

Confederate Gazette

Congress Reverses Flag Ban

In a stunning turn of events the US Congress reversed itself on the banning of Confederate flags at VA Cemeteries.

In last month's *Gazette* it was reported that the US House voted on May 19th to ban the display of any Confederate flag in a national cemetery. In the vote in May, which was allowed to take place by the Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, the prohibition was passed as an amendment to

a military spending bill, 265 to 159.

The House bill was then sent to a joint House Senate committee to reconcile the differences in the bill. On June 23rd the compromise bill came out of the conference committee without the Confederate flag ban.

Details of how it was removed are unknown as the conference committee meets behind closed doors. An Appropriations Commit-

tee spokesperson would only say, "In order to ensure passage in both the House and Senate and get these urgently needed funds approved, compromises had to be made."

The ban was originally accomplished with solid Democratic Party support, although a number of Republicans voted, including Ryan, voted to ban the flag. The Conference committee was made up of 8 Republicans, 4 of whom voted for the ban.

Camp Meeting and Division Reunion Updates

By Michael E. Belcher

Compatriot and Camp 1st Lieutenant Commander Buddy Wheat, Jr. was our guest speaker. Buddy gave us a wonderful presentation on the "Distaff in the War Between the States, or the female side of the War Between the States."

He discussed women's rolls in both the Confederate and Union Armies. He outlined the various jobs that women performed during the war; including, serving as nurses and cooks, making and repairing clothing and flags, working in the manufacturing of arms and munitions,

writing letters for soldiers, scrounging for resources, spying on the enemy and carrying dispatches. Several historically famous ladies were mentioned, including Mary Boykin Chesnut, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Belle Boyd, and Mary Elizabeth Bowser. He briefly discussed their lives and important involvements in the War effort. It was a very informative presentation, and well received and enjoyed by the members in attendance.

In the business session Camp Commander Tyler reported that with the in-

creased amount of text on the Jacob Hemphill monument, that it will cost more for a larger monument. He will price them out and get back to the camp with the increased monetary amount at the next meeting.

Commander Tyler reported that the curbstone at the Hillcrest Cemetery Confederate monument in Temple will be poured next week and then we will follow with the gravel work later.

It was decided to proceed with a headstone repair at South Belton Cemetery, and

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Forrest's Brother



Jeffrey E. Forrest

Forrest enlisted in 1861 as a private.

Although his big brother was far better known, this Confederate cavalryman fought with the tenacity equal to his brother's.

Jeffrey E. Forrest was the tenth child of William and Miriam Forrest. He was born on June 10, 1838 in Tippah County, Mississippi. His oldest brother was Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was just shy of his 17th birthday when Jeffrey was born. Jeffrey never knew his father, William Forrest died four months before Jeffrey was born. Since Nathan Bedford was the oldest boy in the Forrest family it was left for him to be the man of the family and be the surrogate father to Jeffrey.

Nathan Bedford did assume the responsibilities of raising young Jeffrey. They were very close and Jeffrey was no doubt Nathan Bedford's favorite brother. By the time of Jeffrey's teenage years, his older

brother had become quite wealthy. Jeffrey was first educated in DeSoto County, Mississippi and then in some of the finest schools in Memphis, Tennessee.

By the outbreak of the War between the States, Jeffrey, now 23 years old, was managing a livery stable in Memphis. On June 14, 1861, three Forrests, Nathan Bedford, Jeffrey, and Nathan Bedford's 15 year old son, William, joined Captain Josiah White's Tennessee Mounted Rifles (Company D of the 7th Tennessee Cavalry), all three as privates.

Jeffrey, like his older brother, didn't remain a private for long. By the time of the Battle of Fort Donelson, in February of 1862, Jeffrey had risen to the rank of lieutenant. During fighting near the fort Jeffrey had a horse shot out from under him. Like his older brother, Jeffrey refused to surrender to the Federals, and managed to escape from Fort Donelson. He

also saw action at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh).

In June of 1862, Jeffrey was elected captain of Company C of the 7th Tennessee Cavalry, however he declined the honor and resigned his commission. Shortly thereafter, Jeffrey rejoined as a major in the 8th Tennessee Cavalry. He was later promoted to Lt. Colonel, and was severely wounded in action near Bear Creek, Mississippi, in October of 1863. Shot through both thighs he went on medical leave to recuperate.

In early 1864, the Federals launched a raid, under the leadership of Brigadier General William Sooy Smith, into Mississippi. Although Jeffrey was not completely recovered from his wounds, Nathan Bedford sent for his brother. The elder Forrest knew he needed his best men to stop Smith and his much larger Federal force. With Jeffrey, Nathan Bedford

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Beford's Revenge

He lay on his back, shot through the neck. Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who arrived only minutes after the young man had been hit, cradled the lifeless man's head in his arms.

Forrest repeated the young man's name over and over. Finally, with unfinished busi-

ness to attend to, Forrest covered the young's man head with his hat, ordered an aide to attend to the young man's body, and then left in a fury, with revenge in his eyes.

Within minutes Forrest was in the lead of the advance guard of the dead young man's brigade fighting in hand to hand

combat with the Federals. In some of the most vicious hand to hand fighting of the war, Forrest is credited with killing three Union soldiers and having two of his horses killed.

