August Guest Speaker

History Press Author Receives Prestigious Jefferson David Historical Gold Medal

(Richmond, Va.) On Saturday, June 9, 2012, William S. Connery received the prestigious Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal for outstanding contributions in furthering the study and preservation of Confederate history through extensive research, writing and public speaking.

The medal is designed with a red enamel Maltese Cross in the center, bearing the United Daughters of the Confederacy monogram, surrounded by a circular band of white enamel. Etched above the cross is Jefferson Davis’ famous clarion command at Buena Vista, “Stand fast.” The medal is encircled with a hero’s wreath of laurel leaves in gold.

Connery was honored as the writer of Civil War Northern Virginia 1861, part of the Sesquicentennial series of books published by The History Press. The book examines the first year of the Civil War, when Northern Virginia (which includes Alexandria City, Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties) was the front line between the growing Union and Confederate armies. According to one reviewer:

“Highlighted are people and events related to those areas, such as Robert E. Lee’s decision to cast his fate with his native state after it seceded, the death of the first Union officer Elmer Ellsworth in Alexandria and the effect of the war on George Washington’s former estate Mount Vernon in Fairfax County.

Mr. Connery describes some of the ‘firsts’ that occurred in the war, such as the first wounded Confederate soldier, first balloon reconnaissance, first troop engagement and first Confederate officer killed. All of these occurred near Fairfax Court House, the birthplace of the Confederate battle flag as well as the meeting place for President Jefferson Davis’ for the military conduct of the war.

With this book, Connery has helped us to remember.”
Adjutant Activities

Minutes July 3, 2012, Camp Meeting at VFW Bingo Entrance

There was no regular meeting on July 3 as it would interfere with our nation’s birthday. There was a River Crossing meeting on July 13 at Hershey’s Restaurant in Gaithersburg.

14th Annual Potomac River Crossing

Saturday • Aug. 25, 2012 • 11 a.m.

The Colonel William Norris Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, cordially invite you to our 14th anniversary River Crossing at historic White’s Ford. This is to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Army of Northern Virginia crossing the Potomac River to start the 1862 Maryland Campaign (Sept. 4-6, 1862). The event will be held at Dickerson Conservation Park.

The speaker again this year will be Gregg Clemmer. Historian and author of “Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Ed Johnson and Valor in Gray: The Recipients of the Confederate Medal of Honor.” He will describe what happened in that historic area.

When we return from the river we will have food and drinks. Lunch will be served on an RSVP basis. It will feature a meal of fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad and sodas for a donation of $10.

For those that choose not to cross the river, please let us know, so you can carry a flag to the river bank if you wish. We will also have our flag display on site.

The Norris Camp reserves the right to cancel the event should there be inclement weather.

No alcohol beverages allowed. Also no firearms or black powder of any kind. Gas-fired BBQ grills are prohibited.

For more information, see our website www.mdscv.org/1398 or e-mail brewer000@comcast.net (please put River Crossing in the subject line). RSVP’s are encouraged.
Confederate Greetings Gentlemen

First, our sincere appreciation goes to Color Sergeant Ray Rooks for forwarding Nancy Carosi's contact information. It's been somewhat of a challenge to get any information given the concerns for privacy. The details are enclosed below again for your convenience.

Secondly, please forward this information to your camp members as soon as possible especially for those compatriots who know Nancy and may not be aware of her very critical condition. It is crucial that we show her our support, our devotion, and our love for her at this very critical time. She is always there for us—attending our camp ceremonies, camp events, and color guard activities in her beautiful Victorian finery. She marches with the color guard in the heat, cold, rain, and snow. She is at just about every event. She never wavers and always proudly carries our SCV Maryland Division banner.

Earlier this evening I had the pleasure of visiting Nancy at the hospice center. Until I drove up to Forest Hill to visit her, I had no appreciation for the distance Nancy traveled to support our division and to be with us at so many ceremonies. What a beautiful, strong, proud, pro-Southern woman of Italian descent she truly is. Her body may now be frail, but her mind remains as sharp as Confederate steel. It was obvious that I was in the right room when the first words I heard were, "I look so shitty!" Of course, she exaggerates. But, if you ever saw her at a color guard event, you know she is always the model of panache, feminine Confederate beauty, and Southern ladylike refinement.

