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Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp 129  
Waco, TX



## November 2024 Newsletter

The Veteran's Day Parade will be on Monday, November 11. Those interested in participating must arrive at the First Methodist Church on Austin Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets no later than 10:30 a.m. Please let Bobby Fears know if you are interested in participating.

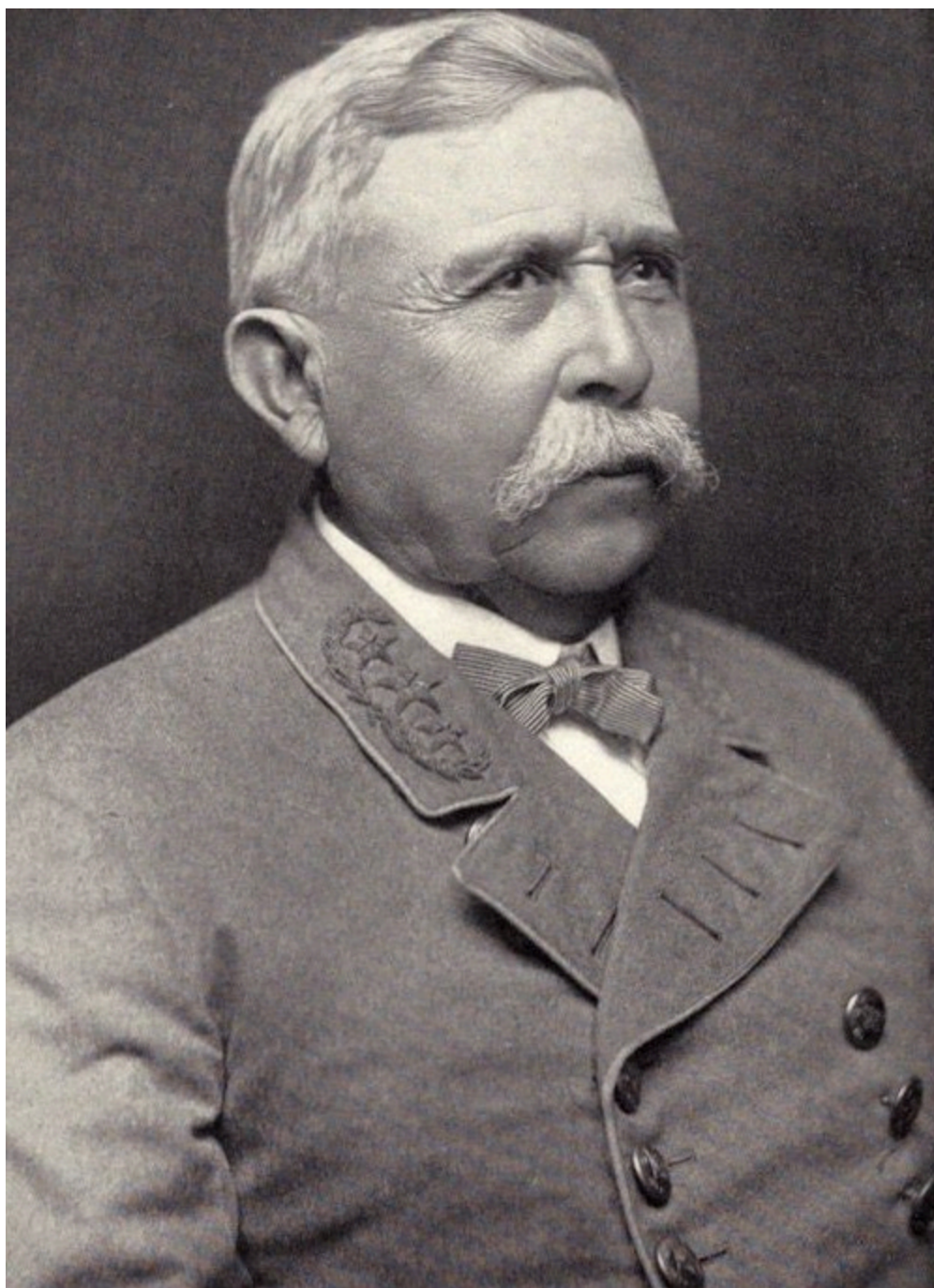
While shopping, please pick up a toy or game for a needy child. The camp will be taking up donations at the November 12 meeting. Camp Member Butch Luce and his wife, Susan, will deliver the toys to the appropriate donation site.

