

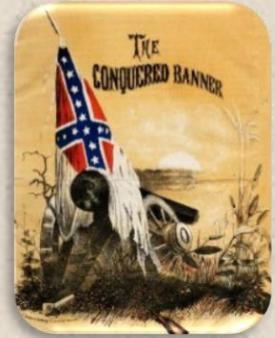


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 28 NUMBER 5

September/October 2020

Searching for David

A few years ago, early in 2017 to be exact, just prior to the 23rd Annual California Division Reunion, Bakersfield/Tehachapi Camp 2048's Jon Fowler tasked the camps within the division to do something a little different at the planned Sunday memorial at Bakersfield's Union Cemetery. As with all the division's reunions, each camp member, during the ceremony, would come forward when their ancestor's state was called out and recite their ancestor's name and unit in which they served. Also, during the ceremony, if an active California Division SCV member died recently, the respective camp commander or his representative would call out that member's name.

Commander Fowler came up with a plan that would add additional meaning to the memorial ceremony. He thought it a good idea to conduct a *Last Roll Call* for each camp's previously deceased members. He had contacted national headquarters to obtain names of deceased members of each California Division camp who had died in past years—some still active. This way, they could be honored as it had most likely not been done before.

As I was Camp 302 Commander at the time, Compatriot Fowler provided me a list of eight names associated with Camp 302 at the time of their reported death. A few names I recognized; some I did not know as they were in the camp before my time. Having the names to call out was one thing, but I needed to know more. With what camp records I had on hand (incomplete rosters) and some old camp newsletters, I realized that I needed to rely on the memory of some of the camp's older members. My research began.

A few members in Camp 302 today will recognize some of the eight names that were on the list in my hands: **Albert C. Dutton, Robert Lee Hoffman, Leo A. Mansfield, David Morris Rowlands, Greg Alan Sims, William E. Steger, James F. Taylor and Warren Leroy Winn.** I don't need to explain **Jim Taylor**, as most of us in the camp now well remember this compatriot and generous man who died in 2015 and not only left the camp a great bequest but also Civil War reproduction pistols that several of our associates now own. Then, sadly, several months before the Division Reunion, we lost new member **Greg Sims** who passed away with cancer in August of 2016. Roy Adair and I attended his memorial service at Point Loma Naval Station. Greg was a 25-year Navy veteran retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

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International Headquarters
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059
1-800-MY-DIXIE

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

“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 the ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.”

Lt. General Stephen D. Lee

Newsletter

The Conquered Banner is the official newsletter of Camp 302 and is published each odd-numbered month. Permission to reprint material contained in the newsletter is freely given to SCV, MOSB and UDC organizations. Commentary and articles are solicited and should be mailed or E-mailed to the Newsletter Editor. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the preceding month. Consideration of space may require editing.

Meetings

The camp meets the 2nd Saturday of each odd-numbered month at various locations which are announced in the newsletter.

Correspondence

Membership applications, dues renewals, changes of address and other business should be directed to the adjutant.

Dues

Annual dues are billed each August and are \$50.00 for members. Dues include the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and a newsletter.

Camp officers

<u>Commander</u>	<u>Jim Millsap</u>
<u>Lieutenant Commander</u>	<u>George Faircloth</u>
<u>2nd Lieutenant Commander</u>	<u>Jim Coulsby</u>
<u>Adjutant</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Roy Adair</u>
<u>Webmaster</u>	<u>Roy Adair</u>
<u>Chaplain</u>	<u>Jim Coulsby</u>
<u>Sergeant-at-Arms</u>	<u>Steve Smith</u>
<u>Historian</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>

Camp 302 Meeting Minutes

Camp Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Sergeant-at-Arms Steve Smith and compatriots Ira Lack and Mike Climo met at the home of Steve and Deanne Smith in Vista, Saturday, July 11th for the first time since the camp's March 7th gathering.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions and stay-at-home requirements, the May 9th meeting was cancelled. Deanne Smith had an ample supply of snacks and drinks on hand for the meeting. As a small turn-out in attendance at this session and not meeting the quorum requirements, Commander Millsap decided to conduct the event as an informal business/social affair.

