



# CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 25 No. 02 February 2010

Editor Don Young

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## February 2010 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, FL

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from the menu

7:00 – 8:00 Program

8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting

### CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb 321-259-8391  
Treasurer Don Jones 321-727-3986  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gerry Carson 321-259-0837  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. JR Williford 321-984-4369  
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### CAMP STAFF

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Photographer Ryan Washburn  
Editor Don Young 321-452-3207  
Heritage Don Young 321-452-3207  
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Miss Lee Phillips 321-452-3207  
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### COMMANDERS CORNER

At our January meeting 18 compatriots and guests were treated to a "new" program on the Battle of Olustee by Third Florida Co. A Lt. Bob Flaniken. We have heard Bob present programs on Olustee several times over the years, but he restructured his presentation and added further details. A tip of the kepi to Bob for putting new light on a major event in our Florida Confederate History. Also in January we swore in our newest compatriot Denley Daw.

February is Black History Month. We will run a series of articles in the next few issues highlighting the strong and patriotic participation of our black fellow Southerners in the War For Southern Independence and their considerable contributions to Southern

Culture. Period blacks, by and large, were devoted to defending their Southern home, nation and fellow Southerners – black or white.

Re-enacting season has started. The Battle of Olustee in Lake City was held Valentine's weekend. Although the weather was record setting miserable, thousands of participants and spectators braved the climate for the exciting event. The Battle of Narcoossee Mill will be 26-28 March and we need volunteers to man a recruiting table, please let Lt. Cmdr. Carson or Cmdr. Young know if you are available.

The Florida Division Southeast region Spring Officer's is scheduled for Saturday 13 March. We will meet from 0900 till 1200 at the Little House in Vero Beach. This meeting is open to all compatriots and everyone is encouraged to attend. Cmdr. Young will be going and seats are available to ride with him if you would like to attend.

We will have guests in February, Jim Meeks and his son Robert will be joining us. Jim has been considering joining the SCV for several years and now with retirement will have time to devote to the Cause. On 24 April one of his Confederate ancestors will have a VA marker dedication ceremony at the Stewart Chapel Cemetery south of Webster in Sumter County. We will need to coordinate our efforts in order to participate in the Vietnam and All Veteran's Reunion and support the dedication ceremony which will be done by local UDC and SCV groups.

Our Camp has traditionally held our celebration of Lee – Jackson birthdays in February instead of January. This month we will have a program about Lee and have some poetry about Lee and Jackson.

In Service of The South, Don C. Young Commander Camp 1387

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**EVENTS**

- Feb                    Black History Month
- 25 Feb                Camp Meeting Lee, Jackson
- 11 Mar                E-board Meeting
- 13 Mar                Officer's Call
- 26-28 Mar            Battle of Narcoossee Mill
- 24 Apr                Vietnam and All Veteran's Reunion
- 24 Apr                Marker Dedication Webster
- 25 Apr                Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony
- 21-23 May            Division Reunion

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**PROGRAM**

**Robert E. Lee Today**

Lee is one of our bigger than life Southern icons. Don Young will review his legacy, explore his impact on the 20 century and see how his position in American history has been changed in the immediate past generation. Please bring your thoughts and pictures of Lee.

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### **Olustee Battle Festival Parade**

The annual Olustee Battle Festival in Lake City and Battle Reenactment was held 12-14 February. Friday and Friday night were, well – AWFUL! Tents had 4 inches of water in them and it was in the low 20's. The parade Saturday was cold and blustery, but not raining ... much. The Sunday weather was much better with the sun shining and more spectators enjoying the Sutlers, reenactors and the battle.

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### **New Compatriot Sworn in**



At the January meeting we had the honor of swearing Denley D. Daw into our camp and the bonds of Confederate Fraternal Brotherhood. R, l-r Cmdr. Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carson, Adj. Atchison, Color Sgt. Phillips, compatriot Denley Daw, compatriot Greg Carson.

