

# Captain A. T. Harllee's



## Dispatch



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### A Continuing Issue in South Carolina

The NAACP has renewed their fight against the Confederate Battle flag on the State House grounds. I'm sure that may be surprising to many of you. Hear me, please. This is NOT a new fight; this is a continuing fight. The NAACP has promised years ago that this would be their goal. Just because things seem quiet for periods of time, you can bet the farm that the NAACP has not let up on their fight against the flag. We, members of the SCV, have sat on our hands because we have not heard of any serious battles against our heritage. While we are sitting, our opponents have been working on a strategy to destroy our Confederate heritage. By the time that their strategy is fully revealed, we will have been caught behind the 8-ball and will not be able to pull ourselves together to put up an organized fight against them. What are we waiting for? They have already told us that it is their intention to wipe out any public display of anything Confederate. This is one of the reasons that we MUST retain all of our members and we MUST recruit new members. We have taken an oath to 'defend' the Confederate soldiers good name and to be the 'guardian' of his history while we 'emulate' his virtues. This should not be an "on again, off again," responsibility for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We should be "ON" at all times—our adversaries are! We are an organization, who should be spending our time learning and teaching the truth about our history and heritage. [On the CBS Evening News, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, candidate John McCain made a comment to host Katie Couric that the worst advise he had ever given himself was concerning the Confederate flag issue in South Carolina. [See quote from CBS.]



**Katie Couric**

**Couric:** What's the worst piece of advice you've ever given another person?

**McCain:** The worst piece of advice I've ever given to myself was when the confederate flag was flying over the state capitol in South Carolina. And I decided that I would say it's not an issue I should be involved in; that it should be decided by the people of the state of South Carolina. I knew it

was a symbol that was offensive to so many people. And afterwards, I went back and apologized. But it was needless to say, by saying that I wouldn't have anything to do with an issue like that was an act of cowardice.

**Couric:** Did someone advise you, Senator, to do that?

**McCain:** Yes. Yes. But that doesn't mean I should have taken it. I should have known better. [End quote]



**Senator John McCain**

Listen, gentlemen, if you think for a minute that you and your heritage is not under attack every minute, every hour and day, you are fooling yourself. Remember, John McCain had Confederate ancestors! The attacks against us are not only from organizations such as the NAACP, they are coming against us in all directions, and most especially from weak-kneed politicians. There were only two candidates who spoke for South Carolina concerning the Confederate flag issue and their response was only that this was a state issue. The Confederate flag that is on the State House grounds is there because of a compromise reached several years ago by the State Legislature. These who are opposed to the flag being there will not stop until they are successful. If we do not at least come against them in numerical force, we will one day lose this fight. The next move will be to remove the Confederate monument from the grounds as well. There is already an organized effort to remove a statue of a former governor of SC from the grounds because of his stance concerning racial issues. If they are successful, our monument will be next. The time to come together is now, the time to act is now and the time to get serious about our heritage is now.

### Commander-In-Chief Sullivan Will Not Seek Second Term

Commander-in-Chief Chris Sullivan has announced that he will not seek a second term as the CIC of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In his announcement he said, "After prayer and careful



consideration, I have decided that I will not be a candidate for a second term as Commander-in-Chief. Although the duties are challenging, I consider it one of the great honors of my life to have served as our CINC." Commander Sullivan says that he is grateful for the opportunities this job has presented and the many friends he has made during this time. He looks forward to continuing his service in a less demanding capacity. He makes his announcement now,

so that any Compatriot who wishes to offer themselves as candidates for this position will have ample time to do so.

### **Chuck Norred Declares**

Chuck Norred declares his intentions of running for the position of Commander-in-Chief of the SCV.

### **Brag Bowling Declares**

Brag Bowling announced his candidacy for Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

### **Michael Givens Declares**

Michael Givens announced his candidacy for the Lt. Commander-in Chief of the SCV.

