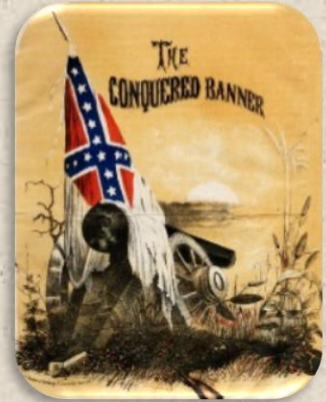




The Conquered Banner

*Newsletter of the
Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302
Sons of Confederate Veterans*



VOLUME 31 NUMBER 4

July/August 2023

Compatriot in the Spotlight

Highlighting a fellow camp member in *The Conquered Banner* is always a great pleasure in that we in the camp get to know him more on a personal level and allow him to share his past that might otherwise go unnoticed. In the spotlight this issue is Leroy Stevens Perdue, or *Steve* as he likes to go by, who has been with Camp 302 since 2018. Several of us in the camp saw duty in the Vietnam theater during that war, but Steve certainly had a unique experience far beyond what some of us saw. Compatriot Perdue joined the navy in June of 1965 and attained the rating of 1st Class Signaller during his service.



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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>

In 1966, Steve was assigned to the USS Cavalier (APA-37), an attack transport ship that was named for Cavalier County, North Dakota. The Cavalier was launched in 1942 and during WWII, saw combat duty in Korea. It finished its long career serving in the Tonkin Gulf off Vietnam before its decommissioning in 1968.



Steve was assigned as an Assault Boat Coxswain, while aboard the Cavalier, for LCM-6 Mike Boat river duties. The LCM-6 was adapted for the Riverine Force in the Vietnam War and was powered by 2 powerful Detroit Diesels with two .50 Caliber BMG's *as seen above right*. As the boat's coxswain, Steve, along with serving as the Machine Gunner and the crew, patrolled the rivers and transported men and combat cargo along the coast of Vung Tau, Nha Trang, My Thuy and Cam Ranh Bay.



During a patrol mission, as they entered the inland waters of Qui Nhon Bay, their boat was hit by a missile rocket, resulting in mass casualties on the disabled boat. Bodies of the crewmen KIA were floating in the water and as the rescue boat was retrieving them, Steve was assumed to be among the dead until he was spotted moving. He was later transported, via helicopter, to the USS Midway (CV41). *See at left the resultant shrapnel from the hit*. After a few weeks, Steve was returned to the USS Cavalier after both ships arrived in Hong Kong.



Pictured to the left is Steve during one of his missions in Vietnam. He's the man with glasses at the far right in the photo.

Steve then served one year with the Seabees. In 1974, while still on active duty, he rode rodeo, winning a 1st place Gold & Silver Buckle in Bareback Bronco riding. Subsequent to attaining 1st Class Signaller, he was assigned to the USS Albert David (FF1050) for five years. The ship was named after Medal of Honor awardee Albert David, the only Medal of Honor recipient in the North Atlantic Theater during WWII.



After this assignment, continuing his career, Steve worked undercover narcotics handling military drug dogs for two years. His last three years in the Navy, Steve cross-rated to the Master-at-Arms rating in order to become a K-9 instructor/trainer/handler at the Military Working Dog School in San Antonio, Texas.

His Navy career was of varied and interesting experiences and nothing short dangerous combat duty in Vietnam that would earn him two Purple Hearts for his wounds and a Bronze Star for helping suppress enemy fire prior to and after receiving a head wound. Steve retired from the Navy in 1985. He has stated that it has taken years to even talk about these events and is still not comfortable relating it.

We in your camp thank you very much, Steve, for your naval service and for sharing with us these harrowing events of long ago. You have duly earned our respect and I know the camp is proud to have you in our ranks.

Jim Stephens

***Donna P. Derrick
In Memoriam
June 25, 1933 – May 27, 2023***



Donna was born in French Lick, Indiana, the only child of Charles Chilton and Madge Rooksby. The family moved to Hemet, California after WWII and Donna graduated from Hemet Union High School in 1951. After attending the University of Redlands, she moved to San Diego to attend cosmetology school and worked as a beautician.

In 1955, she married her first husband, Carl Kermit Plemmons, and they lived on the Mission Beach boardwalk. There she raised her four children until moving to Brawley, California in 1961 where they purchased Carl's Richfield truck stop where she was a bookkeeper. Carl passed away in 1966 and Donna continued working as a bookkeeper in a CPA firm for many years until friends opened a dress shop, Fun Fashions, in Calexico where she was manager.

In 1974, she married Lester Derrick, Jr. and moved to El Centro. Donna worked as a bookkeeper for Tamarack Feedyard and also worked for the IRS. It was during this time that she traveled extensively with Lester, participating in team pennings and trips abroad with her friends.

Donna enjoyed being involved in civic and community organizations, and during her lifetime in the Imperial Valley she served as President of the Imperial Valley Cowbelles and the Calexico Chamber of Commerce.

She always maintained a second home in San Diego and moved there permanently after Lester passed away in 1988. She had many hobbies and interests, including the Museum of Man Auxiliary, Angels of Aseltine School Auxiliary; and, she was a founding member of the Department 56ers Collectors Club. As President of the Village Garden Club of La Jolla, she was instrumental in planting hundreds of Jacaranda trees found throughout San Diego County.