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### **Lee Jackson Celebration**

We will celebrate the birthdays of Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson at our regular meeting 25 February. We will order from the menu and have a program on Lee. We all need to be reminded of the true history of our Southern icons. Ya'll come!

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### **Battle at Narcoossee Mill**

The 17th annual Battle at Narcoossee Mill will be held 26-28 March. We will be participating with reenactors on the field and a recruiting table in the sutler's area. Contact Lt. Cmdr Carson or Cmdr Young.

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### **THE FIRE-EATERS**

Last month's CONFEDERATE JOURNAL discussed secession from a historical standpoint highlighting the large number of secession movements throughout history

and throughout the world and how secession movements still exist today. The article also touched upon secession movements (both actual and threatened) in this country other than the Southern secession and how secession was constitutionally sound and even taught at the United States Military Academy.

With this article I would like to focus on just the secession of the Southern States and most particularly on a group of individuals who, through their brilliant communication skills and persuasiveness, were most responsible for developing the attitude in the South favorable to disunion. These individuals were known as "fire-eaters".

There were many people in the South who had been speaking of disunion for years. There had long been feelings in the Southern States that the federal government had grown too large and invasive and that most actions of that central government favored those states of the North. As early as the 1830's John C. Calhoun had urged disunion for South Carolina and he was not alone in that opinion. Shortly before his death in 1850, Calhoun wrote that it was " difficult to see how two peoples so different and hostile can exist together in one common Union ". I believe that many of the fire-eaters who were to follow were inspired by the magnificent Calhoun as were so many other Southerners of that period.

There were many individuals who believed in states' rights, Southern independence and disunion during the period leading to the War for Southern Independence but, to me, there are only a few who deserve to be classified as fire-eaters. These few were the ones who had persistently advocated for Southern independence (some for more than a decade) and through the brilliance of their oratory or the soundness of their writing were able to bring large numbers of others to the Cause.

When considering the act of secession by the various Southern states, it must be remembered that the Union was formed by the states and not vice-versa. The general understanding of that time was that a state which had voluntarily entered the alliance could also voluntarily leave.

Before going any further about the fire-eaters, I think it would be beneficial to briefly mention the order of secession of the thirteen states that eventually passed an Ordinance of Secession or left the Union in another manner. Now, I know that some who are reading this will be confused by the number "13" as the number of seceding states since all those two-toned maps in history textbooks show only eleven states making up the Confederate States of America. (There is another article for later about the situation of the two states not represented on the maps so I won't get into that now.)

The states that seceded and the date when each state adopted an Ordinance of Secession are as follows:

South Carolina	December 20, 1860
Mississippi	January 9, 1861
<b>Florida</b>	<b>January 10, 1861</b>
Alabama	January 11, 1861
Georgia	January 19, 1861
Louisiana	January 26, 1861
Texas	February 4, 1861
Virginia	April 17, 1861
Arkansas	May 6, 1861
North Carolina	May 20, 1861
Tennessee	June 24, 1861 *
* by proclamation of Gov. Isham Harris	
Missouri	October 31, 1861
Kentucky	November 20, 1861

Tennessee is a unique case among the states leaving the Union. To my knowledge, no ordinance of secession was adopted by the state but, rather, on May 6 the Tennessee legislature adopted a Declaration of Independence that was to be submitted to a popular vote by the citizens. On June 8 the voters of Tennessee ratified the declaration and this was followed by a proclamation issued by Governor Isham Harris declaring Tennessee officially out of the Union.

The fact that 13 states were officially accepted into the Confederacy (including Missouri and Kentucky) explains why Confederate flags (the final version of the Stars and Bars, the Battle Flag, the 2nd National and the 3rd National ) all contain 13 stars.

The various states were certainly not monolithic when it came to the matter of disunion - not in timing or reason. There was much diversity in the reasoning of the individual states as to why they wished to secede and this diversity was reflected in the reasoning and oratories of the fire-eaters who were so instrumental in the actions of the various states.

