Commentary & Editorials

The opinions expressed here are those of the writers quoted or of the editor as an individual. They do not necessarily represent the official views of the SCV. Your contributions are welcomed; please provide the source and date for any quotes & attributions. -- Editor

The Georgia State Flag

All during the month of March, we’ve seen the Rules Committee of the House and Speaker Terry Coleman (Eastman) keep HB380, the legislation to hold a flag referendum, bottled up in committee. GA DIV SCV has asked all members to write letters and phone their representatives and the members of the Rules Committee urging them to release the bill so that the full House and Senate can vote on the measure. The addresses of these legislators were made available at the March 10th meeting. As we've said before, there is NO valid reason to delay the referendum. Please contact your reps and the members of the Rules Committee and urge them to LET US VOTE.

Hon. Calvin Smyre, Chairman - 415 CAP Atlanta GA 30334 - (404) 656-5024
Hon. Ken Birdsong (Gordon)- 228 CAP Atlanta, GA 30334 - (404) 656-7149
Hon. Larry Walker (Perry)- 508 LOB Atlanta GA 30334 (404) 656-0213
Hon. Robert Ray (Ft.Valley)- 228 CAP Atlanta GA 30334 - (404) 656-5107
Hon. Dubose Porter (Dublin) - 340 CAP Atlanta GA 30334 - (404) 656-5072
Hon. Jimmy Skipper (Americus) - 415 CAP Atlanta GA 30334 - (404) 656-5024
*For more info/contacts see www.legis.state.ga.us.
http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/fulltext/hb380.htm

Letters to the Editor of local newspapers are a great way to make your voice heard on the flag and heritage issues. We strongly encourage all Camp members to write thoughtful letters to newspapers and to your elected representatives. It's our duty! Thanks to Compatriot Cranford for his letter in the Mar.23 Macon Telegraph! [See below] Arm yourself with facts and Engage the Enemy on any and all falsehoods.

Georgia Flag Facts on our Camp Website:
http://www.geocities.com/scvcamp1399/GAflagfacts.html

Here's the text of Bud Cranford's letter published March 23rd in The Macon Telegraph

For vote on Georgia flag

Some of our legislators are opposing a referendum on the Georgia flag claiming that the 1956-2001 flag is too divisive for Georgia; that some quasi-political organizations are calling for a boycott on the referendum if their approved choices are not the only ones on the ballot; and business interests in Atlanta are opposed to this possible change.

First, what could possibly be more divisive than the 2001 decision to change the flag without allowing any input from the citizens? According to the polls from 60 to 80 percent of Georgians are dissatisfied with that decision.

Second, the leadership of certain organizations is calling for its members to boycott this referendum. This is allowing special interest groups to manipulate the democratic process and pervert it to their own aims and goals despite the wishes of the majority. Political threats and economic sanctions are not part of the American way. Have you heard of any heritage supporters threatening to boycott if they lose the referendum?

Third, business leaders also have one vote per person. Is Georgia governed by its residents or by business interests in Atlanta?

W.F. (Bud) Cranford - Kathleen

Keep those letters going Bud! Apparently, the Governor agrees with your third point (see below). --Editor

Gov. Perdue's Press Release of March 20

"In a democracy I believe that you resolve disagreements by creating the opportunity for dialogue, not by ignoring the difficult challenges and putting your head in the sand. True leadership comes from facilitating the discussion of beliefs other than your own and finding a compromise which is agreeable to all interested parties. I regret that the Metro Atlanta Chamber is unwilling to have that discussion. Their statement advocating tolerance and diversity flies in the face of their position. Tolerance and diversity by their very definition demand that each individual's opinion be considered even if it is not the majorities.

