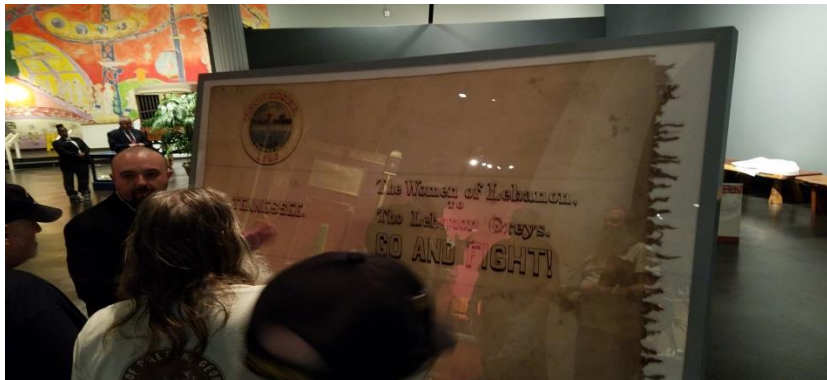


### *Let's Continue to Look Forward*

As you might already know from an earlier Commander's Corner posting, being active and continuing to educate ourselves, are some of the key goals I have set forth for the camp. If we aren't doing and we are not learning then how can we possibly be fulfilling our mission of the charge we were given! We can't share with others what we don't know! With that being said, in March we had the camp's first excursion of the year, a day trip up to the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. The purpose of our trip was multifaceted. This was an opportunity for us to be actively engaged in doing and seeing while educating ourselves, and maybe most importantly an opportunity to share in the comradery with one another as fellow compatriots. While only a few of us were able to make the trip we had wonderful time. We got to visit both the Tennessee Military Museum and the Tennessee State Museum. On our afternoon visit to the State Museum we were treated to a wonderful presentation of some of the many Civil War flags that have been conserved and a look into the conservation process being used to save these fabulous items of our state and nation's history. As you may know, we the Sons of Confederate Veterans (Tennessee Division specifically), have donated and continue to support the ongoing conservation efforts of the flags and it was good to have a first-hand look seeing that our contributions are going to a worthy cause and being well spent. Not only did we get to see the flags themselves but a look at some other conservation efforts that were going on behind the scenes. You might not know but the State Museum is going to be moving into a new home down on the Bi-Centennial Mall later this year (scheduled for October). We got to see the ongoing moving preparations and cleaning/conservation of various Civil War artifacts (as well as other items) in preparation for this move which was really fascinating.



Our next camp excursion is planned for Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. We will be going down to Gainesville, GA to the Longstreet Society's Annual Bivouac. If you would like more info on this event itself go to <http://www.longstreetsociety.org/bivouac-2018.html> . We plan to carpool down that morning and spend the day enjoying the sights and scenes of this event as well as visiting General Longstreet's resting place which is nearby in Alta Vista Cemetery. We would be honored for anyone interested to be able to go. Just let us know by sending an email to the camp at [nbforrestchatt@gmail.com](mailto:nbforrestchatt@gmail.com) and we will get the details to you as soon as possible for all of the travel arrangements.

This past weekend I had the honor of attending the SCV Tennessee Division's Annual Reunion along with several others of our camp. This was held primarily at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill but

included visits to the surrounding area of local Civil War sites, most notably the Boyhood Home of General Forrest. This was a very enjoyable weekend being able to socialize with fellow compatriots and I highly recommend it to all of our members that you take the opportunity to attend such events when you can. You will get to meet many wonderful people from all over (mainly Tennessee in this case). You will get to meet and hear those who are our elected Division leaders and you will learn a great deal about our organization and how it functions. This year was a year of Divisional elections and I am happy to report that our Division Commander James Patterson, Division 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joey Nolan, and Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank Heathman were all reelected to serve another term as our Division Leadership. I would also like to make special mention that our very own Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Terry Siler was also reelected for a second term as our Mountain Brigade Commander. Congratulations Gentleman! We look forward to you keeping up



the fine work you have been doing! Also of special note I would like to give a big shout out to our Camp Adjutant who is also our Web Master, Mr. Donnie Ashley as he was awarded the George Ellsworth Award at Saturday night's banquet for the best camp website within the division!