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### **Digging Up Bones?**

On February 13, the National Park Service will hold a mock trial near the Petersburg Va., National Battlefield to decide whether Sgt. Ivy Ritchie is buried in a Union Soldier's grave under a mis-marked headstone. Ritchie, who lived in what is now Stanly County, fought with the 14<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment in nearly every major battle of the War Between the States in Virginia. Confederate historians say that he died in the last battle at Appomattox Court House, the final engagement of the war in that state. Jim Harwood founded the SCV Camp in 1995 at Albemarle, and had the Camp named after Sgt. Ritchie. He said that it was heart wrenching to know that Sgt. Ritchie had gone through all that hell and then get killed on the morning of April 9 when it's all over. He said, "It brings tears to the eye." Harwood says that knowing Ritchie is laying up there in a Yankee grave...he doesn't think Ritchie has rested in a hundred years or more. Members of the Ivy Ritchie Camp 1734 has been trying for years to get their namesake's remains moved to North Carolina—or at least get his tombstone corrected. The claim is that Ritchie's remains were removed from Appomattox after the war, mistakenly buried at a new national cemetery for Union dead in Petersburg, Va., and marked with a



gravestone for a Sgt. J. Ritchie of Company H, 14<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. The National Park Service, which maintains Petersburg National Battlefield, refused to exhume the remains in grave #4824 in the Poplar Grove National Cemetery section of Petersburg. It did agree to try and correctly identify those remains without the benefit of physical analysis. So now there will be a mock trial in order to try and prove whether or not this is the remains of Ivy Ritchie. Historical experts on both sides will present evidence to three more experts acting as judges, who will decide if there's proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Ritchie's remains rest among the enemy. Regardless of the outcome of the mock trial, the camp has already remembered Ritchie with a permanent marker at New Bethel Lutheran Church in Stanly County, where the soldier's parents are buried.

### **King Day At The Dome**

On January 21, the NAACP held it's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rally at the SC Statehouse grounds. All three major Democratic candidates seeking the Presidency were invited to speak there. The NAACP invited these candidates in hopes that national attention would bring a spotlight to the 'divisive' flag that flutters alongside one of the city's busiest streets. Lonnie



**SC NAACP  
PRESIDENT  
LONNIE  
RANDOLPH**

Randolph, the SC President of the NAACP used this occasion to call for the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds. Randolph also noted the statue honoring former S. C. Gov. and U. S. Senator Ben "Pitchfork" Tillman. State Rep. Todd Rutherford introduced legislation in the S. C. General Assembly to remove the statue of Tillman. A story written in the State newspaper about Tillman's efforts to disenfranchise or kill blacks sparked this legislation. During the rally, Mr. Randolph said, "Todd, let's be real. If we start removing monuments from these grounds that disrespected our people, there wouldn't be many monuments left." WIS news asked several rally-goers if they thought the Confederate flag would ever be taken completely off the State House grounds. One said, "Maybe not in our lifetime, but we'll never stop trying. I'll be here every year, even if they have to roll my hospital bed out here." Another said, "You gotta put your body on the line, it won't get taken down unless we take it down ourselves." An article speaking of some pictures taken at this rally mentions this picture of a small band of protesters who



were there to protest the NAACP and their drive to remove the flag. The remark was, "This is the protesting pro-flag asshole contingent nearby, of which there were only about ten nasty, angry people, thankfully." In planning this rally, Lonnie Randolph said, "America is a mean country and South Carolina is a meaner state. For the government of this state to continue to endorse bigotry, racism and white supremacy, we are going to continue to raise our voice and speak out against it." [Isn't it good to know that all of those who preach inclusiveness, tolerance and all those other 'touchy-feely' good words can set such a good example for those of us who they say are not inclusive and tolerant?]

