



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION  
**THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS**  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2012

## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

As a new year begins for our camp, I find myself honored and humbled at the faith and trust you have all placed in me to lead us through the next twelve months. You have my pledge to execute the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

I imagine there are a few of you wondering just exactly what the old man has in mind for us to pursue. There are many facets of our camp's operation that I will not change, and a few that I would like to expand and focus more attention on.

First, I'd like to urge the camp to commit to at least one, maybe two work days per month at the plaza site in order to get us through phases one and two on construction. That will have the flag poles up, the center oval pad poured, the entrance sidewalk poured, and the monument installed. At that point, we'll assess funding and consider the costs for phase three, which is the completion of sidewalks, then proceed from there. If at all possible, I'd like to plan an official ribbon cutting/dedication for October to coincide with our namesake's birthday.

Secondly, I'd like to see the headstone/marker committee expanded so that we may more efficiently see to the marking and dedicating of the graves of our honored dead. I propose a committee of 6 to 8, trained on marker ordering procedures, identifying, locating, and archiving the graves of our veterans, and focusing on one cemetery at a time until complete before moving to the next. As always, we will stop to "honor our own" at the request of members wishing to mark their own ancestors inside or outside the county. I also feel we should continue to assist those who contact us seeking aid in performing ceremonies.

Also, I would like to see a continuation of a program we only recently began under the title of community service. I am very proud of the heater distribution program and I'm sure you all join me in considering that project a rousing success.

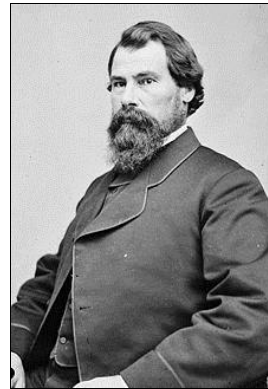
Rod Skelton, Vernon Holliman, Billy Newsom, and Bobby Francis are to be commended for their efforts in organizing, fund raising, and passing out the heaters to those folks in need. Nice job guys! At last report, almost 40 heaters have been purchased and delivered on behalf of our camp. We'd also like to acknowledge the assistance of the VVA Chapter 991, Mr. Allan Ayo President, the DAV, Mr. Robert Griffith Commander, and Ms. Debbie Wesson with Dogwood Trails Assisted Living.

These items I believe should be our priorities over the next year, and in order to achieve them we need two essential tools. These projects require manpower, and that's spelled R-E-C-R-U-I-T! 1st Lt. Commander Skelton has some very good plans and ideas to accomplish membership growth and we need to pledge attention to that cause as well.

The second essential tool is communication. Communication between officers, between compatriots, between officers and compatriots. Between meetings, at meetings, by phone, by email, by smoke signal if necessary. Each member needs to know how to contact his compatriots, and feel encouraged to do so.

All that being said, I need to emphasize that this is YOUR camp. What we accomplish as a team over the next twelve months is up to all of us, not just one man or a select

*(Continued on page 2)*



### John H. Reagan

About 1863

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the Confederate States of America

Secretary of the Treasury CSA

U. S. Senator from Texas

U. S. Rep. from Texas

District Judge

Texas State Representative

First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association



## CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month  
 06:00 PM

Light meal served at each meeting.

First Christian Church  
 113 East Crawford Street  
 Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287)(across from UP train station) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left

Guests are welcome!  
 Bring the family.

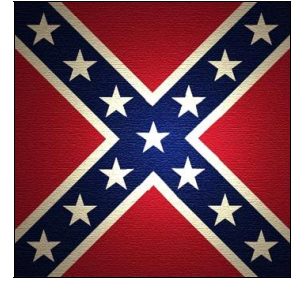
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few. At any such time that yall should come up with a special project that is important and needs our special touch as a camp to accomplish, please feel free to bring it up, let the membership discuss the merits of the idea, and if a majority consents to the idea, then it will be done. I look forward to hearing your input, your criticisms, your ideas, and to your support of each other and this camp. Together, we will look back in a year and be proud of what we have done.

As always, I am, and shall remain,  
Your obedient servant,  
Ronnie Hatfield—Cmdr.



New poinsettias and battleflags adorn the graves of the Unknowns in the Old City Cemetery, and the grave of our namesake Judge Reagan at the East Hill Cemetery, courtesy of Dollye Jeffus and son John Barnhart. They keep a close eye on these graves and prevent vandalism and neglect.



“DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS.”

-GENERAL  
ROBERT E. LEE-



## PRAYER LIST



- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Davis U.S. Army (Afghanistan). Son-in-law of Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Chaplain Ed Furman
- Sgt. At Arms John Brent Barnhart

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 14, 2012, 06:00 PM—**  
John H. Reagan Camp 2156  
Regular monthly meeting

**January 14, 2012 Meeting**  
**Program:** 2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray will give a program on “Fulfilling Our Charge.” Rudy’s programs are always passionate, well researched, and moving. I highly recommend you not miss it!

