



## Camp Cresset

Finley's Brigade

Camp #1614

Havana, Florida



Recipient – 2011 and 2012 Dr. George R. Tabor "Most Distinguished Camp" Award

*"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 those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, UCV Commander General*



### February Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on February 14th at the VFW.  
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**

### Lee and Jackson Heritage Event



On January 28, 2023, Finley's Brigade, SCV Camp #1614 held their annual Lee and Jackson Heritage Event in Tallahassee Florida. It was co-sponsored by the Mary Ann Harvey Black OCR Chapter 5.

The featured speaker for the evening was **Ron Rissler** from Jefferson County, West Virginia who is the author of *The Blood of Stonewall*. His book covers "from Lt. Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson to great-grandson Col. Thomas Jonathan Jackson Christian, Jr., A Legacy of Duty to Country and Love of Family." His presentation summarized many of the events in the life of the family.

The event began with the posting of the colors by the brigade's Honor Guard. Following the invocation by **Chaplin Keith Lassiter**, the Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Confederate Flag and the reading of the Charge, a bell was tolled for each of the camp's compatriots who had "crossed over the river" this past year. Compatriot Rob Crissler attended to the General's table, and Compatriot Reggie Roddenberry tolled the bell.

After the meal and the speakers address, the silent auction was completed, and winners were announced. Door prizes were given before the Chaplin's benediction and the event was closed with the singing of "Dixie".

## Grave Keepers Report – Remembering Our Ancestors

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Mark Bess

### Sharing the Knowledge

Inspired by the works and examples of [Donna McPherson](#) and Florida Division Aide-de-camp [Kelly Crocker](#), historian [Stan Willis](#) and I developed a program to assist compatriots in obtaining a Veterans Administration marker for an unmarked Confederate Veteran's gravesite.

We call the program *"Everything you wanted to know on how to obtain a VA marker, but we're afraid to ask, and the VA doesn't want you to know!"* Or more simply put... ***"This is what has worked for us!"***

Commander [Wayne Willis](#), of the [Sons of Confederate Veterans "Wakulla Guards Camp #742"](#) invited us to present our program at their Lee/Jackson Heritage Event. We were accompanied by Compatriot [JR Miller](#), of ["Finley's Brigade SCV Camp 1614"](#).

The event was a smashing success thanks to the efforts of Commander Willis, Adjutant [Michael Shuler](#), and members of Camp 742. I look forward to next year's event

On Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, we were invited by Commander [Jay Lindsey](#), to speak in Monticello, Jefferson County Florida, at the meeting of the [Sons of Confederate Veterans "Major Pickens Bird, Camp #1327"](#). Finley's Brigade compatriots [Gerald Bell](#) and [Reggie Roddenberry](#) accompanied us.

We we're greeted very enthusiastically by the camp members, pictured above, and were treated to a delicious meal of "Brunswick Stew", prepared by Past Commander [Spencer Taylor](#).

After presenting our program, several members were excited by the information and were eager to start the process of obtaining markers for their own veterans.

Work continues in researching and applying for VA markers for unmarked veterans. We are currently working closely with Florida Division Adjutant Rick Roberts, in his efforts to secure markers for these forgotten souls in Wewahitchka Florida. To date, Adjutant Roberts has received approval for six markers.



I very much enjoyed attending these events and sharing the information with the camps. I'm looking forward to working with these commanders and other patriots in the future as we strive to have every Confederate soldier's grave marked.



## **FLORIDA DIVISION SCV GUARDIAN**



### 1. **Purpose:**

The purpose is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

### 2. **Eligibility:**

Any Florida Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place.

### 3. **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- (A) He shall care for and protect the grave(s) of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the gravesite is kept clean and well-maintained year-round. He shall perform these duties personally unless he is physically unable because of health reasons. At no time shall these responsibilities be passed on to another without the approval of the GUARDIAN committee for the Florida Division.
- (B) He will be responsible to appropriately mark the grave, so it is designated as a final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc.
- (C) He will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.
- (D) He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of four times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least a week prior. He shall place a wreath or a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

### 4. **APPLICATIONS, REVIEWS & APPROVAL:**

- (A) **Multiple Gravesites:** GUARDIANS may care for more than one gravesite and will be recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. Cost of additional certificates are \$3 each.
- (B) **Forfeiture of Guardian position:** A Guardian who cannot meet the requirements of his position due to relocation, health or other reasons must notify the Review Committee. All fees are non-refundable.
- (C) **Bequeathing of GUARDIAN position:** A Guardian may transfer his responsibilities as a Guardian to another SCV member in good standing with the prior approval by the Review Committee. There is a \$10.00 fee for transferring the Guardianship. This fee will cover the new Guardian's membership pin and certificate. If he is already in the Guardian program, there will be a \$3.00 fee to cover the certificate designating the new guardianship he is undertaking.
- (D) **Revocation of GUARDIAN status:** The Review Committee may revoke the status of a participant in the Guardian program if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities as outlined. The committee reserves the right to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite to confirm compliance with all the rules and regulations specified in the program.