Although the attendant on duty said the visit had to be "short", I was there a bit longer than good discretion might dictate. However, Nancy showed scarcely any sign of weariness. Perhaps she was just being typically polite, though, because she had to be tired. We talked about any number of topics: the color guard, our division conventions, her favorite Italian/Virginian Confederate—General William Booth Taliaferro, her cat Francesca, her family in Italy, her membership in the Sons of Italy, and even her condition. She was not hesitant to discuss the cancer with which she is now dealing. She even commented, "I wouldn't care about this if I was 93; but I'm 73!" She still wants a date to the ball in Gettysburg later this year.

If you can, as soon as you can, please send her a card or give her a call—even even if you just leave a message. She loves the Maryland Division and asked about many of our compatriots. I'm taking the liberty of enclosing her phone number because she keeps her cell phone next to her bed: 410-375-0601. Her address and hours of visitation at the hospice center are: Ms. Nancy Carosi, The Senator Bob Hooper Hospice House, 2007 Klein Plaza Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050. Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Above all else, when I asked if there was something we could do to help such as maintenance at her house, running errands, bringing some books, she asked for one thing: prayer. Holding her rosary the entire time, she asks that we pray for her. Not long afterwards, an Italian friend of hers stopped by and was smiling at her as he entered the room. What was her response? "What are you smiling at me for? I'm not gettin' any better!" That's our Nancy!

Thank you and God Bless ... American by birth ... Southern by the Grace of God,
Jay
A Constitution Found Wanting

“Throughout almost all English speculations on American affairs, there runs a constant assumption that the United States Government resembles our Old World Governments, and possesses unlimited powers of action, if only it chooses to exert them. Now the truth is that, by the very nature of its Constitution, the powers of the government are so strictly defined that in all cases not provided for by the express letter of the law it has no authorized means of action.

Thus in Europe, the refusal of the Federal Government to recognize formally the fact that the Confederates were belligerents appeared dictated by a childish reluctance to acknowledge an unwelcome truth. In reality, it was constitutionally impossible for the North to admit the belligerent character of the South.

The Federal Government has power by the Constitution to suppress an insurrection in the supposed interest of the insurgent State—it has no power whatsoever to make war upon a State. In order to keep within the Constitution, it was essential for the Federal Government to assume the theory that the insurgent States still form part of the Union. Yet the adoption of this theory involves inconceivable difficulties in practice.

If the States are still within the Union, they must be dealt with by the laws of the Constitution. Thus, to quote one simple instance, the insurgents must be tried in their own State, by a jury taken from the State, and no Southern jury would ever convict an insurgent of treason.

Again, all taxes, by the Constitution, must be uniformly imposed on all the States. It would be therefore impossible, if the war was over, to tax the insurgent States, so as to make them bear the expenses of the war. These are not theoretical difficulties, but practical and pressing ones.

If the broad principle is once admitted that the welfare of the Commonwealth overrides all State interests and justifies any stretch of power, then the [Constitutional] doctrine of State rights is virtually defunct in the North as well as in the South.... Added to all this, the whole nation has been taught, so long and so sedulously, that the Constitution is the great bulwark of their liberties—the grandest triumph of legislative power, that they cannot yet, and dare not yet, realize the truth, that this Constitution has been tried and found wanting.”
News and Results from the 2012 Annual SCV Reunion

Proposed constitutional amendments one and two pertaining to allowing camps to secede from their divisions were defeated. Proposed constitutional amendment three dealing with a minor wording change to section 13.4 dealing with discipline was approved.

Proposed standing order amendment number one was withdrawn by the author, and proposed standing order amendment number two, clarifying language dealing with the prohibition of SCV members, camps and divisions from filing lawsuits without prior express consent of the GEC, was approved.

A paper ballot was used to select Richmond, Va., as the 2015 site of the 120th SCV Annual General Reunion.

Officers elected for 2012-2014
Commander in Chief: R. Michael Givens • Lt. Commander in Chief: C. Kelly Barrow

ATM
Commander: M. Todd Owens • Councilman: Charles E. Lauret

AOT
Commander: Thomas V. Strain Jr. • Councilman: Larry Allen McCluney

ANV
Commander: Britton Frank Earnest Sr. • Councilman: Randall B Burbage

Also selected to serve on the General Executive Council
Chief of Staff: Charles L. Rand III • Adjutant in Chief: Stephen Lee Ritchie
Chief of Heritage Defense: Eugene G Hogan II • Chaplain in Chief: Mark W. Evans
Judge Advocate in Chief: Roy Burl McCoy

2012 National Awards
Dr. George R. Tabor Award is presented to the most distinguished camp in the SCV. The winner of this prestigious award, which is an extremely close competition every year, is the Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 of Havana, Fla. Graham F. Smith, Commander.