Adjutant Stephens then presented the Treasurer's Report: As of May 7, 2020, the camp's account balance was \$39,495.76. With an outlay of \$37.18 for a Quicken bank account program update and total deposits of \$1800.00 that included annual dues, donations, and redeposit of \$200.00 withdrawn for the Division Convention Silent Auction, the camp closed out the period 5/8/2020 through 7/10/2020 with \$41,258.58 in the camp's bank account. Commander Millsap then went over the status of camp and division challenge coins and ink pens and prices.



Old Business: Commander Millsap noted the \$1000.00 donation made by Camp 302 for the Confederate Museum Fund was now listed in the Confederate Veteran Magazine. Adjutant Stephens briefed those present that nothing has changed regarding the H.L. Hunley JROTC Awards program and that in all probability we will see more JROTC's dropping out of the program once schools are back in session.

New Business: Adjutant Stephens reported that the bulk of the 2020 annual camp dues were in with only a few still pending. Compatriot Mike Schooling's motion to donate \$500.00 to the Southern Legal Resource Center to help fight the removal of Confederate statues and monuments was presented to the attendees and will go forward for further review. Also, donations to the UDC Museum and Headquarters, Richmond was discussed with no immediate action taken. Regarding the VMC Color Guard detail, Stephens stated that this, also, is still on hold until the Marine Corps League reestablishes their monthly ceremony. Camp members slated to attend the 2020 SCV National Convention discussed travel arrangements and Commander Millsap indicated that he cancelled his travel there due to family concerns.

Upcoming Events:

Annual Blue/Grey BBQ at the Amphib Base Gator Beach, Cabana #6 is scheduled for August 22, 2020, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Camp 302 Musket Shoot at South Bay Rod & Gun Club, Range #2 is scheduled for October 3, 2020, Saturday, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Camp & Black Powder Shoot Tentatively scheduled for November 7-8, 2020

The meeting adjourned around 12:00 PM with plans to conduct the next meeting at Steve's home.

(Searching for David Continued from Page One)

Bill Steger. Bill passed away in San Diego early in 2011 at the age of 91 as a result of a stroke and other medical issues affecting his health. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill a few times shortly after becoming a camp member in 2004. Colonel Steger (USAF, Ret) flew B-24's and B-29's in the U.S. Army Air Corps after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1944. Most importantly, Bill was a founding member of Camp 302.

Robert Hoffman was the brother of founding member, Stu Hoffman. He joined the camp in February of 1999 and died in 2002 while residing in the Richmond, Virginia area.

Albert Dutton Jr. of Escondido and **Leo Mansfield** of Lemon Grove were members at a distant past in the camp's history and little is known of them today. Both are among the original members of Camp 302 even though their names do not appear on the camp's charter. Al Dutton died in April 1994, a year after the camp was chartered in 1993. Leo Mansfield joined the SCV in 1992 and became a part of the group of men who would form the embryonic Camp 302. Leo left the camp in 2001 and passed away at the age of 76 a short time later.

Warren L. Winn became a member of the SCV and Camp 302 in 1993 and was an active member when he died in 2003. He was a Navy veteran who served as a corpsman in both the Korean and Vietnam War. His remains are interred in his hometown, Fitzgerald, Georgia, and Warren was the father of current member Steven Winn who has spoken highly of his father.

Now comes the name on that short list of members that raised the biggest question, inspiring me to

write this article and, that was of course, **David M. Rowlands.** *(seen here on the left)*

None of our long-time members remembered ever seeing or knowing of him. It is at this point that I must emphasize that the history of any organization such as Camp 302 where dozens of members come and go through the years and where thirty to fifty members may appear on an organization's roster at any given time, it's logical that many within the group will never get to meet or know everyone on a personal basis whether it be in a fleeting moment in time.



Fortunately, I found David's name listed on a camp roster dated in 2000 that was part of a compatriot manual given to me by the camp's founding member, Gene Armistead and put together by former member, John Kindred. Longtime member and compatriot Ernie Powell told me that he had a vague recollection of the name Rowlands, but that was it. After doing a Google search, the only name that appeared was David M. Rowlands, deceased stage and movie actor and a retired Navy Commander and brother of actress Gena Rowlands. He is interred at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery and was a resident of Coronado, Ca when he died on April 25, 2000. Could this be the same David Rowlands that was a member of Camp 302?

