Commander’s Corner

To my fellow Compatriots:

This month’s event is Confederate Memorial Day which will be held on April 27, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Old City Cemetery. Confederate Memorial Day has been observed in Old City Cemetery since the early 1900s on these hallowed grounds, even through World Wars and national crises. And every year we proudly continue that tradition. The Confederate Grandstand located in the cemetery was built by the United Confederate Veterans just for this annual event, and it will be at the center of this year’s activities. The event will focus on the dedication of unsung Heroes of the Confederacy. We challenge every member to get involved this year and be a part in showing the public that our Confederate Ancestors are not a footnote on history. It is our hope that when future generations study the Confederate soldier, they will quickly come to understand that there has never been, before or after the “War Between the States”, a warrior quite like that “Southern Knight”. As a combat soldier, who was more akin to the various “special forces” of numerous militaries around the world than he was to the “regular” soldiers we are acquainted with today. It is impossible to overlook the fact that 800,000 sometimes badly equipped, badly clothed, badly fed, but wonderfully led Confederate soldiers managed to hold at bay 2-1/2 million federal troops for four of the longest, bloodiest, years in American history. They were masterful at the art of war. Yet, a humble soldier that General Robert E. Lee simply described as a citizen soldier doing his duty.

God Bless the South
Commander Calvin Hart
Camp #1209
Jacksonville, Florida

In the Confederate Army, an officer was judged by stark courage alone, and this made it possible for the Confederacy to live four years.

Lt. General Chesty Puller U.S.M.C.
Staunton Military Academy

Staunton Military Academy was founded in Staunton, Virginia in 1884 by William Hartman Kable, a Captain in Company “F”, 10th Virginia Cavalry. Over 21,000 young men were served from its humble beginning with 75 cadets to almost 700 in the early 1960’s. S.M.A. closed its doors in 1976 as so many military schools did in the 1970’s.

My father, Charles Burley Hoffecker, had shared a story with me many years ago that he had a burning desire to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. His parents, to assist him in his goal sent him to Staunton in 1937. He had fulfilled only his first year as an underclassman when he received word that his father had died unexpectedly and rushed home to his mother and family. Unfortunately due to the family’s financial situation my father never returned to S.M.A.

I had not thought anymore about this until several months ago when on a whim I got on the computer to see if I could learn anything about this military school. I was surprised to find that not only do they have an active alumni association, but they operated a museum on the old campus, now owned by Mary Baldwin College. I located an achieved photo of my father in the 1938 edition of “The Shrapnel” last copies of the 1938 yearbook.

On March 4, 2019 my wife Louise and I travelled to Virginia, toured the museum and spent several hours talking with the Nicely’s. Although my father never made it to Annapolis, he had a twenty-plus year career in the US. Navy, retiring as Chief Petty Officer. He then earned his college degrees at Jacksonville University and his doctorate at Luther Rice Seminary and went on to affect the lives of countless students that he taught in mathematics and serving as the first band director at Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonville. This simple, initial search brought back treasured memories of my father, who passed away in 1984.

Kim L. Hoffecker, Kirby-Smith Camp #1209

Kirby-Smith encourages all members to attend

49th ANNUAL FLORIDA DIVISION REUNION
OCALA, FLORIDA
JUNE 7 - 9, 2019

Contact : Camp #1209 Lt. Commander Chris Bunton
@ 777-5111 for More Information
This is a one day event starting in the morning and ending in the afternoon

Welcome Southern Brothers to the S.C.V. The Last Defense for Southern Heritage
Admiral Semmes on the Death of Lincoln

These are the Admiral's thoughts on Lincoln's death. By this time the Admiral was serving as Brig. General with General Joe Johnston in the Carolinas.

Our beloved Admiral can be brutally honest.

"It was in the interval between these two conventions, that my camp was astounded one morning, by the report that Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was dead. He had gone to a small theater in the city of Washington, on the evening of Good Friday, and had been shot by a madman! It seemed like a just retribution that he should be cut off in the midst of the hosannas that were being shouted in his ears, for all the destruction and ruin he had wrought on twelve million people. Without any warrant for his conduct, he had made war of rapine and lust against eleven sovereign States, whose only provocation had been that they had made an effort to preserve the liberties which had been handed down to them by their fathers. These States had not sought war, but peace, and they had found, at the hands of Abraham Lincoln, destruction. As a Christian, it was my duty to say, "Lord, have mercy upon his soul!" but the devil will surely take care of his memory."