Now, who were the fire-eaters? I've never seen an official list and I doubt if one even exists. There seems to be, at least to me, a small group of less than a dozen who truly stand out. I would be very surprised if any single member of this group personally knew by way of acquaintance more than one or two of the others as these men were separated by geography, philosophy and backgrounds. One thing they all had in common was a strong belief in states' rights and state sovereignty. They also, in general, believed that the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 would create a chasm so great between the South and the North that it could not possibly be overcome.

After Lincoln's election in 1860, there were politically active Southerners who raised a great hue and cry for secession. To me, these people should not be classified as true fire-eaters since they came so late to the fore. The true fire-eaters had, for the most part, been advocating disunion since the early 1850's and some even earlier than that.

So, who were the fire-eaters? In no particular order I would consider the following as the true fire-eaters: Edmund Ruffin of Virginia (later of South Carolina), William Lowndes Yancey of Alabama, Robert Barnwell Rhett of South Carolina, John Quitman of Mississippi, William Porcher Miles of South Carolina, Nathaniel Beverly Tucker of Virginia, James Dunwoody Brownson DeBow of Louisiana, Laurence Keitt of South Carolina, Thomas Hindman of Arkansas, William Barksdale of Mississippi and Lewis Wigfall of Texas. These were all men who played major roles in bringing about Southern secession. Many were lawyers, some were educators, several were planters and most had held public office at some level. Some were mild-mannered while many were at the other extreme. They were all educated and men of accomplishment. Space does not permit me an individual discussion of each man but I would like to present a brief profile on three of these men who had such influence in their states and the South. To me, these three, Robert Barnwell Rhett, William Lowndes Yancey, and Edmund Ruffin represent the essence of the fire-eaters.

Robert Barnwell Rhett is generally considered to be the "Father of Secession". He was born to an aristocratic South Carolina family and became a political leader in his state early in life. He also practiced law and was a slave owner. Rhett was one of the earliest secession advocates in South Carolina and was one of the organizers of the separatist Bluffton Movement in 1844.

Rhett served in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and after the Nashville Convention in 1850 became an ardent secessionist. He tirelessly worked for secession in the state and in 1860 drafted the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession. In 1861 he chaired the committee that drafted the Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

Rhett had ambitions to be president of the Confederacy but many delegates thought him to be too radical and the more moderate Jefferson Davis was selected. Rhett then became a critic of Davis and used his newspaper, the CHARLESTON MERCURY, to make editorial attacks on the president.

A fire-eater to the last, when the war ended Rhett refused to apply for a pardon. He continued in the newspaper business until he died in 1876. He is buried in lovely Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

Several years ago when I had the privilege of marching from Battery Park to Magnolia Cemetery in the funeral procession for the crew of the Confederate submarine HUNLEY, I made a special point to visit the grave of Robert Barnwell Rhett. He was a true Southerner and a true fire-eater.

William Lowndes Yancey was one of the greatest public speakers of the period from the 1840's to the 1860's and is generally referred to as the "Orator of Secession". He had a fierce temper to go along with his oratorical skills and was a staunch advocate of states' rights. He believed strongly that the rights of the states were inalienable.

Yancey, a lawyer and newspaper editor, served in the Alabama legislature before being elected to Congress. Always feisty, shortly after entering Congress he fought a duel with congressman Thomas Clingman of North Carolina. Thankfully, neither was injured and Clingman eventually became a Confederate general. (As a side note, Clingman's Dome, one of the highest peaks in the eastern U.S., is named for him. The peak sits on the Tennessee border with North Carolina not far from Gatlinburg and the view of our glorious Southland from the summit is spectacular.)

Yancey, as did Rhett in South Carolina, believed that only a Republican victory in the 1860 presidential election could convince the Southern states to leave the Union. Yancey worked hard to split the Democrat ticket and after Lincoln's victory drafted the Ordinance of Secession for Alabama.

In 1861 Yancey was sent to Europe by President Davis to seek an alliance with England and France and was elected to the Confederate Senate while in Europe. Interestingly, while in this position in the Senate he frequently opposed the policies of Davis concerning a strong central government for the Confederacy. Yancey never softened his position on states' rights regardless of the government he was serving. He died in 1863 between sessions of the Confederate Congress.