Speaking of elections, national elections for the SCV are just around the corner in July. These will be held at the National Reunion in nearby Franklin, TN. During the Division reunion we got to hear two of the candidates for Commander in Chief speak to us, sharing their views and positions on issues, just another benefit of attending our Divisional Reunion. If at all possible please make your plans to attend the National Reunion as it is sure to be a first class event and there will be lots of things going on that are of great importance for our organization. I myself plan to attend and I know I have had a few others express their desire to go as well so we may put together a carpool for that Saturday. Stay tuned for more info on that! The website for registration for the National Reunion is <http://www.scv.org/new/reunion2018/>

On this past Saturday morning we had the Division's annual business meeting and while it was all important, there were several things that were of real interest from my perspective. First and foremost the acquisition of the Chattanooga Confederate Cemetery and all the hard work that has gone into that effort was front and center! I cannot say thank you enough to those who have worked diligently, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, to make this happen. I won't name names here as I would surely leave out someone whose name deservedly should be mentioned and that would be shameful on my part. What I will say is that we are privileged to be caretakers of this cemetery where lie our honored dead, both Union and Confederate. This is only the beginning of the process and I hope that our camp members will step up and show up when it comes time for getting into the trenches when the

caretaking work needs to be done. We already have many who do great work there and we need everyone that can to be a part of this ongoing effort.

Hundley Awards!!! Those Tennessee Division members who have been a presenter of a Hundley Award were rewarded themselves with an envoy pin. This is a super program to honor some outstanding young people and this makes it even better. If you would like to be a presenter you too can get one of these pins!



The final part of this Commander's Corner message is another aspect of the Divisional Meeting that really caught my, as well as many other people's attention, that being the ongoing fight over the monuments in Memphis. Upfront, let me applaud and thank all those who have been waging this fight on the front lines there! They have been put through the wringer literally, been on the receiving end of threats, been badmouthed by the media at every turn, and yet still continue to fight the good fight! Yes, the monuments have now been removed. It was done in the dark of night, illegally, by purposely using fraudulent measures concocted by the City of Memphis. I have two things to say on this issue. First of all it is disgraceful that our top elected executive official, the Governor of Tennessee and his Attorney General have let this brazen breaking of state law stand unchallenged. While our legislature has moved to take some actions and efforts are ongoing the results there of remain to be seen in the future. It is the Governor who should have taken swift and immediate action and still to this day has failed to do so. We need elected officials, who will take a firm stand when it comes to upholding our laws. Isn't this the job our top executive is charged with doing! Keep this in mind when you go to the polls to elect our next governor as well as other elected officials. Research the candidates and check views/stances, look at their voting records. Are they in line with how you expect to be represented???

Second, there was a lot of discussion on where "are" we in the ongoing fight as it relates to the Memphis monument fiasco. Important to know for sure but the one question that I didn't hear specifically asked nor heard the answer to is my question, "what is the end goal"? I am sure I was not the only one with that question on his mind as the discussion and debate was lively and purposeful. Those who spoke were much better versed than I on the subject at hand but I could not help wonder, what our end objective is. Are we fighting to have the monuments put back? To have them handed over? To punish those who broke the law? What is the ultimate objective at this point? That is the question that really needs to be answered. Again, I cannot show enough honor and appreciation to those who have and continue to fight this battle, I want to make that clear! Still at some point we have to ask ourselves, are we pouring time, energy, and money into a battle when our goal isn't clearly

defined. That just doesn't make much sense to me. With that having been said, your Division Executive Council is on the job and I assure you that every question will be answered moving forward. I personally had some great conversations with several of our Division leaders and know my concerns were heard. I look forward to being able to report back to you with an update in the future on this matter, in the meantime keep our Memphis warriors in your prayers! They need all the help we can give them!

Respectfully Yours,

Nick Norwood

Commander, SCV Camp #3, N.B. Forrest, Chattanooga, TN