## Meeting in February

The Andrew T. Harllee Camp 2010 will meet on February 21, 2008 at the American Legion Hut. As usual supper will begin around 6:30 PM followed by the regular meeting around 7. The meal this month will be prepared by Charlie Floria and most likely Tressa. (Ya'll know Charlie can't cook!) Then again, Charlie's dad is here from Canada and I'll bet he knows how to stir a pot. The speaker this month will be Dr. Larry Nelson from the Department of History at Francis Marion University. His talk will be on Sherman's march through the Pee Dee. Professor Nelson was with us in May of last year



Dr. Larry Nelson

and did a marvelous job giving us much insight on why a negotiated settlement of the War Between the States was impossible. His knowledge and his ability to communicate are assets that we need to take advantage of in order to learn more about our history. We are honored to have such an eloquent speaker to come to our Camp to help properly educate us. Do yourself a favor by attending this meeting. If you have a friend or family member you would like to impress, you may want to bring them as well. Dr. Nelson is only one reason to come; your ancestor deserves your attendance. Your presence in part, is to honor him. (I'd be willing to bet that if your ancestor could come to a meeting...he would. Since he cannot, he probably expects you to represent him.)

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## Last Months Meeting

The Andrew T. Harllee Camp 2010 met in the month of January and held it's annual business meeting. Just prior to the business meeting, we were taken to the table of Compatriot Thom Thompson and crew for a really good supper of Thom's "famous chicken bog." It doesn't matter where you go, you don't get any better than this. Thanks fellows, for a really good meal. Shortly past seven, the business meeting began with Commander Quick giving some numbers of where we are and where we have been as far as membership is concerned. We have been as high as 112 and are now at 57 current members. The challenge was given by Commander Quick for each member to make a real effort, and to make it a priority to recruit at least one more member in the coming year. We should also make an effort to reach out to those who have not renewed for the current year. A short financial statement was given where it was shown that at the beginning of 2007 there was \$8111.46 in the bank and ending the year with a balance of \$8538.93 and the current balance of \$8494.00. It was pointed out that one of the expenses incurred is the mailing of the newsletter. Last year it cost the Camp \$755.99 to mail the monthly newsletter. It was asked that any member who can receive the newsletter by e-mail to please do so by giving your e-mail address to Commander Quick or to the Editor. To show how important some of our fund raising projects are, it was pointed out that the rifle event raised \$1523.00 and the turkey shoot made \$1243.00. It was decided that we would go to the Columns again this year where we

normally sell BBQ pork and chicken. Last year we were able to make \$1727.90 there. This included feeding the troops as well. A planning committee was elected for columns this year. The committee consists of Compatriots Heavy Price, Daryl Hardwick, Howard Arnette, Roy Jackson and Marshall Hill. It is time now for us all to organize ourselves and get busy for the Cause. The Columns, Confederate Memorial Services and Graveside Services are coming up soon. Let's make this the best year ever for this Camp.

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## Black History Month



In keeping with Black History Month, it is fitting that this story should be told concerning a young black lad from Richmond Virginia. It begins on the morning of February 15, 1864 when a prominent lady living in Richmond had been out running some errands. As she had finished with this part of her day she was driving her carriage down the streets of Richmond on her way home. She heard screams from a distance and quickly went to see what was happening. She saw a young black child being abused by an older man. She demanded that he stop striking the child and when this failed she shocked the man by forcibly taking the child away. She took the child to her carriage and then to her home. There the young boy was given a bath, his cuts and bruises attended to and he was given food. The only thing he would tell this family was his name. The next evening, a friend of the family came to visit and this young lad was eager to show his cuts and bruises to her. After viewing the child, she said, "there are things in life that are too sickening and such cruelty is one of them." The visitor to this home was Southern Diarist, Mary Boykin Chesnut. She was paying a visit to Verina Davis, wife of President Jefferson Davis, who had rescued the child. The lad was none other than Jim Limber, who was adopted by the Davis family. A few months later as Richmond was being evacuated, Verina left with her children. President Davis left shortly afterwards, just before the occupation of Union troops. When President Davis was captured near Irwinville, Georgia, his wife and children were again at his side. But again, they became separated as President Davis was taken to Virginia and imprisoned for two years. As President Davis was taken away, his wife and children were eventually taken to Port Royal. Their Union escort, Captain Charles T. Hudson, then made good on his promise to take Jim Limber away. As the Union soldiers came and forcibly took young Jim, he put up a great struggle and tried to hold on to his family as they did to him. Jim and his family cried uncontrollable as the child was taken. They would not see Jim again.

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## Deo Vindice