As a young boy growing up in Alabama in the 1950's and 60's, I read and studied much about William Lowndes Yancey. To me he was an Alabama hero of almost mythical proportions. Even today, whenever I visit the Old Capitol in Montgomery I pay a quick visit to the upstairs ballroom where there is a huge oil painting of Yancey. It's full-length and larger than life. To me that only seems fitting.

It also seems fitting to end this article with a sketch about Edmund Ruffin, the best-known and most idealized of the fire-eaters.

Ruffin was the oldest of the fire-eaters having been born in Virginia in 1794, a scion of the prominent Randolph family of Virginia. He became a noted agricultural researcher and reformist who was much in demand as a lecturer. He published the FARMER'S REGISTER for a decade and was recognized as an expert on agriculture. He also served four years in the Virginia state senate. In addition, he was a noted agitator for secession and was one of the earliest Southerners to make this call.

He witnessed the execution of the abolitionist murderer John Brown in 1859 and arranged to have a pike from Brown's supply of weapons sent to each Southern governor with an attached message which read: "Sample of the favors designed for us by our Northern Brethren".

Ruffin was so angered by Virginia's failure to be the first state to secede that he moved to South Carolina after the secession of that state in 1860. He was an honorary

member of the Palmetto Guards when Fort Sumter was fired upon. Popular history says that Ruffin fired the first cannon shot at Fort Sumter although some historians dispute this. He is credited with being the first Confederate to enter the fort after it fell.

Ruffin was so hated by the Yankees that TWO REGIMENTS of regular troops were sent to his home on August 1 1862 and burned it to the ground. Two regiments! Can you imagine?

Shortly after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in 1865, Ruffin wrote a final entry in his diary, draped a Confederate Battle Flag around his shoulders and ended his life with a gunshot to the head. The last line of his diary read: "And now with my latest writing and utterance, and with what will be near my last breath, I here repeat and would willingly proclaim my unmitigated hatred of Yankee rule - to all political, social and business connections with Yankees, and the perfidious, malignant and vile Yankee race".

It was a blessing that this most ardent of fire-eaters did not have to experience Reconstruction.

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot who belongs to a number of historical, heritage and ideological organizations. He has a particular interest in Southern and Confederate history. He serves as Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and is also 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. You can contact him at [confederatedad1@yahoo.com](mailto:confederatedad1@yahoo.com) or 850-878-7010.

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## Black History Month

### Black History Month & 'Civil War Memory' - The 32 Part Series

#### **"The Un-Reconstructed", "Twarn't a fair fight, they starved us out!" (Part 7) by Bill Vallante**

Remarkably, though perhaps not surprisingly, accounts of black men who had served in Confederate armies often mirrored the strongest sentiments expressed by some of the whites who served. These men left absolutely no question as to where their loyalties lay. Once again, contemporary historical "wisdom", which usually asserts that black men served because they had no choice, is happily left with egg on its face.

#### **"Black Southerners in Confederate Armies", Segars and Barrow "Uncle Richmond Tells Why the Yankees Won", Page 153-154**

"We all could er whipped dat fight easy enough", he said, "ef we jes had the Yankees demselves ter fight, but when dy went out en picked up Irishmen en Dutchmen en dingoes en Cubians en all de other nations ter help'em, dey wuz too many fer us, en das whut I tole Ginerall Lee one day".

#### **Gus Brown, Alabama, (from the Slave Narratives)**

"Then de war came and we all went to fight the Yankees. I was a body servant to the master, and once a bullet took off his hat. We all thought he was shot but he wasn't, and I was standin' by his side all the time. "I remember Stonewall Jackson. He was a big man with long whiskers, and very brave. We all fought wid him until his death. We wa'n't beaten, we was starved out! Sometimes we had perched corn to eat and sometimes we didn't have a bite o' nothin', because the Union mens come and tuk all de food for theirselves....

