



The Wheeler Dispatch



*The Official Newsletter of the General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 in Aiken, South Carolina
A Camp built upon Duty, Honor, God and Country February 2024*



Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

The 17th Annual Western Carolina Prayer Breakfast was GREAT. On hand was a very good audience gathered together to worship the Lord on January 20. The Wheeler Camp should be very proud of the way that it was conducted. I want to thank everyone that came to the Prayer Breakfast and those that provided food and items for the breakfast and participated in the program. It was an excellent Prayer Breakfast, and you could feel the Holy Spirit really moving during the program. I want to thank Division Chaplain Danny Blackwell who gave a rousing message that kept everyone's attention. I was able to present him his SC Division Life Membership during the breakfast. Also, I want to thank this year's Mary Lee / Essie Osteen Christian Woman's Service Award recipient, Ms. Felisha Westall, for her outstanding work that she does for the Lord with Walking Tall Ministries.



The SC Division Leadership Conference will be on Saturday Feb. 3rd in Irmo, SC at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park. Registration will begin at 8:30AM. The day's event times will be from 9:00AM till about 4:00PM. This year we will have a free full-plate meal consisting of sliced beef brisket, smoked chicken, squash casserole, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, dinner rolls, sweet tea, unsweet tea and water for all attendees along with some good fellowship.

Remember that there will be **NO** February meeting. The next monthly meeting will be held on March 4th at the Aiken County Historical Museum.

Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. May God bless you and may God bless Dixie. Blake

“Remember, Confederate soldiers never die until they are forgotten.”

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1st Lieutenant Commander

Register NOW for 2024 Division and National Reunions

Registration for the 2024 SC Division Reunion to be hosted by the Litchfield Camp #132 at the Ocean Drive Beach Resort in North Myrtle Beach. The dates are April 12 & 13, 2024. Information on the reunion is listed on website scscv.com and enter the following:

<https://scscv.com/calendar/#!event/2024/4/13/south-carolina-division-state-convention>

Registration for the 2024 SCV National Reunion to be hosted by the Secession Camp #4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in North Charleston, SC. The dates are July 16 - 21, 2024. To register, please visit the Reunion website, <https://scv4.org/2024/>

The 2025 SCV National Reunion will be in Houston, TX.

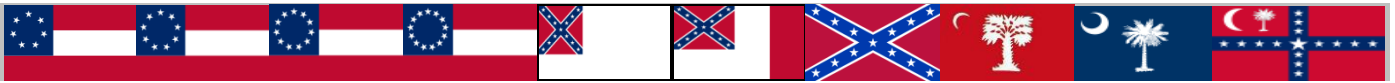
2nd Lieutenant Commander

The following is a list of important events over the next few months.

- Saturday Feb. 3rd - SC Division Leadership Conference in Irmo, SC at the River Center in Saluda Shoals Park. Registration will begin at 8:30AM.
- Feb. 23rd thru 25th – 29th Annual Battle of Aiken
- March 2nd & 3rd – Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC
- Friday April 5th – Wheeler Camp Ladies’ Night Celebration at 6:30PM at the Outing Club
- April 12th & 13th – 128th SC Division Reunion in North Myrtle Beach, SC

Adjutant’s Report

At the Prayer Breakfast, there was a great crowd of 34 men and women that came to enjoy sharing their time in fellowship and worship of the Lord. Division Chaplain Danny Blackwell gave both an excellent message, as well as some very good humor. Ms. Felisha Westall was presented The Mary Lee / Essie Osteen Christian Woman’s Service Award for her work with Walking Tall Ministries.



From the Chaplain's Desk



The weather was a cold 26 degrees at 9:00AM on the morning of our last Prayer Breakfast. Yet 34 brave men and women seeking God and His divine direction came out to be a part of this special day. The sun's rays, sometimes peeping through a cloudy sky, made their way through the large glass windows of the ballroom and cast their brief light of hope for a brighter day across the tables and the beautiful hardwood floors of the room that we would soon be gathering in. Maybe it was God's way of saying "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God." And God showed up in a big way. The fellowship of His people breaking bread together was beautiful. The joining together in singing Praises to our Lord was uplifting, and His Holy Spirit was certainly present among us that morning. Chaplain Blackwell gave us an inspirational and powerful message. As I walked through the foyer back to the parlor to help clean off some tables the lady at the desk said to me, "I feel as though I have truly been feed today." I hope that we can all say the same thing.

Every year after a Wheeler Camp January Prayer Breakfast, I say, "Man that was one of the best we ever had." The good Lord has always blessed us in a tremendous way when we commit to Him our devotion and praise to start off our New Year. Let me close with a few quotes by E.M. Bounds on prayer.