A reminder that flags will need to be placed on graves at 1st Street Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery. Bobby Fears will get with some camp members and devise a plan. Ideally, this will be on the 8th and 10th. If you are interested, let me know. If you want to put flags out on your own at a different location, please feel free to do so.

Trash pick-up will be on November 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We'll meet at Fletcher Cemetery and start there.

The Hubbard Christmas market (Magnolias and Mistletoe) is on December 7 at the Civic Center in Hubbard. Ann Westbrook has a block schedule of 9:00–11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., and 2:00 –4:00 p.m. If you can help, please let Bobby or Ann know. We have yet to pay for the booth because Ann cannot work this alone. She will require help with setup and breakdown.

*"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*



Robertson. Much can be said about this great general in his service during and after the war in Texas. He was the only general who was a native-born Texan. Not only that, but he and his father, Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, were the only other father-son generals on either side of the war besides Gen. Robert E. Lee and his sons. After the war, Robertson chose Waco as his permanent home. He began to study and practice law, while also being inspirational in the area to stand up against the Yankee invasion known as Reconstruction. He passed away on April 20, 1928, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. He left behind one last legacy as being the last surviving Confederate General.



## Commander's Comments

by Bobby Fears

Hello everybody! I hope the Halloween festivities were good to you, at least your sweet tooth!

It is a busy month for us: trash pick up on the 9th and the Veteran's Day Parade on the 11th.

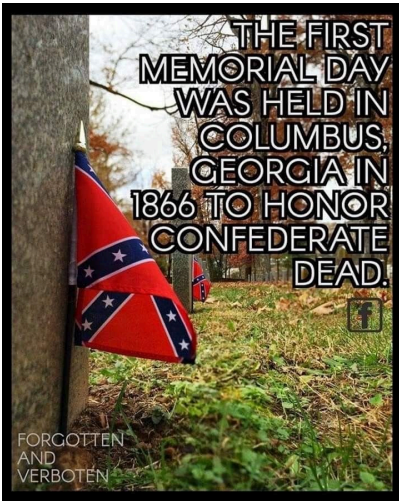
Trash pickup will begin at 0830 a.m. on the 9th. We will meet at Fletcher Cemetery. For the Veteran's Day Parade, we'll meet at the parking lot of First Methodist Waco Downtown, located between 13th and 14th streets, bordered by Austin and Franklin Streets, at 10ish. The parade starts at 1100 a.m. Due to parade repositioning and updated info, there may be a different rendezvous site. Right now, you can go with the first one, and any changes will be implemented.

In all this, we need to put flags out at 1st Street Cemetery and Oakwood. If you can help out with that, that would be glorious. I'll get with some camp members and devise a tentative plan.

Also, anyone interested in helping with the booth at Magnolias and Mistletoe in Hubbard should contact me or Ann.

This month's talk will be an "open mike" night. Ideally, we should discuss anything related to the camp, TX division, or National.

See y'all there!



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## Lt. Commander's Comments

by Markham Dossett

On November 5, America voted, and today, it is clear that the majority of hard-working, tax-paying citizens value freedom, lower taxes, less regulation, and STATES RIGHTS. These are the same causes our ancestors fought for in the WAR of SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE. It was very disheartening to see America descend into a socialist, overbearing, and over-regulated country during 12 of the last 16 years. But now, we should return to a more balanced governance that respects the rights of individuals and the individual states. We should all celebrate by turning out for our WACO Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11, at 11:00 am. Many of our camp members are Veterans of Wars in our own experience but still choose to honor the bravery and sacrifice of Our CONFEDERATE ancestors. They got no parade as they returned home after a brutal war that lasted 4 years. And we honor the many who are killed in action and are buried in states far away.

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by John Dickey

Greetings Compatriots!

On October 24, 1861, the first intercontinental telegraph was sent from San Francisco to President Lincoln in Washington, DC. Construction crews had completed "stringing wire" from coast to coast, meaning that certain special messages would be received in hours instead of weeks. Most telegraph lines followed the railroads across the country, which made it easier to plant the poles for the telegraph wire.