## Florida Guardian Program Application

### Turn Application into Camp Commander

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Confederate Ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_

### GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veterans Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Co.: \_\_\_\_\_

Born: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Died: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Condition of site: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent  
(circle one)

Location of Grave: *(Include name of cemetery, city, and county):*

\_\_\_\_\_

Marker on Grave denoting Confederate Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Cross of Honor? \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation of Confederate Service: \_\_\_\_\_

**I affirm that all the information here is true and accurate. I agree to faithfully care for and protect this Confederate Veteran's grave in accordance with the GUARDIAN PROGRAM rules for as long as I am able. In the event I cannot carry out my duties, I shall notify the Review Committee immediately. I also understand that the Review Committee can revoke my status as a GUARDIAN for good cause.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Camp Commander: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed forms to the attention of**

**Florida Guardian Program**

**Florida Division, SCV**

**3428 Laura St**

**Tallahassee, FL 32305**

**Make checks payable to Florida Division SCV**

\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT WRITE ON LINES BELOW \*\*\*\*\*

1. Application Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

2. Approval signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM FOR EACH SOLDIER YOU ARE REQUESTING TO BE A GUARDIAN



## Color Guard

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Mark Bess

January was an easy month for our Color Guard and Graves committee.

Our Color Guard once again demonstrated their professionalism by posting the colors at our Lee & Jackson Heritage Banquet.

In early February, the Color Guard was requested and rendered military honors at the headstone dedication for Alfred Nichols, in Greenwood Florida. Local photographer, Kasey Brown , provided some photos as seen below.



In what I consider our most solemn duty, the Color Guard stood as silent sentinels and rendered military honors, at the funeral service for **Compatriot Eugene Norwood Roberts**, father of **Commander Ned Roberts**. Our sincere condolences to the Roberts family in this most difficult time.



## Chaplain's Corner

*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27*



Over the last couple of months, I lost two friends from Jacksonville—both younger than I. One of these men was the nephew of famous musicians and both men were themselves musicians and played together in the same band. NONE of that matters!

*Naked came we into this world, and naked shall we leave it.* This verse of scripture becomes more and more real to me the older I get and the more my friends and relatives slip from this “veil of tears” into eternity. The fact is that we will all die. Many people refer to death as “the end.” The problem with that line of thought is the fact that the Bible tells us that death is only the vehicle that moves us from this “tabernacle” or physical body to the other side of eternity, in which we will have another body that will never die.

The Bible also and more importantly tells us that there is a “judgment” coming after death. What we do with Jesus Christ will determine WHERE we will spend eternity. My former pastor, Bro. J. O. McCleod used to say, “There was a time when you were not; however, there will never again be a time when you are not.” I keep this in mind, and even more so now than in my younger years. I have missed, am missing, and will miss my friends and relatives, but more than missing them, I ponder WHERE they will spend eternity. Will I see them again? Sadly, many I will not. Thankfully, many I will.

Gentlemen, I cannot truly tell you that I love you (and I do love every one of you), if I don’t share with you the One who paid our fare to Heaven on the cross of Calvary. Times have changed. There was a time when what I am sharing with you in this monthly Chaplain’s Corner was discussed frequently and everywhere. Today, it seems to be discussed in secret and in only a limited amount and in only “approved” locales. I can assure you that our Confederate ancestors would be shocked to see the dwindling of the sharing of the gospel. Think of this: Your family is in an automobile heading down a mountain road. Just around the curve, the bridge over a deep canyon has been destroyed, and there are no warning signs. You are there on the road. Do you warn them, or do you do nothing? Whatever you do or don’t do, you will have to live with the rest of your life. Several year ago, a good friend of mine was in hospice care in Palatka without much time left to live. My associate pastor at my church came to visit her. Bro. Fred has a kind demeanor and is soft with his words; yet, even in his kind and loving manner, he said to Sis. Suzie, “Suzie, honey, the time for games is over. Are you sure that you know that you are ready to meet the Lord?” Some may think this harsh, but I know Bro. Fred. I know the spirit in which he said those words. I know how he loved Sis. Suzie. She assured him that all was well with her soul, and later the next day, an unseen visitor slipped into the room and said, “Sis. Suzie, it’s time.”

I will never forget Bro. Fred’s words. I will always remember the urgency with which he spoke with Sis. Suzie. Looking into the memoirs of chaplains in the field, one may find many examples of this type thing—the urgency, when death is eminent. These men saw death, or the threat of death daily. There was no time for games. These chaplains had to speak to these men with a strong sense of urgency. We never know when our number will be called and that unseen visitor slips into our room, onto our job, or in our automobile, and says, “It’s time.”