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(Searching for David Continued from Page Four)

The next step was to contact the SCV National Executive Director, who at that time was Michael Landree. He was extremely helpful in providing me with what information headquarters had on David Rowlands. His death was reported to headquarters in December of 2000, probably by his wife, as no one in the camp knew of this, and National records indicated that he joined the SCV and Camp 302 in April of 1997. Was I on the right track?

My interest was piqued at this point. The actors David and Gena Rowlands and their actress mother, Lady Rowlands, were born in Ft. Smith Arkansas. What better place to be from and to have a Confederate ancestor. I felt that if the David Rowlands on the list of eight names of deceased members given me and, if in fact Camp 302 had this actor as a former member who died while still active, it would wrap up my research of those eight men and bring it to a successful conclusion. I just did not have enough information at the time and, due to other activities during that period, would result in my research lying fallow for a while.

About a year or so later, I was able to obtain some very valuable records that contained camp rosters, invoices of dues payments and miscellaneous camp info dating back to the early 1990's that had been passed down and stored in a member's garage that proved to be a gold mine of data. Bingo! The information I needed on David Rowlands as well as data on quite a few previous members was there and I commenced my research once again.

As stated earlier, Commander Rowlands' remains, along with his late wife Lynn Russell Rowlands, are interred at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. Another clue that tied him in with the camp is that the date of death is listed on his crypt was the year 2000. Lynn passed away in 2016. In her bio, her residence at time of death was B Avenue in Coronado. While delving through the newly found documents, I came across the April 7, 1997 invoice signed by Adjutant Stu Hoffman sending off David's application for membership with the then \$20.00 fee. Once I arrived at the initial camp roster dated April 1997 with Rowlands name listed, his home address was 224B Avenue, Coronado. That was it! In his bio listing his movie and stage credits, David's residence was listed as Coronado, Ca and, still living at 224B Avenue when he died in April 2000 at the age of 74 as an active camp member and one wonders if David had lived, would he have renewed his membership in the SCV and with Camp 302.



Pictured here on the left, we see actors Peter Falk, Ben Gazzara, John Cassavetes with a younger David Rowlands on the right posing during the filming of the movie "Husbands" in 1970. David was not seen in the movie as his character is dead at the opening. He would play many supporting roles in the movies alongside his more famous sister, Gina. The photo on page four depicts David playing a psychiatrist in the movie *Love Streams* in 1984. This is close to how he would have appeared to our members who were around in the late nineties.

(Continued on page Six)

(Searching for David Continued from Page Five)

Commander Rowlands retired from the Navy in 1977 after a 30-year career. He was a veteran of both Korea and Vietnam, and it was on 18 November of 1952 that, as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving with Fighter Squadron Seven Hundred Eighty-One (VF-781) in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea. VF-781 was a Naval Reserve squadron flying F9F-5's off the USS Oriskany. They were



59. F9F-5 BuNo. 126034 D109 flown by Lt(jg) David M. Rowlands of VF-781, USS Oriskany, 18 November, 1952

disbanded in 1953 and replaced by VF-121. David would also receive an Air Medal and Navy Commendation Medal among others.

He was a member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society. *Pictured at left* is the aircraft David flew during the engagement in which he was wingman to

flight leader Lieutenant Royce Williams in which 4, more agile, faster and maneuverable

Mig 15's, were shot down by Royce. There were a total of seven Mig 15's involved in the engagement with David credited with one of the Mig kills. This entails another long story and David's official report on his part of the aerial combat will come later in the next issue of this newsletter.

It is most unfortunate that during his three-year stint in Camp 302, compatriot Rowlands was never in a position to share his Hollywood and Navy experiences with his fellow members

The search for David is in no way meant to lessen or take away the personal mark-of-note to the other seven men on that short list, but it provided a significant microcosm of the dozens of fellow compatriots that would claim membership during the past twenty-seven years in our camp and in the SCV organization. Many would come and many would go as our membership rose and fell over those years. Death, lack of interest, and other significant factors would send the names of these men off to reside on the dusty pages of fading rosters. It was most fitting that I obtained that list passed on to the division's camps in 2017 with the names of these deceased members because it was a great reminder that even though we can never be expected to know, all those who have been in our ranks, at least it reminds us that we all have one very important common link tying us to the past—the unique privilege of having a Confederate ancestor to honor.

