



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

May 2018

Volume 5 Number 5

Commander’s Corner

The May 2nd Camp Meeting was well attended and our speaker, Greg Eanes provided additional information on Black Confederates with an active question and answer session afterwards.

The By-Laws were up dated and a provision canceling meetings for inclement weather was passed. A discussion took place on relocating our meetings. Financial considerations arose when further information was presented that the primary location had changed it policies towards groups meeting there and the decision was made to remain at Bass Pro Shops.

Camp Awards were presented and then the new elected Virginia Division Commander, Johnny Neville, presented Division awards to the Ruffin Camp Graves and Monuments Committee.

The Virginia Division has established a new email list, The Confederate Signal Corp, to keep the membership apprised of current issues. You can sign up by contacting the 2nd Brigade Commander, Andrew Moorehead. If anyone does not have his email, please contact me.

I took the opportunity to attend the Sons of Confederate Veterans 2018 Chaplains Conference in Harrisonburg May 17th and 18th. Chaplain-in-Chief Dr. Ray L. Parker was the MC for the Conference. The messages were presented by Past Chaplains-in-Chiefs John Weaver, Mark Evans, and Ron Rumburg and Henry White of North Carolina. This was a very uplifting experience and not just for Camp Chaplains. I recommend that in the future you attend this.

Hope to see you at the June 6 meeting

Joe Wright, Commander



Mark Your Calendar

06/06/2018

ERFE Meeting

06/11/2018

OCR Meeting

07/03/2018

ERFE Meeting - This is a DATE CHANGE

July 2018

SCV National Reunion, TN.

07/14/2018

Hanover Tomato Festival - Fundraiser

09/14-16/2018

Field Days of the Past - Fundraiser

December 2018

Mechanicsville Christmas Parade

1st Lt. Commander's Report

Hope this finds everyone doing okay. At our last meeting the camp decided to remain at Bass Pro Shops in Ashland for our meetings. There were awards given out to some of the camp members these came from both the camp and the Virginia Division. These awards were very much appreciated by the members receiving them. I won't elaborate any further for I'm sure our Commander will cover the details.

We have up coming events that can help raise money for the camp and enlighten people to our cause. The first one is the Hanover Tomato Festival which is July 14th. We are in the process of getting our application for the Field Days of the Past which is September 21st – 23rd. These are our mayor fund raisers and we'll need as many people to help as possible. Please come join use.

May 12th was the Confederate Memorial Day ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery. There was good participation from our camp at the event. Wreaths were laid at the Obelisk. There was wonderful speakers who did our Ancestors proud. Both the Virginia Flaggers and our camp put out about 4000 flags on graves for the event. This was a great tribute to those men who gave it all.

Our next meeting is June the 6th . hope everyone can attend. The speaker will be Randy Watkins. Cant wait to hear what he brings us.

Tim Tuck

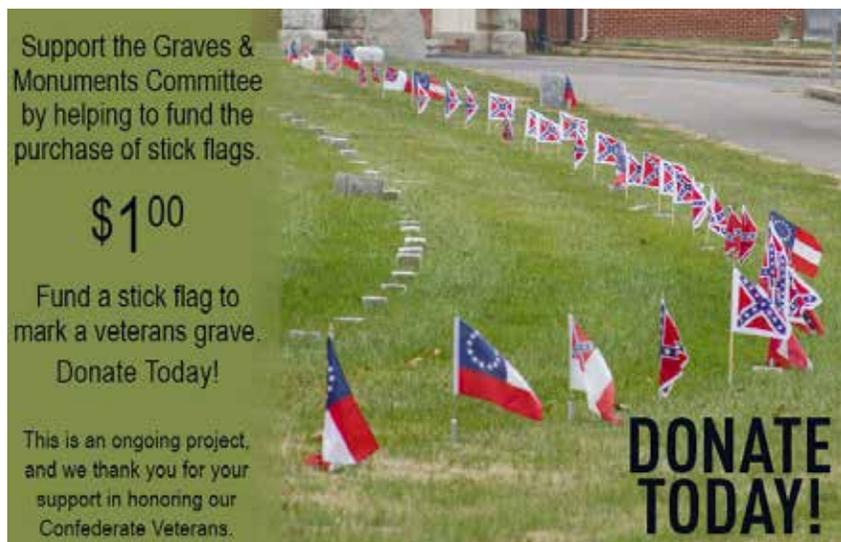
1st Lt. Commander

Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1166 likes.

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

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org



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

\$1⁰⁰

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!