In 1861, the Army Communications Corps constructed the telegraph system across much of the U.S. It was also responsible for the signal Flag Corps, which was the primary method of battlefield communications. The Army combined the two divisions and created a new combined division during the war to become the Army Signal Corps. The new division became responsible for all the communication systems. Most of the telegraph systems were built along the railroads since those companies had cleared the land for their railroads.

However, both the North and the South built their own telegraph systems, on occasion, sometimes they were using each other's lines. This presented an unusual problem, because each side also used the same Morse Code system to send messages. Consequently, both sides developed a cryptographic system in order to disguise their messages. Both sides would often string their lines deep into the wilderness for their own use, trying to split the differences to get closer to their battle lines.

Telegraphers carried various code books and cyphering systems so that they could immediately decipher messages and send them quickly to the battlefields. In addition, the wig wag system was also being used. Again, both sides were using the same signaling system, and each had its own deciphering system. The wig-wag system utilizes colored flag banners being waved in a specialized, methodical manner.

The use of the telegraph system during war-time, was once again, another modernized weapon that would go on to revolutionized the way of war.



## Book Reviews

by Cary Bogan

more consequential battles of the war. It caused far more casualties than First Manassas, and resulted in the incapacitation of General Joe Johnston, causing Robert E. Lee to take command of the soon to be named Army of Northern Virginia. The battle resulted in 11,000 plus casualties in two days, comparable to Shiloh's 13,000 plus in two days. This concise, to the point book, looks at the battle by comparing the manner in which the Northern generals conducted the battle as opposed to how their Southern counterparts conducted their side of the battle. In summary, the Northern generals conducted a far more effective battle than their Southern counterparts, with the exception of D.H. Hill. In particular, Joe Johnston, who made the overall plan, and James Longstreet, who had the most important bit in the execution, both failed badly. Two Union corps were separated from the rest of the army by a swollen river, making them, for a period at least, isolated from the rest of the Army of the Potomac. The Confederate attack was disjointed, and did not land a solid blow, enabling other U.S. commanders to march to the support of these units. A magnificent opportunity was missed, which would not come again.

"James Longstreet and the American Civil War: The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War", by Harold M. Knudsen, published by Savas Beatie. This book is a sympathetic look at James Longstreet, using modern U.S. military doctrine as a template. In the author's view Longstreet was a man ahead of his time in his recognition of the primacy of the tactical defense. Also, his offensive operations were far more sophisticated and successful than most of his contemporaries in both armies. On the attack his units were extremely successful at Second Manassas, Chickamauga, and the Wilderness. His attack at Gettysburg on July 2d, though ultimately unsuccessful, inflicted more casualties than it suffered and came close to success. Only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at Gettysburg did he, without a doubt, fail in an attack. Even if you are not a member of the Longstreet fan club this is an fascinating book.

"Southern Cross: A New View of Leonidas Polk and His Clashes with Braxton Bragg", by Amanda Low Warren, published by McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers. This book is a vigorous defense of one of the most maligned Southern generals, Leonidas Polk. In particular, the book delves deeply into the relationship between Polk and his seemingly mortal enemy. I thoroughly enjoyed this book because it carefully examines some of the really contested episodes in the Confederate Army of Tennessee. At the end of the book you might just ask yourself if Polk was really as bad as he is made out to be.

Brands, published by Doubleday. I am a fan of the historian H.W. Brands, and have read many of his books; therefore, despite it's yankee subject matter I decided to read this one. I did not enjoy this one, and would not recommend it. It seemed to me that the author did not have a really firm grasp of his subject matter. I have read Grant books, and have gotten something out of them. Maybe it is because of the recent Grant books that I have reviewed on this page.

"Russia's War: A History of the Soviet War Effort: 1941-1945", by Richard Overy, published by Penguin Books. This book is an excellent compact history of the Soviet Unions war effort during World War II from the military, political, logistical, diplomatic, and societal viewpoints.

"The Philadelphia Campaign 1777", by Michael C. Harris, published by Casemate Publishers. This book is a heavily illustrated summary history of the campaign that resulted in the British capture of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. It is a volume in the Casemate Illustrated History.

"The German Infantryman on the Eastern Front", by Simon Forty and Richard Charlton-Taylor, published by Casemate Publishers. This is a volume from the same series as the previous book which concentrates on the routine, equipment, training, tactics, and other details of the Eastern Front German infantryman.

## Upcoming Events!

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