Credits:

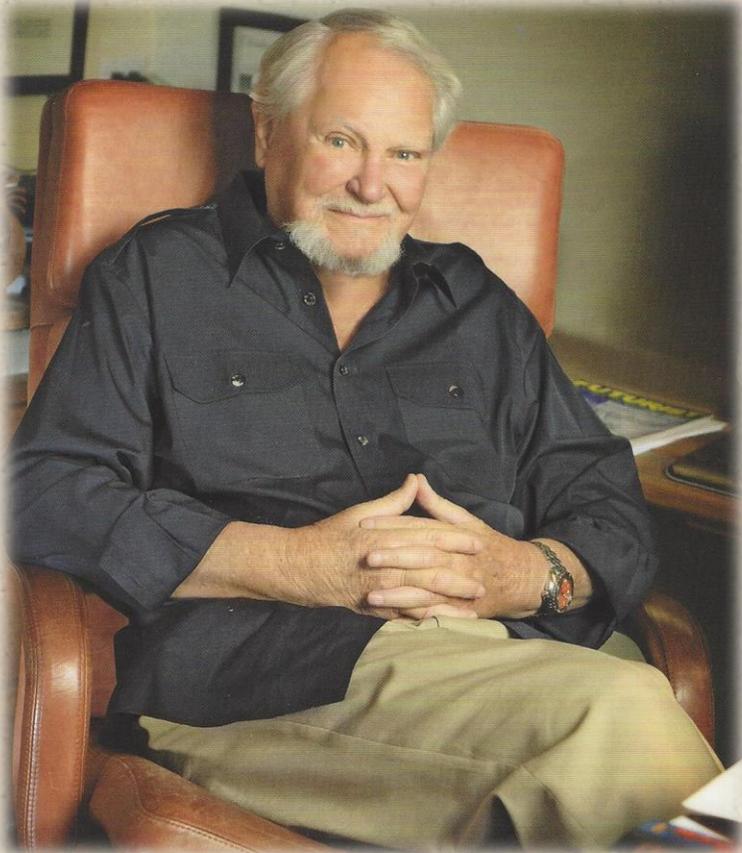
- 1) Mary Ellen Park of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society (for putting me on the right track).
- 2) VF-781's website (a great source in learning of the squadron's history, it's aviators and the aircraft they flew in Korea).
- 3) C.J. Machado (Writer, Producer, Veterans Advocate and Artist) provided me with a great source of research material on both David Rowlands and Royce Williams. In talking with this knowledgeable lady, there seems to be nothing about aviation history she doesn't know. I also thank my fellow docent aboard the USS Midway Bob Breglio for connecting me with C.J.
- 4) Captain Royce Williams (USN Ret) As C.J. is his agent/spokesperson, she asked him the questions I had on David. He came back saying that he remembered Rowlands, his wingman, as being a large man and a great gentleman.

Jim Stephens

The Man Who Found the Hunley

Our readers who have followed the adventures of Dirk Pitt, Sam and Remi Fargo, Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the *Oregon*, will know right away with whom I'm talking about when I mention the name of Clive Cussler. This noted author and co-author of numerous adventure novels depicting the above characters along with their many exploits on land and sea, have enthralled readers over the years.

The *Friends of the Hunley*, an organization dedicated to the recovery, research and preservation of this historic Confederate submarine announced, via their official newsletter *The Blue Light*, that Mr. Cussler had passed away at his home in Arizona in February of 2020. This famous author was a board member of this Hunley organization and, as head of the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA), led this group in finding the Hunley in 1995.



Cussler was an internationally recognized authority in finding famous shipwrecks, not only of the H.L. Hunley and its Union target, the U.S.S. Housatonic, but also the German Submarine U-20 that sank the Lusitania, the Confederate ironclad Merrimack and many others. Cussler was active in the Hunley project up to his death and the State of South Carolina passed a resolution honoring his life, his contribution to literature, and maritime discovery and preservation. Any time one thinks of or sees photos of the Hunley or views in person this famous submarine, the man pictured at left can be thanked for that opportunity.

Camp members can peruse this edition of the *Blue Light* at our next gathering.