My challenge to each of us is this: Share the gospel with those you love more this year than last year. Deo Vindice

**My duties as Chaplain include assisting members in need. With that in mind, please let me know if you are aware of any who are sick, bereaved or in need of any services we may offer. Contact me as indicated below.**

Chaplain Keith Lassiter

(850) 567-0645

[greynole01@yahoo.com](mailto:greynole01@yahoo.com)



## Tallahassee Veterans Village

Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

The Lee & Jackson Event was a great success. Many were present; we had a special guest speaker; marvelous food was served, and many donations were given to the Veteran's Village. Thank you, one and all, for these food donations:

12 Cans of Corn	4 Cans of Ravioli	2 Cans of Peas & Carrots
12 Cans of Black Beans	4 Cans of Chicken Chunks	3 Cans of Corn
12 Packages of Instant Mash Potatoes	2 Containers of Yellow Rice	1 Can of Green Peas
	2 Cans of Green Beans	

TOTAL WEIGHT: 43 pounds of canned goods. There were no monetary donations.

I will try to have a follow-up report about an interview with one of the veterans at the Veteran Village to tell you about at the next camp meeting! I have invited Tori Callan, Manager of Veteran Village, to attend a meeting to explain her program and answer questions about her operation.

## TEXAS TACO CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

Six Burrito Flour Tortillas      One pound ground meat (your choice). Two cups of shredded Mexican style cheese.  
One can of Chili Beans.      One can of Chili Tomatoes

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 13x9 pan with cooking spray.

Brown meat and drain well. Stir in beans & tomatoes. Add chili seasoning or hot sauce for spicier dish. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Layer tortillas, overlapping them in the baking pan. Pour beef mixture over the top and cover with cheese. Cook for 20 minutes. Garnish with cream cheese or sour cream and serve.

## NEWEST MEMBER



Compatriot **Mike Brown** was sworn in at the January meeting of Finley's Brigade, SCV Camp 1614, by Chaplin **Keith Lassiter** and Commander **Ned Roberts**.

## **Commander's Guidon**

Commander Ned Roberts

My Fellow Compatriots –

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers after the passing of my father, Compatriot Eugene Norwood Roberts. Though the loss of my father hurts, I know that he is at peace and in a better place – resting in the shade of the trees.

The upcoming months will be a busy time for the Camp, and I need every member to support and help with the events. The Reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge is March 4 & 5. We need help setting up the Fly on March 3 as well as road clean-up on February 25. In April we will have a memorial service at Soldiers Cemetery in Quincy and will assist the UDC with their memorial service at the Old City Cemetery in Tallahassee.

The weather will be getting warmer, so the Grave Keepers will be active mowing and cleaning up cemeteries in the area.

There are a lot of ways you can help the Camp with its projects – please step forward when called upon. You make a difference – we make a difference – let us all stand up and work together.



### **Dates in History of the War - February**

**February 4, 1861** – Delegates from Florida meet with other Confederate delegates in Montgomery, AL.

**February 22, 1862** – Inauguration of President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, VA.

**February 12, 1863** – The CSS *Florida* captures USS Jacob Bell with cargo valued at \$2 million.

**February 17, 1864** – The submarine, CSS *Hunley*, sinks the USS *Housatonic* off Charleston, SC.

**February 19, 1865** – Federal expedition to Milton, FL from Fort Barrancas near Pensacola, FL.

**February 20, 1864** – Federal troops repelled at the Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond) Florida.



### **Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities**

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.

**Feb 17-19<sup>th</sup>** - Battle of Olustee reenactment, Lake City Florida

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>** - Natural Bridge Road Cleanup at 8:30 AM. Meet at 7000 Natural Bridge Road.

**Mar 4<sup>th</sup>– 6<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Natural Bridge reenactment.

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.

**Apr 11<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with meeting at 6:45 PM.





## **Ready for your display, your holster, or the firing range!**

This is your chance to win this beautiful reproduction

### **1851 COLT SHERIFF'S MODEL**

It is a 36 caliber, black powder, fully functional pistol.

Tickets will be available for purchase at  
the Lee/Jackson event (January),  
Natural Bridge event (March)  
and anytime by contacting

Lisa Bess

239-240-9095

Lisabess21@icloud.com

The drawing will be held at the Florida Reunion in Trenton on June 3, 2023.

**Need not be present for drawing as long as your contact information is on the stub.**



## The 53rd Annual Florida Division Reunion

220 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Trenton, Florida – June 3, 2023

### REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: *Members Only*

If Postmarked by May 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After May 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestor Memorials: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

We will have an Awards Luncheon and no Evening Banquet

**NOTE: We will not be able to take meal reservations received after May 20th**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMP NAME & NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail Registration Form & Check to:**

**Commander Calvin Hart**

**4884 Victoria Chase Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32257**

**Please Make Checks Payable To: SCV Florida Division Inc.**