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

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

Upcoming Color Guard Events

Color Guard Report

On Saturday, May 5, the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Color Guard participated in a Headstone Ceremony for 3 members of the 42nd Virginia, at the Koger Cemetery in Bassett, VA. Welcoming remarks were given by Commander Patrick Reamey of the Stuart-Haidson SCV Camp 515. After the presentation of the Colors and then the Flag Salutes, several awards were presented, and the history of the 42nd Virginia Infantry and soldier's biographies were given. I then read a poem, "*We Drank From The Same Canteen*". There were rifle and cannon salutes and the playing of taps. Considering the rural location it was well attended.

On Friday, May 11, our Color Guard posted Confederate Flags at the Yellow Tavern Monument at a ceremony held by the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson UDC Chapter #1705 to commemorate the mortal wounding of Major General J. E. B. Stuart.

On Saturday, May 12, our Color Guard had the honor of presenting the Colors at the Annual Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony at Oakwood in Richmond sponsored by the Virginia Flaggers. This year we welcomed into our ranks, Lou Fritz, a member of the Maryland Division Color Guard, and Larry Hartsoe, of the Campbell Guards SCV Camp. We were accompanied by Piper Major David Hinton of the Virginia Scots Guard. The field was covered by Confederate Flags many of which were placed by our own Jim Tingle and his Graves and Monument Committee.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 3 at 3 PM, we have been requested for a Headstone Ceremony for 2 Confederate Veterans in Green Hill Cemetery, 761 Lee Street, Danville, VA.

Saturday, July 21 at 10 AM, I will be posting the Colors for the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of First Manassas sponsored by the Virginia Division, UDC.

Color Sergeant Joe Wright

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



Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp Color Guard participating at a headstone ceremony in Bassett Virginia May 5th. We were invited by the Stuart - Hairston Camp 515. I would like to thank those who made the trip to honor these Confederate Soldiers.







RESTORATION of the Riverview Ladies Memorial Pyramid

RIVERVIEW CEMETERY, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

In the mid 1920's a plot of land located in Riverview Cemetery, was donated to the Richmond Chapter #158 UDC by the R.E. Lee Camp Soldier's Home to provide burial sites for the ladies of the Confederate Home for Women.

These ladies (daughters, widows and granddaughters of Confederate Veterans) had resided at the Confederate Home for Women (previously know as the Confederate Home for Needy Ladies) on North Sheppard Street, Richmond, Virginia.

At some time after the 1920s, the pyramid was erected as a monument to the ladies.

There are approximately 120 ladies buried in this plot, their graves dating from the mid 1920's to the late 1990's.

Time and weather has taken its toll on the pyramid, concrete work and headstones. The mortar holding the pyramid



stones together has begun to crumble with age and fall out, leaving the internal structure exposed to the elements, particularly water when freezing and thawing can cause the stones to crack. Likewise the concrete work around the plot has

suffered as well. The sidewalk and surrounding curbing of the plot are in disrepair. A portion of the curbing has been completely broken apart and the step and "name plate" of the site is beginning to crumble. The headstones need to be reset and leveled to prevent damage from lawn care equipment.

These ladies were devoted to our Confederate Veterans and many were the steel magnolias that kept the South together during reconstruction and beyond.

It is only fitting for their final resting place to be maintained and cared for.

It is our goal to raise **\$3,600** to make repairs to the pyramid, concrete work and for the resetting of the headstones.

Let's all get behind this!!

We would love to begin work this spring. If we all pitch in, we can make it happen!

To Donate: make checks payable to:

Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter #1705
(Please note "Riverview Project" on the memo line)

PLEASE NOTE: Any funds received beyond our goal amount, will be earmarked for future work at the Riverview site, such as flags and additional grave markers.

Mail to:

Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter #1705
Attn: Sandy Wright, Chapter President
16463 Horseshoe Lane
Beaver Dam, VA 23015



PYRAMID RESTORATION

As you can see from the images, the mortar between the stone blocks has begun to crumble and fall out.

1. front view of pyramid
2. front below plaque area - no mortar is in some areas
3. front above plaque area - mortar loose and missing.
4. at the upper part of the image is a previous attempt at repairs that has also begun to deteriorate.



CONCRETE RESTORATION

The concrete around the Confederate Women's plot is in bad shape.

Here are a few of the issues:

5. view of sidewalk leading to pyramid.
6. edge of step top layer of concrete crumbling off
7. outer curbing broken
8. sidewalk - cracked and crumbling
9. outer curbing tilting outward.



HEADSTONES

In image 10, the headstones are tilted and in disarray. These are to be straightened and leveled to prevent further damage by lawn care equipment.

SAVE



**YOU
CAN
HELP**

MONUMENT AVENUE