SCV National Reunion - 2020



The California Division of the SCV was back East again this year, venturing to America's oldest city, St. Augustine, Florida to participate in this annual gathering of compatriots from throughout the confederation to conduct important business and election matters. The Kirby-Smith Camp 1209, Jacksonville, Florida hosted the event conducted at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort. Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Larry McCluney Jr. was elected to step into the shoes of outgoing Paul Gramling Jr. who accomplished a great deal during his tenure in office. Fair winds and following seas to the new Commander-in-Chief.

California Division members and guests in attendance were as follows: Division Commander Robert Williams, Ryan Williams, Division Lieutenant Commander and Camp 302 member, Mike Climo, Division Adjutant Vern Padgett and his wife Sandy of the California OCR. Camp 302 Treasurer/Web Master Roy Adair, son Brian and wife Robyn of the California United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Camp 302's Steve Smith who would be appointed to the National Awards Committee and finally, Hal Cardwell of Inland Empire Camp 1742 not shown in the photo to the right.

The First day's business meeting, according to Vern Padgett, was the shortest he had ever seen in the 21 National Reunions he has attended. The SCV's good friend H.K. Edgerton was there.



Due to tight security at the hotel, attendees were required to have their name tags on at all times. Initially, it was reported that the host camp commander refused entrance of H.K. because of that; however, all was cleared up and he is seen here leading those present at the convention in a rousing rendition of *Dixie* and proudly waving his flag, as he always loves to do. Later, he was a guest of the Order of the Confederate Rose and Sandy Padgett reported that he was there all dressed up with his huge flag.

During the business meeting, Hal Cardwell gave an impassioned and rather controversial talk on defending monuments in Richmond, saying that he spent many a night guarding them.

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(2020 National Reunion Continued from Page Eight)

Later, California Division Officers Commander Williams, Adjutant Padgett and LCDR Climo went forward and presented CIC Gramling a check for \$2500.00 for the California Division's contribution to the new Confederate Museum.

As with all reunions and conventions during business sessions, and as could be expected, financial affairs take up an inordinate amount of time, particularly with an organization as large as the SCV. Large sums of money are talked about, such as a million dollars that needs to be accounted for that was brought up by former CIC Chris Sullivan to the General Executive Committee and other details of payments going toward the Confederate Museum along with other financial issues. These long, drawn-out discussions tend to bore some attendees, especially newer members who might not appreciate the importance of men like Chris Sullivan to the SCV. While some members trust the GEC to do the right thing, many others want to see more transparency with the budgeting and dealings with the Investment Committee which, according to reports, is lacking.

The Awards Luncheon during the reunion is the event where recognition of achievement by SCV members thorough out the confederation is acknowledged. Recommendations for many these awards and commendations are submitted by the camp commanders via the division commanders and presentations are made during the luncheon. Many of the awards are generally presented to the attending division and army commanders who then pass them down to the camp level. Appreciation is extended to Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap for submitting and, most importantly, following up with Division Commander Williams to ensure the camp members he had selected were

justly awarded. These awards will be presented during the September 12th meeting. One particular award that I wish to mention here and, one of which, as editor, I'm proud but somewhat humble to announce, is that *The Conquered Banner*, Camp 302's long-running periodical has won the Dr. Paul Jon Miller Award for best published newsletter for camps with 50 members or less in the National Confederation for 2020. Congratulations goes to Secession Camp #4, Charleston, South Carolina, Commander Charles Long, for winning the S.A. Cunningham Award for camps with 50 or more members *Roy Adair and Steve Smith at left show off our plaque at the Awards ceremony.* It is such a pleasure that this, along with the other outstanding awards for Camp 302 members has come home to California.

Acknowledgement for the newsletter achievement goes to a lot of folks who have made this award possible: Activities on the camp and division level that give substance to the articles reported, photographs provided by participants throughout the division and encouragement, especially that of Division Adjutant Vern

Padgett and those on the camp level to place our newsletter in the national competition. I cannot forget my daughter Megan for her valuable assistance in proof reading and technical advice in all the published issues to date. And then, to Gene Armistead, our late compatriot and founding member of Camp 302 goes the credit of choosing the name that graces the masthead of this newsletter.

