

Confederate Gazette

Supreme Court Hears SCV Case

On March 23rd the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments from the State of Texas arguing it had the right to deny the Sons of Confederate Veterans' (SCV) license plate request and the SCV in support of its request for the Texas Division's application for a state issued SCV license plate, which includes the SCV logo.

Only oral arguments were heard at the session. Although the Supreme Court likely made a decision on March 27th, the court will not make the decision known to the public until sometime in June. The delay is to give the

justices time to do a write up of their decision, both for the ruling and a dissent opinion.

say over what it allows on any specialty plate.

He was quickly asked by the justices if the First Amendment applied or if the specialty plates were really a public forum in which the First Amendment would apply.

Attorney R. James George, Jr. of Austin argued on behalf of the SCV's Texas Division. He took the position that the specialty plate program in Texas is a public forum and subject to the First Amendment.

He stated that Texas has "issued an open invitation" (Continued on page 4)

License plates present free speech lesson

Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON Drive across the vast expanse of Texas and you might see license plates celebrating everything from Dr Pepper and Mighty Fine Burgers to horned lizards and wild turkeys. Nothing is more popular in one of the nation's most conservative states, however, than the U.S. military and its veterans. No fewer than 92 of its 265 specialty plates honor their service.

But when it came to adding a 52nd such license plate — one commemorating Confederate soldiers — Texas balked. Its refusal, following objections raised by residents who equate the Confederate flag with slavery and oppression, will be taken up next week by the Supreme Court.

The case combines a basic legal concept — freedom of speech — with controversies such as Who is speaking, the government or the driver? Can subject matter or specific viewpoints be limited? Must states give equal time to both sides of an issue?



A license plate dispute will go before the Supreme Court.

"You may disagree with our opinion, but we are honoring those people who in their time sacrificed all."

Former senior and congressman Ben Jones, advocating for Texas to allow a license plate commemorating Confederate soldiers.

"You may disagree with our opinion, but we are honoring those people who in their time sacrificed all," says Ben Jones, a former congressman who played Coater on *The Duke of Hazzard* and speaks for the 30,000-member Sons of Confederate Veterans. "We're not ashamed of our ancestors."

"Government speech is on the line," says Lisa Scovens, executive director of the State Legal Center, which advocates for state and local governments. "This is crucial stuff for us."

Every state in the nation offers specialty license plates. Maryland offers nearly 800, including one for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The plates cost extra, proceeds usually are split between the states and the sponsoring organizations.

Sons of Confederate Veterans plates became available in Mississippi in 2003; the money helps restore Civil War-era flags. Today they are offered in eight other states: Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

The contested Texas plate — the first one ever turned down by the Department of Motor Vehicles Board — features a Confederate battle flag flanked by the words "Sons of Confederate Veterans 1896." Proceeds would go toward preservation and education, including the group's youth camp, where teenagers can learn

how to fire muskets and cannons. The most controversial license plate on the market — and the one involved in the most court cases — bears the simple message "Choose Life." It's available in 29 states, but in North Carolina, two federal courts have ruled the state cannot offer it without also allowing plates prepared by abortion-rights advocates. That case is pending at the Supreme Court.

Texas, backed by 11 other states, contends the messages on license plates should be considered government speech, and therefore not subject to First Amendment challenges. The states say drivers can use bumper stickers, window decals or paint jobs to display private messages. Proponents of free speech say the driver, not the state, does the speaking by displaying the license plates. If governments are allowed to limit such speech, they say, it will lead to increased censorship on college campuses and against religious minorities.

"Everything offends someone," says a brief from the Cato Institute on behalf of, among others, activist J.L. O'Rourke.

USA Today's coverage of the case

The State of Texas' case was presented by the state's Solicitor General, Scott A. Keller, who argued that Texas exercises "total control" over the making and display of all auto and truck license plates and has an absolute

Reenactment Set For May

The 7th annual Battle of Temple Junction, jointly sponsored by the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 and the City of Temple, will be held on the third weekend in May.