#### **Wiley Brewer, Mississippi, (from the Slave Narratives)**

"Yas'm, I went to de war. Marster took me wid him, and I fit, too, I killed a thousand Yankees... You look like you don't believe dat, Miss, but it's de truth. Mistis always told me to tell the truth, and I ain't never told nobody no lies. Some ub dem Yankees I shot and some uv 'em I drowned...

...Marster always told me Yankees was de worst friends I had, so when dey come round after de war telling me de Government was gonna give us 40 acres and a mule, I knowed it wan't so and went back to Marster. He let me work for him, part de time as wage hand and part as sharecropper till he died. I

saved my money and bought me a mule, and en about 32 years ago I bought me a farm. Dat's where me and my wife lives now, just a few miles from Columbus.

**Isaac Stier, Mississippi, (from the Slave Narratives)**

When de big war broke out I sho' stuck by my marster. I\*fit de Yankees same as he did. I went in de battles 'long side o' him an' both fit under Marse Robert E. Lee. I reckon ever'body has heard 'bout him. I seen more folks dan anybody could count. Heaps of 'em was all tore to pieces an' cryin' to Cod to let 'em die. I toted water to dem in blue de same as dem in gray. Folks wouldn' b'lieve de truf if I was to tell all I knows 'bout dem ongodly times. "Fore de war I never knowed what it was to go empty. My marster sho' set a fine table an' fed his people de highes'. De hungriest I ever been was at de Siege o' Vicksburg. Dat was a time I'd lak to forgit. De folks et up all de cats an' dogs an' den went to devourin' de mules an' hosses. Even de wimmin an' little chillun was a-starvin'. Dey stummicks was stickin' to dey backbones. Us Niggers was sufferin' so us took de sweaty hoss blankets an' soaked 'em in mudholes where de hosses tromped. Den us wrung 'em out in buckets an' drunk dat dirty water for pot-likker. It tasted kinda salty an' was strength'nin', lak weak soup.....

..."I tell you, dem Yankees took us by starvation. Twant a fair fight. Dey called it a vict'ry an' bragged 'bout Vicksburg a-fallin', but hongry folks aint got no fight lef' in 'em. Us folks was starved into surrenderin'.

**Lewis Adams, Mississippi, (from the Slave Narratives)**

The War Between the States, according to Uncle Lewis, was as follows:

"I was wid de South, I loved her ways. My best friends was Southern boys. But de hardships and de troubles, hongry, an' sich, an'so'n - little bit er grub an' fightin' guns - I says it can't last long. I sits down an' thinks very sad like, ass my friens' dead er dyin', and I study; Captain Seibe frum ma home town an' his boy, Jake Seibe, shot thu' de haid; Lieutenant Carl Lindsay killed in battle; an' I says whut de use er fighting; den months er hell an' dat fine old man, General Robert E. Lee, say 'Let's quit.'

**Doc Quinn, Arkansas (from the Slave Narratives)**

"I was born March 15, 1843, in Monroe County, Mississippi, near Aberdeen, Mah Mahster was Colonel Ogburn, one ob de bigges' planters in de state of Mississippi. Manys de time he raised so much cotton dat dem big steamers just couldnt carry it all down to N'Awlins in one year. But den along came de Civil War an' we didn't raise nothin' fo' several years. Why? Becase most uf us jined the Confederate Army in Colonel Ogburn's regiment as servants and bodyguards. An' let me tell yo' somethin', whitefolks. Dere never was a war like dis war. Why I 'member dat after de battle of Corinth, Miss., a five acre field was so thickly covered wid de dead and wounded dat yo' couldn't touch de ground in walkin' across it. And de onliest way to bury dem was to cut a deep furrow wid a plow, lay de soldiers head to head, an' plow de dirt back on dem."

"About a year after de war started de Mahster got one ob dese A.W.O.L.'s frum de Army so we could come to Miller County, where he bought de place on Red River now known as de Adams Farm... ..Mah young marster was Joe Ogburn. Me and him growed up togedder an' I was his boddy guard durin' de wahr. Many's de day I'ze watched de smoke ob battle clear away an' wait fo' de return ob mah marster. All de time I felt we was born to win dat wahr, out God knowed bes' an' you know de result.