Scrapbooks
• Dr. B. H. Webster Award for the best Scrapbook for camps with fewer than 50 members was not awarded in 2012 as no entries were received.

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News and Results from the 2012 Annual SCV Reunion

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- Judah P. Benjamin Award for the best Scrapbook for camps with 50 or more members is the Robert E. Lee Camp 239 of Fort Worth, Texas. James B. Turnage, Commander.
- Dr. James B. Butler Award for the best historical project was won by Litchfield Camp 132, Conway, S.C. James E. Graham, Commander.
- General Stand Watie Award winner for the camp making the largest contribution to the Stand Watie Scholarship Fund was not awarded in 2012.
- Best Website: General Samuel Cooper Award for the best website is the William Kenyon Australian Confederates Camp 2160, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. http://www.scvau.com/ James M. Gray, Commander.

Newsletters

- Dr. Paul Jon Miller Award winner for the best newsletter among camps with fewer than 50 members is The Round Mountain Report which is produced by the COL Daniel N. McIntosh Camp 1378, Tulsa, Okla. Kenneth H. Cook, Editor.
- S.A. Cunningham Award for the best newsletter among camps with 50 or more members is The Louisiana Tiger which is produced by the LTG Richard Taylor Camp 1308, Shreveport, La. Bobby G. Herring, Editor.
- Dewitt Smith Jobe Award for the best Division newsletter is a tie and two awards were given to The Carolina Confederate, North /Carolina Division, Ron Perdue, Editor and the Palmetto Partisan, South Carolina Division, Bill Norris, Editor.

Recruiting

Edward R. Darling Award for the top recruiter in the Confederation is awarded to Kyle Sims, a member of the COL Middleton Tate Johnson Camp 1648, Arlington, Texas. Compatriot Sims recruited 37 new members.

Membership

General Nathan Bedford Forrest Award for the camp with the greatest gain in membership (plus 39 net) goes to COL W. M. Bradford/COL J. G. Rose Camp 1638, Morristown, Tenn. Michael L. Beck, Commander.

New Camps, Division

General A. P. Hill Award is a tie with five new camps each, and is awarded to the North Carolina Division, Thomas M. Smith Jr. Commander and the Georgia Division, Jack Bridwell, Commander.
News and Results from the 2012 Annual SCV Reunion

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New Camps, Army
General Albert Sydney Johnston Award for the Army with the greatest gain in new camps, a total of 12, goes to the Army of Trans-Mississippi. W. Danny Honnoll, Commander.

Individual Awards
• Zoover Law and Order Medal was presented to Sheriff Larry Dever, Cochise County, Ark.
• Rev. J. William Jones Christian Service Award is presented to Reverend Eric Gray Rudd (N.C.), Reverend David Andrew Taylor (Ark.), and a posthumous award to Reverend Jack Ray Griffin (Ark.) all three of whom have emulated and perpetuated the orthodox Christian faith demonstrated by the soldiers and citizens of the Confederate States of America.
• Robert E. Lee Gold Medal, the second highest award that can be given to a SCV member, has been presented to Eugene G. Hogan II (S.C.), B. Frank Earnest Sr. (Va.), and Thomas Y. Hiter (Ky.) for their exceptional contributions and service to the SCV.
• Jefferson Davis Chalice has been presented to Bragdon R. Bowling Jr. (Va.). This is the highest award that may be bestowed on a member for service to the SCV and consists of an engraved silver chalice, a medal and a certificate.

Non-Member Awards
• The S. D. Lee Award, the SCV's highest award for non-members of the SCV was presented to Pam Trammell of Arkansas.
• The Horace L. Hunley Award, the SCV's second highest award for non-members was presented to Allen Roberson of South Carolina.
• The Dixie Defender Award, the SCV's third highest award for non-members was presented to Sarah Mosley of South Carolina.

In Memoriam
Mrs. Dan Belvin passed away July 15, 2012.

Bob Brewer's sister, Bonnie, passed away June 29 after a long battle with cancer.
The newsletter of the Colonel William Norris Camp #1398 is published 12 times a year by the camp as a service to its membership and to the public.

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"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

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