The event will kick off on Friday May 15th with an Education Day. Area schools are invited to participate

where they can visit the soldiers' camps and see how they lived. Last year approximately 520 school aged kids visited the reenactment.

The event will open to the public on Saturday May 16th and Sunday May 17th. There will be full scale battles

along with cavalry competitions and a military surgeon display. Last year an estimated 1,000 people attended the event.

As it was last year, the Battle of Temple Junction will be held at the Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine show grounds at 1717 Eberhardt Road in Temple.



Major
Robert M. White
Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

www.scvtemple.com

Michael E. Belcher
Camp Commander
4424 Blue Ridge Dr.
Belton, TX 76513-4905

John C. Perry
Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 794
Salado, TX 76571

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

East Texas Colonel



**John Lafayette
Camp**

**Camp moved to
Texas in 1849**

He would fight up until 1864 when he was wounded leading his Texans in north Georgia. His capture by the Yankees would end the war for this Texan.

John Lafayette Camp was born on February 20, 1828, outside of Birmingham, Alabama in Jefferson County. He was the son of John Lay Camp and Elizabeth Brown Camp. Camp graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1848. In 1849 Camp moved to Gilmer in east Texas. In Gilmer he practiced law and had a cotton plantation. In 1851 he married Mary Ann Ward, the daughter of a Gilmer physician. The young couple would eventually have five children, including John Lafayette, Jr., who post war would become a noted south Texas judge and district attorney.

When war broke out in 1861 Camp was elected captain of a company of cavalry. He later became a colonel in the 14th

Texas Cavalry. The regiment of ten companies was primarily from North and East Texas. It served in Texas and Arkansas. In March of 1862, at Little Rock, Arkansas, the regiment was dismantled and served the duration of the war as infantry. On May 8, 1862, the regiment was reorganized and Camp was elected as the regimental commander and promoted to colonel.

Camp and the 14th saw action, as part of Mathew D. Ector's brigade, at the battles of Richmond and Cumberland Gap, Kentucky in August of 1862, Murfreesboro (Stone's River), Tennessee from December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863, Vicksburg, which surrendered on July 4, 1863, and Chickamauga, Georgia in September of 1863. Camp was involved in the attempted defense of Atlanta and after Atlanta fell he was involved in some of the fiercest fighting the 14th saw at Altoona Pass. There Camp was hit and

eventually captured by the Yankees. That would end the war for Camp.

Post war Camp got involved in politics. He was elected in 1866 to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat, but he was denied his seat by the Radical Republicans. In 1872 Camp served as a delegate to the Democratic national convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Camp was elected to the Texas Senate in 1874 and served until 1878. He was a strong advocate of railroad construction which benefited west Texas and was involved in a effort to rewrite the Texas Constitution.

In 1878 Camp was appointed as a District Judge serving east Texas by Governor R. B. Hubbard. In 1884 suffering from ill health he relocated to Arizona in hopes that the dry climate would help his health improve. There he served as the registrar of the land office, appoint-

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Fight at Altoona Pass

After Atlanta fell in July of 1864 Confederate General John B. Hood moved north to threaten the railroad supply line of William T. Sherman's Union army. A key Union fortification guarding the rail line was at Altoona Pass north of Atlanta.

A Confederate force was sent

to break the rail line. The Union forces were well entrenched and the 14th Texas Dismounted Cavalry were one of the units sent to dislodge them. John L. Camp in command of the 14th led his men forward first hitting Union soldiers in trenches in front of the Union redoubt fortifications.

After successfully pushing the Federals back Camp led his men towards the main Union position. He had only gone a few yards when he was hit. His men continued on, but they were unable to dislodge the main Federal force. Camp would survive his wounds but was captured by the Yankees.

March Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Our guest speaker was Ms. Holly Leiferman of the Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department. She gave us an update on this year's plans and preparations for the Camps and City of Temple's co-sponsored event, The Battle of Temple Junction.