While I respect the position that the Metro Atlanta Chamber feels it must take on behalf of its members, on January 13th I took an oath of office where I swore to represent all 8.5 million Georgians. Georgia is one family and having difficult family discussions, while uncomfortable at times, is the best route to resolve problems. I have confidence in the people of Georgia to make the best decision for this state even if the Metro Atlanta Chamber does not. I will continue my mission to bring about an open and honest dialogue to the difficult issues this state must face." [Emphasis mine--editor]

From Dwane Gassett's letter March 20th

"These soldiers are not honorable because they fought under this flag; this flag is honorable because it flew over these noble soldiers." --Dwane is a potential new member who has expressed interest in joining our Camp. --Editor
One more letter from The Macon Telegraph
(Thursday Mar. 13) **Fair is fair**

I have been a card carrying liberal Democrat for over 30 years. I demonstrated for civil rights in college during the Seventies. My conscience will no longer allow me to be silent. I have observed the growing controversy over the Rebel flag, which now approaches hysteria.

The Rebel flag, now banned in schools, is not a swastika. Never has been. Never will be. Those who choose to be offended by it should remember there are people out there who are offended by the Christian cross, the Star of David and the Moslem star and moon. There are people who are offended by Malcolm X T-shirts, FUBU and rap music, which intentionally offends just about everybody.

Fair is fair. The time has come to remove the log from your own eye. Southerners have as much right to their heritage as anybody else. I call upon fair-minded men and women who truly believe in equality, regardless of race, color or creed, to stand up and defend the Rebel flag as a symbol of the right to freedom of expression for everybody. Joe Miller -- Macon

Never let it be said that I don’t give space to liberal Democrats. Well said, Mr. Miller. –Editor

More Camp 1399 News

**Dan Bray pipes for Camp 1958 in Newton GA**

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**New Enlistees & Transfers**

**Eddie Self** – James E. Self, Jr. applied for membership at the Mar. 10 meeting. Eddie served 3 years active duty in the US Army 1971-74. He’s been married to the former Wanda Joyce Davis of Warner Robins for over 27 years. Eddie is a section chief at Robins AFB (29 DoD years). He has a daughter age 22 and son age 12. Eddie enjoys outdoor activities (hunting, fishing), playing softball and coaching youth baseball and basketball. Eddie and his family attend Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins. Eddie’s four known Confederate ancestors (Self, Oakes, Hill, Cape) were in the 6th GA Inf, 46th GA Inf and the 3rd GA Reserves.

**Ted Robinson** – Theodore Robinson transferred from the Logan Camp 1998 in Cochran. Ted retired from the US Air Force and resides with his wife in Bonaire. They have two grown daughters & 5 grandchildren. Ted’s family attends Bonaire First Baptist Church. Ted is the President of the Bibb Chapter, League of the South. Ted’s Confederate ancestors (Duncan, Phipps) were in the 20th NC Inf.

**Mark Taylor** – Mark Taylor transferred in February from the Logan Camp 1998 in Cochran.

**Blake Wilson** – newborn grandson of Randy Wilson is expected to enlist in Camp 1399 no later than the year 2021.

**Chaplain’s Report**

Chaplain Higginbotham reports his visit with John Thigpen on March 14th. John is scheduled to complete chemotherapy Mar.21 and hopes to be at our Apr.14 meeting. Following the colon surgery and chemo he has endured, his prognosis is very good. Bobby also reports that Ben Lowery has pneumonia and has been on antibiotics. Hopefully, he’ll recover soon. Please remember John and Ben in your thoughts and prayers.

**The Southern Chronicle on Cox Channel 18**

Mike Bruce produces the show for the Bibb chapter of the League of the South. Mike attended our Gods and Generals movie gathering with his video camera. Mike says he plans to be at our Stevens Street memorial April 25 and that footage he takes there will probably be aired sometime in June. Mike videotapes all types of Southern Heritage events to create new episodes of the Chronicle. The show airs on Cox Channel 18 Tuesdays 10:30-11:30pm and Saturdays 4:30-5:30pm. Check it out.

**Memorial Engraved Bricks Report**

Recent orders (20) bring our bricks-sold count up to 96. Chris Day challenged everyone Mar. 10th to buy another brick to push us over the 100 mark. Compatriot Harbin bought eight more. Don’t you need another brick?