**Leadership Training Event:**

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**  
**Event:** East Texas Brigade Leadership Conference  
**Where:** West Erwin Church of Christ Benevolence Center  
215 South Bonner, Tyler  
**Directions:** From Hwy 31 W

at WSW Loop 323, go 2.1 miles east on Hwy 31 (West Front) to South Bonner and turn left (north). Go 0.2 miles to the Benevolence Center on the left.  
**Time:** 9:30 am-4:00 pm  
**Cost:** \$10 (includes lunch)  
**Needs:** OCR members to help serve lunch.  
**POC:** Johnnie Holley, Brigade Commander  
903-522-1904 (cell) 903-725-6774 (home)  
Email: [jlh63@flash.net](mailto:jlh63@flash.net)

**January 21st 11:00 AM**  
Confederate Heroes Day program at Reagan Park



“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 INFLECTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.”

-PRESEDENT  
JEFFERSON DAVIS-



## GRAVE MARKER DEDICATION PVT. EGBERT B. BEALL



On December 3rd, the Reagan Guards took up route of march toward Freestone County, arriving at the Old Zion Cemetery to honor yet another Confederate Hero. This one had special meaning for our camp as the honoree, Pvt. Egbert B. Beall, was a member of the Val Verde Battery, whom we portray at reenactments.

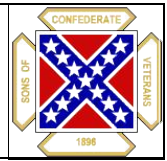
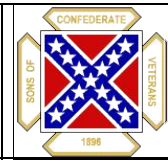
The request for us to host the event came from the J. L. Halbert SCV camp 359 in Corsicana who also portray the Val Verde Battery, and we also enjoyed the presence of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp 1012 from Teague, The Major. W. H. Howdy Martin SCV Camp of Athens, and the Roger Q. Mills Chapter 2466 of the UDC, also from Corsicana.

After posting of the colors, an invocation, pledges/salutes to the flags, and reading of the SCV Charge, Halbert Camp Commander Ronnie Matthews gave a biography of the VV Battery followed by a biography of the honoree given by Reagan Camp Commander Marc Robinson. The unveiling of the marker was accomplished with the usual finesse and dignity that we have all come to expect from the Reagan Guards, and the folded flag was presented by Reagan Guard Commander Ronnie Hatfield to Ms. Cindy Beall, direct descendant of the honoree.

It was the time for the military tribute and the twin howitzers of the VV Battery on hand left no doubt as to the pride the gun crews felt in honoring one of their own. Our Honor Guard reciprocated with matching volleys, extended by the somber chilling notes of Taps echoing across the hillside.

With duty attended, we closed the ceremony as we had opened it, with prayer, and then sang a rousing rendition of Dixie!





## 2012 OFFICERS INDUCTED



New Camp Officers for 2012 were sworn in at the December meeting. They are. From L to R; Frank Moore-Quartermaster, Rod Skelton-1st Lt. Commander/Chaplain, John Barnhart-Sgt. at Arms, Daniel Dyer-Adjutant/Treasurer, Rudy Ray-2nd Lt. Commander, Forrest Bradberry, Jr.-Historian, Ronnie Hatfield-Commander, Ed Furman-Chaplain. Not pictured; Gary Williams-Historian.



**Left;** Norris White, Jr. once again honored us with his attendance and presentations on Black Confederates.  
**Right:** Rod Skelton and Dan Dyer were honored for perfect attendance during the 2011 year.





## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 CHRISTMAS PARTY /ANNUAL AWARDS —DECEMBER 10, 2011



Left: Commander Marc Robinson presents a plaque to Mrs. Dollye Jeffus and John Brent Barnhart, both representing her entire family. The camp presented her the plaque in recognition of her family's generous donations of time and money towards the completion of the Memorial Plaza. Below left: Compatriot Frank Moore was awarded "Outstanding member of the year" for his non stop efforts on the construction of the park and participation in all the camp's events. Below right: Compatriot Vernon Holliman was awarded "Outstanding New Member" for his achievements at fundraising for the Plaza and the Community service projects to provide heaters for needy local citizens.





## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!



Above left: Chaplain Rod Skelton helped to swear in new member and cousin Charles Skelton with Commander Robinson. Above right: The Skeltons also received a memorial membership awarded in memory of Rod's brother Thomas I. Skelton.



**Top Left:** Lt. Commander Skelton and Compatriot Vernon Holliman pose with VVA Chapter 991 President Allan Ayo and a few of the heaters we gathered for the needy. **Top Right:** Commander Hatfield with County Veteran Service Officer Vernon Denmon and DAV Chapter President Robert Griffith. **Right;** 1Lt. Cmdr Skelton issues one of the heaters to Viet Nam Vet Edward Barrett.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

c/o Daniel Dyer, Adjutant/Treasurer  
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Phone: (903) 538-0130  
Newsletter Editor

Please visit our website @  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal** or **collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

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

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of Each Month - 06:00 PM  
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Palestine, Texas

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