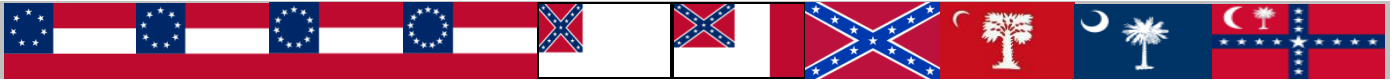
- "Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world."
- "The prayers of God's saints are the capital stock in heaven by which Christ carries on His great work upon earth."
- "Every mighty move of the Spirit of God has had its source in the prayer chamber."

Thanks to all who were a part of this year's Prayer Breakfast. May the Grace, Comfort and Peace of God always rest upon our Camp.

Sincerely, Ken



Chaplain's Prayer List: Please remember our fellow compatriots and their family members who need prayers:
Michael Allen, Jacob Cook, Lee Duvall and his wife Lynn & daughters Dana & Melanie, Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, Ken Temples, Eddie Rodgers, Blake & Janice Moore & grandson Collin Umbarger, Joe and Brenda Willis, Henry Richardson, Mark LeGrand's parents, and Danny Brown's granddaughter Kealey



It is a very sad day, not only in Dixie, but across the entire country as the Confederate Memorial is being removed in Arlington National Cemetery!

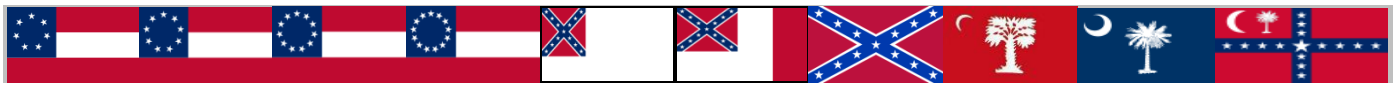


U.S. Army Destroys North/South Reconciliation Bargain

U.S. Army Destroys North/South Reconciliation

“Actions speaks louder than words.” The recent action of destroying the North/South Reconciliation monument in Arlington National Cemetery by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Congress demonstrates this ancient truth. The Arlington Reconciliation monument was endorsed by Presidents McKinley and Wilson because it demonstrated the South’s loyalty to the United States after the disastrous bloodletting of the “Civil War.” The South’s patriotic zeal during the Spanish-American War (1898) was recognized by Northerners. The *Albany Journal* of New York acknowledged the patriotic contribution made by Southerners. The *Journal* observed that, “...the honors of the [Spanish-American] war are being carried away by the sons of the South.... Sons of the South are showing the same acts of heroism that they have always shown in time of war, and, unless the sons of the North bestir themselves the honors of this conflict may go to the Southland.” The South’s dedication to the U.S.A. has been demonstrated in every war since the South’s surrender at Appomattox. Today, sons and daughters of the South represent a large percentage of our volunteer military—much greater than the South’s proportion of the population. Yet, our reward is to be stigmatized as racists and traitors by people who hate the conservative, Constitution-loving South. Why would the Woke U.S. government destroy a beautiful monument that was honored by presidents of the past?

Authoritarian rulers hate ancient monuments that remind people of heroic traditions that free people should emulate. It is a constant public reminder of the cost of freedom and the sacrifice that people are often called upon to make in defense of freedom. When the Soviet Communists occupied the Baltic States they removed ancient monuments, prohibited the display of national flags, and removed the money then in circulation containing images of



ancient heroes. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan, they destroyed ancient Buddhist monuments. Authoritarians detest anything that might cause people to question authoritarian rule. The recent attack against monuments across the South is carried on by individuals, groups, and politicians who detest the conservative South. They have the backing of monied individuals, the media, postmodern academia, and the ruling political class. The South has no spokesmen to give a counter-argument. The South is convicted in the court of public opinion without being allowed to present its defense—a court system fitting for authoritarian regimes.

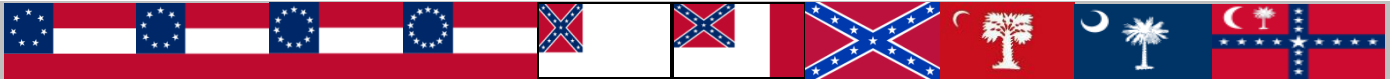
Why are Southerners who love their heritage, honor their ancestors who served honorably during the “Civil War,” and who can trace their lineage back to “Civil War” and Colonial days, why are we branded as traitors and racists? President Eisenhower did not think we were traitors. He kept a photo of General Lee in his office while president and defended his action by noting that General Lee was an honorable man. President Kennedy spoke highly of the sons of the South and recognized the national kinship between the North and South. Yet, today we are branded as traitors and racists. We are not allowed to have a monument in the public square! Why? Because Southerners are the only American group who are not allowed to define who we are, what our ancestors fought for and what we stand for today. In Woke America, Southerners who love their heritage are defined by those who hate us. It would be like allowing neo-Nazis to define what Jewish culture is and whether its symbols and monuments should be allowed in the public square or allowing white-supremacists to define what Black culture is and whether its monuments should be allowed in the public square. “With liberty and justice for all?” Not if you are a traditional conservative Southerner.

