdid it, and enjoyed everything I sampled. Let's do it again next month!!!! (Just Kidding!). Thank you again to the OCR and to Teresa and Willie Wells for such a successful event and gathering of Southerners.

Save The Date

March 2017

Clean Up Day,
Hollywood Cemetery

Everyone get their 2017 calendars out and mark the date of January 4, 2017, the first Wednesday of the month and new year, when the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters, Camp #3000, will hold its first official meeting of the year at Anna's Italian Restaurant on Mechanicsville Turnpike, starting at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. This will be the first meeting under the capable leadership of our new Commander, Joe Wright. We will be starting the year off in grand style, with our keynote speaker being our good friend Les Updike. Les is an accomplished historian, with a wide range of expertise in various aspects of the South, the War for Southern Independence, and related matters.

May 13, 2017

Confederate Memorial
Day - Oakwood
Cemetery

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership by sending your payment to Walter Smith as soon as possible, to avoid having Sergeant At Arms, Jim Tingle, visit you at a time and place when you least expect it!!! As you all know, Jim can be very persuasive, particularly when he gets fired up about something. So do not delay your renewal.

June 2017

Jefferson Davis
Birthday Service -
Hollywood Cemetery

A Very Merry Christmas Season to All (don't forget that the season lasts for 12 days from Christmas to January 6!!) and a Happy New Year, with family and friends.

July 2017

SCV Reunion,
Memphis, TN

AND GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!!!!

Joe Howard
1st Lt Commander

“Sirs, you have no reason to be ashamed of your Confederate dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you.”

— Robert Lewis Dabney, Chaplain for Stonewall Jackson

From Our Adjutant/Treasurer/Judge Advocate

Our current camp membership now stands at 37 members, down from 60. I am aware of several that have expressed that they will be paying dues. The grace period has now expired and there is now a \$5 reinstatement fee from national and \$3 reinstatement fee that are added to the regular dues. Please see me as soon as possible to get yourself reinstated to our camp roll.

Walter Smith
Adjutant/Judge Advocate

From Our Chaplain

George Washington’s prayer is most relevant with what is going on in our world today, we need as an entire nation, better yet the entire world, to repent, accept Christ, and be humble, then stand with the God of our creation once more in all our lives....

Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for thy goodness, by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee. Bless us with wisdom in our councils, success in battle, and let all our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow, also, our enemies with enlightened minds, that they may become sensible of their injustice, and willing to restore our liberty and peace.

Grant the petition of thy servant for the sake of Him whom thou hast called Thy beloved Son; nevertheless, not our will but Thine be done. Amen

Current Membership:

37 Members

GRAVES & MONUMENTS COMMITTEE



STUBBS GRAVESITE PROJECT

Graves and Monuments Committee

Co-chairman Jim Tingle and Herb Caver, Tim Tuck. Honoring them that served and sacrificed for southern Independence.

CAMP OFFICERS

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

Joeshph "Joe" Wright
Commander
varebel@embarqmail.com

Joe Howard
1st Lt. Commander
1stLtCommander@
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

Willie Wells
2nd Lt. Commander
2ndLtCommander@
EdmundRuffinFireEaters.org

Michael Bouganim
Chaplain
mybouganim@gmail.com

Jim Tingle
Sergeant at Arms
804.292.5457 (Cell)

Brandon White
Quartermaster
brandonwhite88@gmail.com

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

Upcoming Color Guard Events

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.

On Sunday, December 4, the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp Color Guard following General Stonewall Jackson (Greg Randall) had the honor to lead the Confederate contingency at the Annual Mechanicsville Christmas Parade.

This was a wonderful event, very Confederate friendly, with thousands of spectators lining the 1.8 mile route.

When I had the opportunity to look back, the road was filled with Confederate flags and all that could be heard was cheering and "Merry Christmas"

I wish to thank the members of our Color Guard, they did a great job as the pictures show. It was great to participate with the Virginia Flaggers, the Order of Confederate Road, the Army of Northern Virginia Mechanized Cavalry, other Camps, and Confederate Organizations.

We look forward to our next events with the first on our calendar being the annual Lee-Jackson Day in Lexington, Virginia on Saturday, January 14. There will be a short ceremony at Stonewall Jackson's gravesite at 2 PM followed by a parade through the town ending at VMI.

On Sunday, January 15, there will be a posting of Confederate Colors at the Brandy Station Fire House for the Culpeper Chapter 73, UDC Lee-Jackson Day Ceremony and awards presentation. These ladies present awards to children who provide the best essays on Confederate topics.

Joe Wright
Color Sergeant

Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1093 likes. Up 13 since last month.

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

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org



Wreaths Across America Service



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

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

The Lord's Prayer

(The following beautiful composition was found on the battlefield at Charleston, S.C. during the war. It was by a wounded comrade who did not live to get home.)

Then to the mercy seat our souls doth gather,
To do our duty unto thee – OUR FATHER,
To whom all praises, all honor should be given;
For thou art the great God – WHO ART IN HEAVEN.
Thou, by thy wisdom, rulest the world's whole fame,
Forever, therefore – HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
Let never more delay divide us from
Thy glorious face, but let – THY KINGDOM COME;
Let thy commands opposed be by none,
But thy good pleasures and – THY WILL BE DONE,
And let our promptness to obey be given,
The very same – IN EARTH AS 'TIS IN HEAVEN.
Then for our souls, O Lord, we also pray,
Thou wouldest be pleased to – GIVE US THIS DAY
The food of life, wherewith our souls are fed,
Sufficient raiment, and – OUR DAILY BREAD;
With every needful thing do thou relieve us,
And of thy mercy, pity – AND FORGIVE US
All our misdeeds, for him whom thou didst please
To Make an offering, for – OUR TRESPASSES,
And forasmuch, O Lord, as we believe,
That thou wilt pardon us – AS WE FORGIVE,
Let that love teach, wherewith thou doth acquaint us,
To pardon all – THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US,
And though, sometimes, thou findest we have forgot
This love for thee, yet help – AND LEAD US NOT
Through soul or body's want to desperation,
Not let earth's gain drive us – INTO TEMPTATION;
Let not the soul of any true believer
Fall in time of trial – BUT DELIVER,
Yea, save them from the malice of the devil,
And both in life and death keep – US FROM EVIL.
Thus pray we, Lord, for that of thee, from whom
This may be had – FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
This word is of the works, its wonderous story
To thee belongs – THE POWER AND THE GLORY,
And all thy wonderous works have ended never,
But will remain forever and – FOREVER.
Thus we poor creatures would confess again,
And thus would say eternally – AMEN.

Prayer recited during the
Wreaths Across America
Service.