There were national and army awards too numerous to mention here. However, it must be noted that Commander Darrell Maples, who heads our Army of Trans Mississippi, won the General Albert Sydney Johnston Award for the greatest net gain in camps during the previous year. He garnered 4 new camps.

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(2020 National Reunion Continued from Page Nine)



To add a little humor to these convention notes, Adjutant Padgett talks of a visit to a bar in St. Augustine. He, Sandy, Robert and Ryan Williams, George Gremillion, Steve Smith *seen here to the left*, along with Mike Climo, visited the Trade Winds Lounge where Commander Williams had spent time 56 years ago as a young Marine. Vern asked him if he remembered where he may have sat when there. Commander Williams answered back that he did not remember and that he probably was lying on the floor.

Those that I have talked to report very few or no protesters that they know of during their stay at the reunion. Vern stated that he and Ryan walked up to a boarded-up Confederate statue that was soon to be removed and that a black truck with protesters was in the town center

near the statue. Vern's brother Bryan of PGT Beauregard Camp 1458 said that while on a bus tour the black truck followed them with a sign taped to the rear window "Nothing is gained by Treason." As Vern says—Tell that to George Washington.

The 2021 site for the next National Reunion will be in Metairie, Louisiana. Marietta, Georgia is slated for 2022 and Hot Springs, Arkansas is on tap for 2023. Everyone can start making their plans.

I extend my gratitude to Vern Padgett for sharing his notes, thoughts and photographs on this year's National Reunion. To Roy Adair and others who provided their photos and inputs as well. It's the contributions of the many that puts ink on these pages.

Jim Stephens

Division Executive Council Meeting



There was a good turn-out Sunday, August 16, 2020 at the home of Commander Williams in Mission Viejo to discuss division business and recount the highlights at St. Augustine, Florida - *See article starting on Page Eight.*

A respectable thirteen members from up and down the state were present. Division Chaplain David Pyle of San Jose Camp 1440 delivered the Invocation and participated in the meeting via Zoom. We were pleased to have a rare visit by Steve Madden of the Inland Empire Camp.

Steve Steinberg, the division's Genealogy representative, reported on SCV membership requests from across the confederation. Two requests went to the San Jose Camp 1440 and one to the Ventura Camp 2062. Ten additional

requests were forwarded by him to camps in both the Army of Northern Virginia and other camps in The Army of Trans Mississippi. As with all inquiries from men seeking information and possible membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, some, for whatever reason, choose not to join our ranks. However, the SCV is experiencing a great influx of applicants.

An interesting comment came up during the proceedings regarding the United States Pledge of Allegiance. Apparently, there may be some camps within the SCV who have chosen to or possibly thinking about not to reciting the pledge during the opening formalities of their meetings. What in the world are they thinking of?! It is this writer's most earnest opinion and I think that of us all in this division that in this era of anti-Confederate, anti-American history rantings and wanton destruction of monuments and property, the uninformed will most assuredly use this refrain from reciting the pledge as a weapon against the SCV and all we stand for. We in this organization are dedicated Americans, many former military who love and honor our country. This does not take away, in any form, our desire and right to honor our Confederate ancestors who, themselves, were Americans. Let's hope this way of thinking is nipped in the bud, pronto.

Adjutant Padgett went over the division's finances and a brief discussion on the possibility of establishing an interest-bearing deposit for division funds was had with no action taken. Also, brief talks on incoming division dues and the current method of payment for division and national dues which will continue the way things are for the present. Adjutant Padgett presented the division budget which was approved by unanimous vote.

With no further business to bring forward, Adjutant Padgett delivered the benediction to end the Executive Council Meeting.

Michael Ronald “Mickey” Millsap



It is impossible at times, when taking time for reflection or preparation, that one can properly form thoughts and words when reporting the death of friends and family of those connected with our camp.

It is with due respect to Commander Jim Millsap and his family, and the sadness they suffered with the loss of their son, Michael, that the *Conquered Banner* reports of his passing ,Thursday, August 13, 2020 due to complications with diabetes at his college residence in Corvallis, Oregon.

Mickey was a member of the 2017 graduating class of San Dieguito Academy in Encinitas, California. He was 21 years old and entering his 4th year of studies at Oregon State, pursuing degrees in Education and History.