Donna joined the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1955 and became active again in the La Jolla Chapter. This led to her lifelong passion for genealogy and lineage societies—she was a member of at least 25 organizations. She served as National President for the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, State President for Daughters of American Colonists, Daughters of Colonial Wars, and President of several other local societies including the La Jolla DAR and the First California Company of the Jamestown Society. *Most importantly to us, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Donna was our sister in the United Daughters of the Confederacy and we in Camp 302 were always pleased to have her present at camp functions, particularly when she attended, many times, the Blue/Grey Picnic at Gator Beach in Coronado.*

Rest in Peace Donna

The Camp Gathers at Marie Callender's

Compatriots of Camp 302 met at our favorite meeting and luncheon spot on Saturday morning, May 20, 2023, for the bi-monthly business meeting and a time for socializing.

Members present: Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Chaplain Jim Coulsby along with Compatriots Steve Perdue, Mike Schooling, Ira Lack, Steve Musgrave and, as always, guests Robert and Jane Zoch.



As seen L to R: Jim Stephens with back toward camera, Ira Lack, Steve Musgrave, Mike Schooling, Jim Coulsby, George Faircloth, Steve Perdue. Not shown: Jim Millsap and Guests Robert & Jane Zoch.

Chaplain Coulsby opened the meeting with the traditional Invocation, followed by Commander Millsap leading the group with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Confederate Flag.

Adjutant Stephens then went over the Treasurer's Report covering the period of March 5, 2023, through May 13, 2023. The beginning balance on the camp's account was \$36,802.93. During this period, Adj. Stephens withdrew \$200.00 used as change during the Silent Auction during the division reunion as reported in the previous edition of this newsletter. The \$200.00 was redeposited post-reunion. The camp took in \$25.00 for sales of Camp Utility Knives and ink pens. Adjutant Stephens wrote a check for \$37.80 for three books of postage stamps. Also, he paid out \$149.00 for the annual subscription to ZOOM. Annual dues started coming in at this time amounting to \$1100.00—\$950.00 of which was a donation from Compatriot John Kliendinst. The ending balance was \$37,791.13.

Adjutant Stephens reported that there was no change to the camp roster and Commander Millsap reviewed the camp calendar, reminding all present that Jefferson Davis' actual birthday is on June 3rd and that plans for a USS Midway tour is scheduled for late June on a Saturday.

It was noted that Jim Stephens, Roy Adair, Steve Smith, and Robert & Jane Zoch can provide free passes to the ship.

Commander Millsap was notified by Roy Adair that the Gator Beach BBQ has been scheduled for August 19, 2023. It was announced by the commander that the next camp meeting will be via ZOOM on July 8th just prior to the national reunion in Hot Springs, Arkansas July 19th through the 22nd. Remaining events for the year include the next camp meeting at Marie Callender's in September, the October Musket shoot to be confirmed for the 1st weekend of the month. The November camp meeting will be in November via ZOOM. The final event for the year, of course, is Wreaths Across America and Adjutant Stephens mentioned that the \$50.00 donation to that cause will be forthcoming.

Commander Millsap briefed the attendees of his plan to have a joint Christmas Party with the UDC. Jane Zoch responded that nothing was firm on this at present. Steve Musgrave spoke briefly of The Generals Redoubt and Washington & Lee University and what has been going on there, particularly with Lee Chapel. Jim Stephens reminded all present of the camp's annual donation to redoubt for their continuing fight to restore Lee's good name. Mike Schooling then informed all present of his contact with the Coronado Veterans Parade group with no response from them other than that the SUVCW was scheduled to march in the parade. He brought up again that the Army ROTC at SDSU would allow the awarding of an SCV award to their cadets. This is pending.

Under New Business, the group went over possible civic organizations in the near future for an annual donation and that they cannot be connected to any Confederate or Civil War

organizations. The Food Bank, Blood Donations, Boy's Club, Saint Jude's Hospital and the like were banded about. The WAA is a current organization the camp donates to that would count.

Dessert was had by all present to celebrate President Davis' upcoming birthday. Here, Robert Zoch prepares to dig in on the delicious dish he chose.

Chaplain Coulsby closed out the meeting with his Benediction.



The Camp Visits the USS Midway



For some time now, Camp 302 members and friends have been invited to join up and tour the USS Midway on Saturday, July 24, 2023. There was a lot to see and do, especially with some new exhibits. Treasurer Roy Adair, former navigator on the Midway, was present to show folks the area in the Chart Room where he held sway during his time aboard. Adjutant Stephens is presently an active docent on the ship.

Commander Millsap and Compatriot Steve Smith attended the farewell gathering for Steve Browning of the Tehachapi Camp 2048 July 1, 2023. Compatriot Browning is moving to Ohio to be closer to his daughters and grandkids. *He is pictured second from left below.* While there, Steve Smith was sworn in to the Mechanized Calvary as he has now joined the motorcycle set. Steve Browning and Greg Frazier conduct the proceedings



Greetings from the Commander

Hope everyone is having a great and safe summer. Our tour of the USS Midway on June 24th was a great event and enjoyed by all. We had a personal tour by Roy Adair and Jim Stephens as our guides. I especially the tour of the “Navigator Room” on the bridge where Roy worked as Navigator while onboard the ship.

The SCV National convention will be coming up on July 19-22 in Hot Springs, Arkansas and will be attended by myself, Roy Adair and Mike Climo representing Camp 302, along with others from the California Division. A special donation to the Confederate Museum on behalf of our late member Jim Taylor will be presented at the convention. We are looking forward to that.

Our next camp meeting will be held on July 8th via ZOOM.

Your Vigilant Commander...Deo Vindice

Jim Millsap, Commander