General Forrest was getting his revenge on the men that had killed his youngest brother, Jeffery.

June Meeting Review

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then later discuss further work and costs to be done there.

Commander Tyler reported on the 4th of July Parade and gave the camp participation information. Camp Adjutant Belcher reported on the four Amendments that were voted on at the Texas Division Reunion. (a) The amendment to limit who

votes in the elections of Brigade Officers to only registered delegates for the camp - Passed. (b) The amendment to raise annual division dues to \$15 - Passed. (c) The amendment requiring delegate credentials be submitted electronically, so as to reduce the back log during on-site registration at the Division Reunions - Passed. The amendment to add a registration fee for

individuals attending a Texas Division Reunion was tabled and a committee will study it. Annual awards from the Texas Division were presented to camp members. The recipients for this year are as follows: Gold Crosses for Meritorious Service were presented to: Michael E.



Camp members who received Texas Division Gold Cross awards were Terry Tyler, John C. Perry, Buddy Wheat, and Steve Wooley.

Belcher, Jimmy D. Dossey, John C. Perry, Terry M. Tyler, Rev. Dewey D. Wheat and Steve D. Wooley. The Silver Cross for

Meritorious Service was presented to Ralph E. Snyder. Bronze Crosses for Meritorious Service were presented to James E. Bozeman, Mason W. DuBose, Milton R. Lentz, Michael L. Moore, Earl J. Soudelier, and Linda S. Wooley. Texas Division Honor Awards went to Tammy Bozeman, Ricky G. Copp, Darlene Dossey, Barbara Larson and Judy K. Tyler.

Forrest's Brother

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knew that he had a brigade level officer that would perform all orders given him in a highly competent manner.

Colonel Jeffrey Forrest, now in brigade command, performed well against Smith's Federal cavalry. One described Jeffrey's actions, "Exhibiting military ability of an order which approached more nearly the genius of the great general." Smith's Federals soon had enough of the Forrest brothers, and Smith and his men and began to withdraw.

On February 22, 1864, near Okolona, Mississippi, while in the lead pursuing Smith's men, Jeffery was shot through the neck. Jeffrey Forrest was dead at age 25. His older brother, and the man who served as the father he never knew, rushed to his side. When Nathan Bedford left the lifeless body of Jeffrey, the man, Major J. P. Strange, ordered by Forrest to attend to Jeffrey's body saw the fire in Forrest's eyes, as Forrest summoned a bugler to sound charge and then quickly head-

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At the Battle of Okolona, Forrest was hit by Union fire.

Camp Schedule

July 4, 2016
Annual Belton 4th of July Parade. Camp to participate with a float entry.

July 9, 2016
Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: Joseph L.

Owen, author of *Texans at Gettysburg. Blood and Glory with Hood's Texas Brigade.*

July 13-17, 2016
SCV National Reunion, Richardson, TX. See details, including hotel accommodation and schedule on the national SCV web site.



August 9, 2016
Camp's Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: TBD

Next Camp Meeting:
July 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, TX
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

Confederate Gazette

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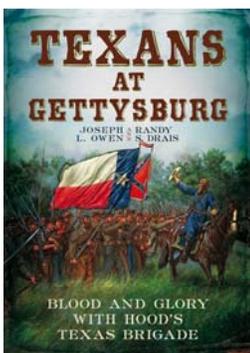
Next Meeting:
July 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, Texas
6:00 PM

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★ July Speaker ★

The speaker for our July dinner meeting is Joseph L. Owen, co-author of the new book, *Texans at Gettysburg. Blood and Glory with Hood's Texas Brigade*. The meeting will be held on July 9th at the Cotton Patch Café in the Temple Mall at 6:00 PM. A limited number of books will be available for sale.

The book is about Texans from Hood's Texas Brigade and other regiments who fought at Gettysburg, drawing from their descriptions of their experiences of the battle in personal diaries, interviews, newspaper articles,



letters and speeches. Their reminiscences provide a fascinating and harrowing account of the battle as they fought the Army of the Potomac.

Owen is a National Park Ranger at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Johnson City, Texas. He attended college at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma receiving a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education.

Owen is currently working on a second book, *Texans at Antietam (Sharpsburg): A Terrible Clash of Arms*.

Forrest's Brother

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ed to the front lines. Major Strange saw Forrest's personal physician shortly after Forrest left Jeffrey's body. Major Strange called out to Dr. J. B. Cowan, "Doctor, hurry after the general; I am afraid he will be killed."

Dr. Cowan hurried towards the front. When he arrived he, "came upon a scene which made my blood run cold." Forrest was in the middle of hand to hand combat with Federals that were trying to regroup and counter attack. Before the day was over, the Federals were in full retreat. Forrest had two horses shot out from under him, and had personally avenged his brother's death by killing several Federals, includ-

ing one that was almost decapitated by his saber.

Forrest would later include only a brief comment over the intense loss of his brother. In his official battle report Forrest wrote, "The death of my brother, Colonel Jeffrey E. Forrest, is deeply felt by his brigade as well as by myself, and it is but just to say that for sobriety, ability, prudence, and bravery he had no superior of his age."

Jeffrey Forrest's body was initially buried in Mississippi, but in 1868 he was moved to the Forrest family plot in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. A government marker over Jeffrey's grave incorrectly lists his years of birth and death.