

Quarterly Report (March – May 2025)

Texas Division

First Lieutenant Commander



Current Heritage Defense Issues:

This will be my final Quarterly Report as the Division 1st Lt Commander. It's been quite a ride and I am very pleased that these past 2 years will end with the "opposition" defeated and in disarray. I do not believe that any *credible* threats currently exist against us in the State. Can we sleep now? **NO!** Vigilance, by all of us, will be an on-going, unending condition. Take pride in our accomplishments, but never turn your back... **Update:** As of this writing, the Williamson County Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Memorial was vandalized *twice* during the week of 12 May – once with spray paint, the other with some sort of industrial varnish. The County acted very quickly and cleaned it up. The Georgetown PD has commenced an active investigation. Security cameras show a young woman, apparently acting alone, as the vandal in both cases. The Grays have posted a \$1000 reward for her arrest and conviction.

Following up on the earlier vandalism of the Williamson County Confederate Memorial, the suspect continues to evade justice, but probably not for long. He is currently scheduled for trial in August. Congressman John Carter has a high interest in this case and his representative has attended all the previous hearings. I am fairly confident that he will be convicted.

I, along with several other SCV members and associates of Texas Historical organizations, formed a Legislative Task Force (LTF) to advocate for the adoption of a new comprehensive Monument Protection Bill in the Texas Legislature (SB 317 in the Senate and HB 3227 in the House). We have visited key members of the Texas Senate and House and testified before Committees considering the Bills. As of this writing, these Bills have been favorably passed out of the respective committees charged with handling them, but a final, amended bill has not been scheduled for a floor vote in either chamber.

Activities:

2 Mar – On the Georgetown Square with the Williamson County Grays to observe Texas Independence/Secession Day.

4 Mar – Participated in a zoom meeting with the LTF.

6 Mar – Monthly meeting of the Williamson County Grays (WCG).

13 Mar – Attended monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission (WCHC).

14 Mar – Attended Special Meeting of the Williamson County Commissioners Court to discuss procedures to select a new County Judge (Judge Bill Gravelle resigned on 11 March to take a position with the Trump administration).

20 Mar - Attended monthly meeting of the Austin Civil War Round Table (ACWRT).

25 Mar – Participated in LTF Zoom meeting.

29 Mar – Attended Division Executive Council (DEC) meeting in Waco.

30 Mar – Participated with the WCG in flagging Confederate and Union Veterans Graves (~ 160) at Georgetown's International Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Cemetery for Confederate History and Heritage Month.

3 Apr – Attended monthly WCG meeting.

9 Apr – Visited numerous State legislators at the Texas Capitol with WCG Camp 1st Lt Commander, Johnny Anderson, to advocate for passage of Monument Protection Bills (SB 317 and HB 3227).

10 Apr – In San Antonio with ATM Commander McCammon and a 6th Brigade Leadership Team to install a new Commander for the Hood's Texas Brigade Camp #153.

12 Apr – Attended a Bell County Confederate History and Heritage Month Observance with the Major Robert M. White Camp # 1250, (Temple) at the Bell County Confederate Memorial (Belton) and the South Belton Cemetery.

15 Apr – Attended the funeral of past Texas UDC President Sandra Giarusso in Austin.

17 Apr – Participated in monthly ACWRT meeting via Zoom.

18 Apr – Attended “Paul Revere's Ride” Presentation on the Georgetown Square.

19 Apr – Attended the annual Texas Division Picnic at the Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia.

21 Apr – Attended the Swearing-In Ceremony for newly selected Williamson County Judge Steven Snell.

22 April – With WCG Commander Billy Ayers and our Ladies, attended the Hendrickson High School (Pflugerville) Marine Corps JROTC Awards program. We presented the 5 Division JROTC Awards to deserving Cadets.

25-27 Apr – Participated with the WCG at the Annual Georgetown Red Poppy Festival on the Square. Visited with hundreds of people; very few negative encounters.

29 Apr (1300) – Attended Pre-Trial Hearing for the vandal, Reiss Funicelli. Another delay.

29 Apr (1900) – Participated in LTF Zoom meeting.

1 May (0800) – Attended and testified at the House *Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee* meeting considering HB 3227 (Monument Protection). The bill was favorably passed out of Committee, but, as of this writing, has not been scheduled for a floor vote.

1 May (1330) – Attended what was to be the Arraignment of vandal, Reiss Funicelli, at the 368th District Court in Georgetown. However, whatever discussion there was, was discussed behind closed doors. Nonetheless, he is scheduled for another pre-trial hearing on 29 May. I will be in attendance again.

1 May (1900) – Attended monthly meeting of the Williamson County Grays.

3 May – Presented 5 SCV JROTC medals at the Awards ceremony for the Army JROTC Detachment at Westside High School in Houston.

8 May – Attended monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

10 May – Participated with Camp 1st Lt Commander Johnny Anderson and the Williamson County Cemetery Restoration Volunteers in restoring the grave marker and gravesite of Private John W. Nalley, Texas State Troops.

20 May – Addressed the Williamson County Commissioners Court regarding the recent vandalism of the Williamson County Confederate Memorial. Commissioner Covey has called me twice to assure me that the County is doing all they can to bring the perpetrator to justice and prevent, as much as possible, future incidents. The Court has been very supportive for most of the last 5 years.

Subject to your questions,

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby K. Little

1st Lt Commander

Texas Division

Sons of Confederate Veterans