What does the destruction of Arlington’s Reconciliation monument mean? It means that the healing (reconciliation) never occurred as far as America’s Woke political and military class are concerned. After Appomattox the South tacitly agreed to never again raise the call for Southern independence, to forgo centuries of conflict like the way the Irish responded to English invasion and occupation of their homeland. The secessionists’ South became the patriotic South that provided the nation’s military with unnumbered troops and officers. Presidents since the Spanish-American War have recognized the outpouring of Southern blood in defense of our mutual country. They even annually placed a wreath at the Reconciliation monument but no more. It has become apparent that the only way the conservative, Constitution-loving, South will be accepted in Woke America is if we renounce our conservative political and moral principles and embrace leftist Woke ideology—this we will not do!

The North/South reconciliation bargain is now broken. We, the Constitution-loving South did not break the bargain, but a bargain broken by one party is broken completely. Since traditional Southerners are no longer wanted in the military, and since America’s political class demands our removal—perhaps it is time for conservative Southerners to rethink the North/South bargain.

Walter Donnie Kennedy, Lt. Commander-in Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

James Ronald Kennedy, Chief of Heritage Promotions
Sons of Confederate Veterans



17th ANNUAL WESTERN CAROLINA PRAYER BREAKFAST



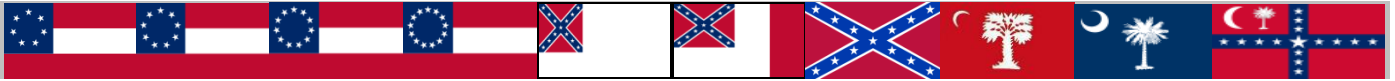
Everyone enjoying fellowship while eating a good breakfast before starting the Service



Lt. Cmdr. Lee Duvall presenting to Ms. Felisha Westall the Mary Lee / Essie Osteen Christian Woman's Service Award



Div. Adj. Blake Moore presenting to Div. Chaplain Danny Blackwell the SC Div. Life Member certificate and pin



Chaplain Blackwell giving a rousing message to an attentive audience



Mark and Gretchen LeGrand leading a sing along to the song, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for February

Ted Walker - February 4

Tom Huckabee – February 21

2023 – 2024 Camp Officers

Blake Moore– Commander

Lee Duvall – 1st Lt. Commander

Mark LeGrand – 2nd Lt. Commander

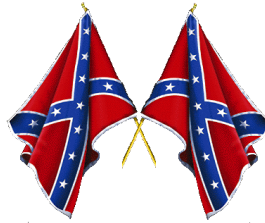
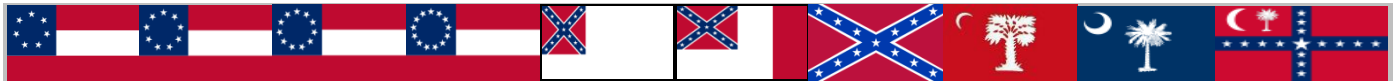
Danny Brown – Adjutant

Bob Ritter - Treasurer

Ken Temples – Chaplain

Nathan Oxner – Color Sergeant

Nicholas Ward – Judge Advocate



The General Joe Wheeler Camp is named after Major General Joseph Wheeler of Augusta, Ga. It was Wheeler's troops who turned back Sherman's Cavalry led by Gen. Kilpatrick in February of 1865. Wheeler is known as the Savior of Aiken.

2024 Camp Activities

- March – Wheeler Camp meeting is scheduled on March 4th at Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30PM.
- April – The Wheeler Camp Annual Ladies' Night is scheduled on Friday April 5, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Outing Club.
- May – May 6th camp meeting will be a picnic at J.W. Osteen's cabin at the Battle of Aiken site at 6:30PM.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on Sunday May 5, 2023 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery.
- June 3rd, August 5th, September 9th, October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd camp meetings will be held at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30PM. No camp meeting will be held in February and July.
- Dec. – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service on Saturday Dec. 14, 2024 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery honoring all Veterans, especially Confederate Veterans.

MEETING TIME: Normally, the camp meeting is the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM with no camp meeting in February or July. The camp meeting in September is on the second Monday due to Labor Day. The Prayer Breakfast is our regular meeting in January.

MEETING PLACE: Aiken County Historical Museum, 433 Newberry St. SW, Aiken, SC 29801

For additional information contact: scscv1245@gmail.com