Raphael Semmes

Naval hero for all the South, Raphael Semmes (1809-1877) sailed two famous Confederate raiders. He outfitted CSS Sumter in 1861 and captured 18 Union merchant ships in six months before the raider was blockaded at Gibraltar. Next he took command of CSS Alabama, an English-built raider, and terrorized U.S. merchant vessels on the high seas from August 1862 until the raider was sunk in battle off Cherbourg in June 1864. During that two-year period, he captured more enemy merchant ships than any other cruiser captain in maritime history. He is considered one of the greatest ship's commanders that America has produced.

Semmes was born in Maryland to a slave-holding family and entered the United States Navy in 1826. In 1849, he moved his family to Mobile, Alabama, to be near the navy base at Pensacola, Florida, and to practice law during leaves. Semmes was an astute student, not only of international and maritime law but also of weather patterns; astronomy; flora and fauna; naval, social, and cultural history; and the classics. His study of constitutional law led him to side with his adopted state in 1861, a move that set the stage for his place in history.

We are encouraging all members that attend Confederate Memorial Day to bring a side dish to add to the Camp supplied Fried Chicken on April 27.
Next Cemetery

Clean Up April 20, 2019

March Old City Cemetery clean-up went great and was well attended. We identified places that needed to be cleaned before next month’s Confederate Memorial Day Celebration. We will be co-hosting the event with Martha Reid Chapter 19 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

125th Annual National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
2020 Reunion Held in Florida

Ancestor Memorial (Recognition in the Kirby-Smith Section 2020 Reunion Program) $10.00 each
Your name and your ancestor’s name and unit will be printed in the Kirby-Smith Memorial section of the 2020 SCV Reunion Program, which every attendee will receive.

Your Name: _________________________________________________________________

1. Ancestor’s Name: _______________________________ Rank: _____________
   Ancestor’s Unit: _________________________________________________________

2. Ancestor’s Name: _______________________________ Rank: _____________
   Ancestor’s Unit: _________________________________________________________

Ancestors Registration Quantity _______ x $10.00 = $ _______________
Make Check payable to: Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 2020 Reunion
Mail to: Calvin Hart, 4884 Victoria Chase Ct Jacksonville, FL 32257.
125th National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Medal

2020 marks the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. To mark this momentous occasion we are proud to introduce the 2020 Sons of Confederate Veterans Limited Edition and Numbered 125th Anniversary Medal. The Limited Edition 2020 Reunion features a rendition of General Edmund Kirby-Smith (the last general with a major field force) and embodies the ideals and honor set forth by our Confederate Ancestors.

**Medal Characteristics:** Patterened after a 1927 United Confederate Veterans Florida Reunion Medal

**Obverse:** A profile of General Edmund Kirby-Smith (born in St. Augustine Florida) and the Battle Flag with a Florida top hanger

**Reverse:** Each Limited Edition Numbered Medal engraved with a number (1-100)

**Display Box:** Each Limited Edition medal comes in a red custom display box with the SCV Crossed Pistol Design Logo with the motto

"**We Don't Reconstruct We Reload**"

**Numbered Medal Request:** Specific numbered medal requests granted if in stock, if not in stock lowest numbered medal will be sent to fulfill order

**Payment Information:**

Send $75.00 check made out to:

*Kirby-Smith Camp SCV* along with numbered medal request

**Mail payment to:**

Calvin Hart
4884 Victoria Chase Ct
Jacksonville, FL 32257

**Questions:** calvinhart@bellsouth.net
Confederate Memorial Day Service April 27, 2019

Old City Cemetery—East Union St./Washington St. @ 10:30 AM—Please make Plans to Attend call 730-0343 for information

Compatriots,

On April 27th at 10:30 pm we will observe Confederate Memorial Day in Old City Cemetery. This year we will recognize the contributions of Unsung Confederate Heroes to the cause of Southern Independence. Taking part in Confederate Memorial Day observances is perhaps one of the most important ways in which we honor our Confederate ancestors. Please make every effort to join with fellow camp members in this very important occasion. I also encourage you to invite family and friends. Refreshments will be served immediately after the conclusion of the ceremony. We are encouraging all members that attend Confederate Memorial Day to bring a side dish to add to the Camp supplied Fried Chicken.

I hope to see you all there!