Holly outlined the events and some of the changes and additions for this year's program, and she signed up volunteers for the event from among the Camp's membership. She was asked lots of questions and the presentation was warmly received by the Camp Members, and we were left pleased with this year's progress and what should prove to be another successful event.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: As we are beginning to out-grow the Cotton Patch Café meeting room at certain times of the year, it was decided to look into alternative locations.

Compatriots James and Tammy Bozeman presented the idea of meeting in the special meeting room in the Temple

Public Library and having a "pot luck" dinner. Others mentioned a couple other restaurants with larger meeting rooms. It was decided to try a holding a meeting at the library, most likely in May.

The recent release of Texas House Bill 1242 by Representative Donna Howard of Travis County was discussed, which has now been joined by Texas Senate Bill 870. The camp is strongly in opposition to these bills, and individuals will write letters and or participate in organized rallies at the state capitol. Compatriot Michael Moore is gathering Southern Heritage information to take to Molly White's office and be posted for folks to read in regards to this situation.

The Confederate Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, April 11th will be conducted at 4:00 PM at the South Belton Cemetery. A flag raising ceremony at the Bell County Courthouse's Confederate soldier's monument will be immediately following, at about 5:00 PM. There will be wreaths placed and Confederate color guards

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East Texas Colonel

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ed by fellow Democrat Grover Cleveland.

Unfortunately his health did not improve and he returned to Texas after two years in Arizona. He settled in San Antonio. At his death he was residing with his son John, Jr.



Grave marker of John Camp

and he died there at age 66 on July 16, 1891.

The day after his death the San Antonio Daily Light said of Camp, "The deceased was a prominent Texan, and served with great distinction during the late war on the Confederate side." He was buried at Dignowity Cemetery in San Antonio. Camp County, Texas was named for him,

Camp was wounded and captured at Alton Pass

Camp Schedule

April 11 2015

1. Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies at the South Belton Cemetery at 4:00 PM
2. Flag Raising Ceremony at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton at approximately 5:00 PM
3. Quarterly Dinner meeting

at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting.

May 12, 2015

Regular Camp meeting, location to be determined. 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting.



May 15-17, 2015

7th Annual Battle of Temple Junction at the Texas Early Day Tractor grounds.

**Next Camp Meeting:
April 11th
Cotton Patch Café
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
April 11th

Cotton Patch Cafe

6:00 PM-Social

7:00 PM-Meeting

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March Camp Meeting

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will be in attendance. Also it was reported by Past Commander Jimmy Dossey that flags were ordered from the Ruffan flag company to replace our camp flags.

It was announced that the Texas SCV Specialty License Plate case would be heard on March 23rd by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A motion was made by Compatriot Steve Wooley to send a \$100.00 contribution to the Major George W. Littlefield Camp #59 in Austin, Texas for their Oakwood Cemetery Confederate monument project.

The motion was seconded by Compatriot Mike Kelsey, and passed by a unanimous vote. Bryan - College Station's new Historical Memorial Park will be dedicated on April 9th.

The Texas Supreme Court plaque case is still in the works as we the SCV Texas Division could soon be receiving up to \$250,000 in court case settlements from the State of Texas.

Also, compatriot Earl Soudelier volunteered the use of his truck and trailer for the Belton 4th of July Parade. The Camp has participated in the annual parade for many years.

Supreme Court Hears SCV Case

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for residents to submit plate designs making it a public forum. Considerable time was taken, during both sides' arguments, over where free expression stopped and state regulation could begin.

The case has drawn considerable national attention. Virtually every major newspaper in the United States had an article about the case. Papers such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal* and many others provided coverage on the case. The *Dallas Morning News* did a feature story on the plate dispute

and the *Chicago Tribune* did an editorial entitled, "Saying no to Confederate license plate." The editorial argued that issuing the plates would have Texas formally associating with the "Confederate cause"

Broadcast media also jumped on the story with coverage on Fox News, CNN, NPR and even the BBC. Regardless of the outcome of the case, the media attention has certainly enhanced the name recognition of the SCV.

The design of the Texas Division's license plate was done in Temple, at no cost to the Division, by Concentus Media Group.