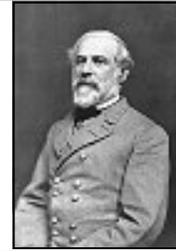




Jefferson F. Davis

# Lest We Forget...

By Ronnie Hatfield



Gen. Robert E. Lee

At this time of year the holidays seem to rush past us, one after the other, in a blur of activity that leaves us perhaps somewhat muddled and almost glad to see them over and done with. Sometimes overlooked are the opportunities to pause and reflect on the meanings of those special days from November through January. The dates of Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day are all times to celebrate and reflect on the lives or events that are important to us.

Just as important is the date of January 19th, the birthday of Robert E. Lee, enacted in 1931 by the 42nd Texas State Legislature as **Confederate Heroes Day**. House Bill 126 commemorates those who fought for the Confederate States of America in the War Between the States. Some states also chose this date to co-honor Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, whose birthday falls on the 21st. Both men were revered and recognized not only by those who served under them on the battlefield, but even by former foes and future presidents, as Christian gentlemen during and long after the war.

Also observed across the South was the birth date of Confederate president Jefferson Davis on June 3rd, and in 1973 that official holiday was deleted by the state of Texas, and Mr. Davis' celebration was combined with that of Generals Lee and Jackson. The reason for the deletion of the separate Davis

holiday was a limit on the number of total official state holidays allowed, and the legislature wished to add a holiday to commemorate the passing of President Lyndon Johnson in 1973. This was achieved through Senate Bill 60, 63rd Legislature.

No less important are the approximate 1 million men and women of several nationalities that wore the uniform of the Confederacy. Alongside their native born American comrades, Native Americans, English, Italian, African, Irish, German, Polish, and Mexican soldiers all stood shoulder to shoulder to defend what they considered a just and legal attempt to form their own nation. Their sacrifices are remembered and honored by those of us who carry their bloodlines and relate their history and bravery to future generations.

The cemeteries of Anderson County hold the final resting places of almost 500 of these brave men from states all across Dixie. Men who came here after the war to start over in a less decimated area of their beloved South, as well as those fortunate enough to return home to Palestine from where over 1,000 had enlisted and departed. These sponsoring heritage organizations take great pride in not only remembering those soldiers, but also in relating their history, their sacrifices, and honoring their service.

On January 19th, if you happen to pass an old cemetery, take a moment to remember and offer a prayer for them and our country. They'll appreciate it...

*"Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made of our inheritance. Our cause was so just, so sacred, that had I known all that has come to pass, had I known what was to be inflicted upon me, all that my country was to suffer, all that our posterity was to endure, I would do it all over again." - Jefferson Davis*

## Happy Confederate Heroes Day!

from

Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292, United Daughters of the Confederacy

and

John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans

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