Commander Millsap often spoke with pride of his son’s experience in the Boy Scouts of which he was actively involved. Michael was an Eagle Scout from Troop 776 in Encinitas and a proud member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity at Oregon State.

Condolences are extended to Michael’s brother Matthew, his parents Connie and Jim Millsap.

The Last Roll Call

Two men associated with the California Division of years past answered that solemn call within days of each other this last month. Several of us in the camp who were around in 2004 and 2005 had the chance to meet and talk with Dr. Rowland King Jr. We all knew him as “Ro.” He earned his Ed.D at Arizona State University in 1972. Captain King was a navigator on C-130’s while on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for five years and serving in the reserves until 1970. He devoted his post Air Force stint to public education as a history teacher, principle and district superintendent in the California school systems.

His big love was history and, after joining the SCV after his retirement, he became Commander of the John Bell Hood Camp 1208 Los Angeles. He became quite immersed in the Civil War history of California and put together some excellent material on this subject. “Ro” was the California Division Historian for many years prior to moving to Rockwell, North Carolina in 2006 to be near to his grandchildren. His Confederate ancestor was Corporal Wheeler Rufus Watson of Strong, Mississippi. He was active in the Military Order of Stars and Bars. I will always remember “Ro.” I met him at the Division Convention in Pasadena in 2005. Sitting at his table and after telling him that one of my Confederate ancestors was a major, he worked on me insisting that I join the Order of Stars and Bars.

Dr. Rowland Rutherford King Jr. was 85 when he passed away in Salisbury, North Carolina August 23, 2020. He had underlying conditions including Dementia, but it would be COVID-19 that took his life.

For all of us in the California Division, and the knowledge we’ve gained of the history of the Civil War in California, we owe a great deal to “Ro” King.



John G. Lewis joined the SCV and Camp 302 in 2000. “Squid,” as he was known, was a close friend to many in the camp and the division at that time and especially to our own Steve Smith.



John was born in Hannibal, Missouri in 1963. He joined the Navy and served for 23 years, retiring as a Senior Chief Petty Officer. During that time, he participated with various amphibious battle groups with the USS Bonhomme Richard and the USS Missouri. While attached to Amphibious Three, John served as Flag Writer for Rear Admiral Charles Saffell who gave John great praise for his work with the Honor Flight Program that flies World War II veterans back to Washington to view the WWII Memorial among other sites. As a native of Missouri, it was quite fitting that he was able to be part of the recommissioning and decommissioning ceremony of the USS Missouri both before and after this famous ship’s tour during Desert Storm.

Subsequent to his Navy Career, John was an Emergency Management Director for Palmrya, MO and served on the Palmrya Fire Department for several years.

During his time in California and after his becoming a member of Camp 302, John served the camp well. Division Adjutant Vern Padgett remembered the time when John and Steve Smith helped with the writing of the division’s constitution at Fresno in 2003.

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

(Last roll Call Continued from Page Thirteen)

John was presented a Most Dedicated Member Award by the division in 2003 for his work. John would serve a short tour as Camp 302 Commander before he moved back to Missouri in 2004. John and his friends here in California would keep in close touch over the years and he returned to San Diego briefly in 2011 to be with the camp during the division convention conducted at MCAS Miramar that year. John was active in the SCV back in Missouri where he was a Life Member. Your editor talked with John several years ago and I was pleased that he asked that I continue sending him *The Conquered Banner* so that he could keep up with the happenings around the camp and the division.

Compatriot John Lewis passed away Monday, August 29, 2020 at the age of 57 of a stroke in Hannibal Regional Hospital, Hannibal, Missouri. For those of us who did not know John that well, reading the outpourings of tributes and praise from his family and friends and of his many accomplishments is all we need to know of how much he put into life and the time given him.

Much obliged to Steve & Deanne and Vern for their inputs.

Camp Meeting



Camp 302 will again gather at the home of Steve and Deanne Smith located at 283 Portia Avenue, Vista, 92084, (619)889-9372, on September 12, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.



Color Guard duty at the Veterans Memorial Center, Balboa Park continues to be on hold. Last week I talked with the museum management and learned that they plan to open sometime in September with a limited attendance of guests. The Marine Corps League still needs to plan how they will once again be honoring San Diego County Veterans with their monthly ceremony. I will advise the camp at first opportunity.