**The Confederate Negro, Page 177, "Black Southerners in Confederate Armies", Segars and Barrow By Joseph A. Mudd, Hyattsville, Md., for the Confederate Veteran, Vol XXIII, 1905**

The Confederate Negro is the proudest being on the earth. A few weeks ago I was standing at the counter of the water office, Municipal Building in Washington when in came a negro, who, standing near by, began his business with one of the clerks. He was rather shabbily dressed, but evidently one of the "old stock", as black as ink and as ugly as Satan, eyes beaming with intelligence and a great depth of human sympathy, a countenance one loves to rest one's gaze upon, and with a bearing of modest and courteous dignity.

His business over, I said to him, "Where did you come from?" I could see his chest swelling, and I knew the answer before it was spoken, "From Ferginny suh." Were your people in the war? "Yes suh", with a smile of enthusiasm and a bow that bespoke reverence for the memories of the olden days".

They tell me you people "fit" some. I could almost see the lightening dart from his eyes as he straightened himself up - "Fit? Why they outfit the world suh. Never did whip us, suh. If dey hadn't starved us out, we'd be fightin' yit". As he passed me going ot of the office he said "I was wid'em foh years suh,. I cahd my young master off de field once when I din't think he'd live till I got him to de doctor, but he's living yit". I did not tell him I was a Confederate soldier and he didn't seem to care.

He knew what he was and that was enough.....

**EDITOR's NOTE:** The Slave Narratives is an utterly fascinating collection of interviews with former slaves. The interviewing, writing and publishing of this irreplaceable American and Southern history was a WPA project in the 1930's to employ writers. Next Month "**Churches in the Antebellum South Integrated**". And, when we have room, "**Black Confederate Soldiers**".

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## **Blockade Runner**

The next issue of the Florida Division newsletter "Blockade Runner" is being drafted. If you have any information you would like seen by your compatriots across Florida send it to the editor, Jeff Sizemore at [flblockaderunner@gmail.com](mailto:flblockaderunner@gmail.com) . The new issue will be posted on the Division website. If you prefer to have a black and white paper copy mailed to you please let adjutant Kevin Atchison know.

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## **Division Reunion and Elections**

As required by the Florida Division Constitution prior to Division Elections the Commander has appointed a committee to receive and review resumes of members in good standing who wish to be considered for nomination to an office.

The following members are not seeking elective office and have agreed to serve on this committee. Compatriot Richard Lee, Chairman - [leer40@hotmail.com](mailto:leer40@hotmail.com), Compatriot Randy Bender - [randyscvcamp1316@msn.com](mailto:randyscvcamp1316@msn.com), Compatriot James S. Davis - [scvcamp1316@att.net](mailto:scvcamp1316@att.net)

A resume shall be e-mailed to each of the members of the nominating committee. Resumes must be in the hands of the committee no later than the close of business April 17, 2010. Upon review of the resumes the committee will prepare a list of nominees for consideration. The list will be presented by one of the nominating committee members at the Division Reunion in Ocala, Fl. Florida Division Commander Doug Dawson

## **Awards**

**From:** [scvcamp1316@att.net](mailto:scvcamp1316@att.net) [<mailto:scvcamp1316@att.net>]

With the Division Reunion just around the corner it is time for our Brigade Commanders and their Camps to identify those individuals deserving of awards.

All recommendations for awards must be received NLT April 20, 2010 in order to be ready for the Division Reunion. Per the Division Commander, any requests received after April 20th will not be processed till after the National Reunion.

Recommendations should be forwarded to me and please ensure names are spelled correctly. The names will appear on the awards the way I receive them.

If you have any questions please contact me.

For The Commander, Jim Davis Adjutant, Florida Division

**Camp 1387 members** – Please think about our past year and individuals, both members and non members, who have supported our efforts. These folks deserve recognition, let Commander Young or any officer know who you think deserves an award.

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