

THE TEXAS CONFEDERATE

SUMMER 2026

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TO THE
CONFEDERATE
SOLDIERS & SAILORS
OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY
ERECTED BY THE
UNITED DAUGHTERS
OF THE CONFEDERACY
1916.

COUNTER

A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE NEWSLETTER



Compatriots,

Welcome to The Texas Confederate.

For more than a year, the Texas Division has been without a regular publication. As we prepared to bring it back, we had an opportunity to do more than simply restart what we had before. We could rethink what a Division publication should be and how we can use it to better inform, connect, and engage our members.

The result is what you are reading today.

The Texas Confederate is being designed as a digital magazine rather than a traditional newsletter. That distinction is important. Our goal is not to fill pages with reports of meetings attended or lists of routine activities. We want to tell stories worth reading—stories about our camps, our members, Texas history, preservation, important events, and the work being accomplished throughout the Division.



Moving to digital distribution gives us opportunities that simply weren't practical with a printed newsletter. Photographs can play a much larger role. Links can take you directly to additional information. QR codes can connect a printed copy to online material. Most importantly, future issues can incorporate video and other multimedia content that allows us to tell our stories in ways a traditional publication never could.

You will see that philosophy reflected throughout this first issue. We look back at our Texas Division Reunion in Tyler and the recent National Reunion in Lexington. Camp Spotlight introduces you to one of our outstanding camps and the people behind its success. Around the Division will show what our camps are doing across Texas, while Texas History Corner gives us an opportunity to explore the people, places, and events that shaped our state.

You will also notice something different about the cover. Each issue of The Texas Confederate will feature a Texas Confederate monument or other significant historic site. These monuments are tangible connections to the generations that came before us, and showcasing them gives us another opportunity to tell their stories.

But this publication cannot be produced from one desk. There are more than 90 camps across Texas, and some of the best stories in the Division are happening in those local communities. We need photographs, stories, historical discoveries, successful projects, unusual events, and ideas from our camps. If your camp is doing something others ought to know about, send it to us. Don't just tell us that you held an event—tell us the story.

The Texas Confederate will continue to evolve. Some ideas will work. Others will change. New capabilities will be added as we learn what our members find useful and enjoyable. But the objective will remain constant: to create a publication members look forward to receiving and actually want to read.

This is our first issue and our new beginning.

I hope you enjoy it.

Johnny Anderson

Editor

The Texas Confederate



Compatriots,

I am very pleased to introduce the newly revamped Texas Division Newsletter – *The Texas Confederate*. Compatriot and Division Public Relations Officer, Johnny Anderson, has graciously accepted the assignment of Division Newsletter Editor. He brings a wealth of talent, experience, and skills to this important post. I know that he will appreciate your inputs, stories, photos, and announcements of Brigade and Camp activities.

The summer months have been very busy – as usual. Our 130th Texas Division Reunion in June, hosted by the Walker's Greyhounds Camp # 2338 in Tyler, was a great success due to their diligence. Thanks, Greyhounds! In July, we traveled to Lexington, Kentucky for the 131st National SCV Reunion and the election of new SCV National and Department Officers. Congratulations to new SCV Commander-in-Chief, Tony Griffin, Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief, Charles Lauret, and re-elected Army of the Trans-Mississippi Department Commander, John McCammon.

The common thread in both of these major events was the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship that was present in all the activities, both business and social. The Texas turnout was impressive.

Texas Camps and individuals received numerous awards and recognitions for outstanding performance and service at the Camp, Brigade, Division, and National levels. Commanders, at all levels, are commended for submitting our Compatriots for recognition. Awards are gratifying and important to morale. Every grave cleaned, historical program presented, new member welcomed, monument protected, and community project undertaken contributes to the strength of this Division.

As we move into the remainder of 2026, we must remember our accomplishments to date and what we want to accomplish before the end of the year. I encourage every Camp to remain active, visible, and engaged. Support one another, share your successes (and near misses), recruit the next generation, and never lose sight of who we are and why we are here – to honor our ancestors and preserve the history and heritage they entrusted to us.

Thank you for your continued service to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Texas Division. I am proud to serve alongside you.

Deo Vindice!

Shelby Little
Texas Division Commander

130th TEXAS DIVISION REUNION

TYLER, TEXAS • JUNE 2026

Texas Compatriots Gather in Tyler

Members of the Texas Division gathered in Tyler in June for the 130th Texas Division Reunion, bringing together Compatriots from across the state for the annual business of the Division, fellowship, and recognition of outstanding service.

The reunion is more than a business meeting. It is one of the few opportunities each year for members from camps scattered across Texas to come together, renew friendships, exchange ideas, and recognize the work being accomplished throughout the Division.

That work was evident in the many awards presented to camps and individuals during the reunion. There were far too many deserving recipients to recognize individually in these pages, but several of the Division's highest honors deserve special mention.

Division's Highest Honor Goes to Bill Elliott

Texas Division Chief of Staff Bill Elliott received the Deo Vindice Award, the highest individual honor presented by the Texas Division.

The award recognizes exceptional service to the Division and honored Elliott's leadership and contributions to the organization. As Chief of Staff, Elliott works closely with the Division Commander, Division officers, and camps in carrying out the work of the Texas Division.

His selection for the Deo Vindice Award was fitting recognition of that service and one of the highlights of the reunion.



DEO VINDICE AWARD
Bill Elliott
Texas Division Chief of Staff

Anderson Named Confederate of the Year



Confederate of the Year
Johnny Anderson
Texas Division Public Relations Officer

Johnny Anderson was named the Texas Division's 2026 Confederate of the Year in recognition of his service to the Division.

The award was presented during the reunion in Tyler and recognizes outstanding service and contributions to the work of the Texas Division.

Anderson serves as the Division's Public Relations Officer and is a member of the Williamson County Grays Camp #502.

DIVISION REUNION CONTINUED

Camps Recognized for Excellence

Individual achievement was only part of the recognition in Tyler. Camps from across Texas were honored for excellence in membership, communications, programs, and overall performance.

Distinguished Camp Awards

#1 Distinguished Camp, Robert E. Lee #239
 #2 Superior Camp, W. W. Heartsill #314
 #3 Outstanding Camp, Albert Sidney Johnston #983

Camp Growth Awards

Large Camp Award— Major Robert M White Camp #1250
 Small Camp Award— 4th Texas Field Battery Camp #2358

Four Star Camp Awards

Terry's Texas Rangers Camp #1937
 W. W. Heartsill Camp #314
 R. E. Lee Camp #239
 Walker's Greyhounds Camp #2338
 Major James Innes Randolph Jr. Camp #2255
 34th Texas Cavalry Camp #2283
 Major Robert M. White Camp #1250

These honors represent only a portion of the work being accomplished throughout the Texas Division. Behind every award are Compatriots volunteering their time, strengthening their camps, caring for historic graves and sites, conducting educational programs, participating in their communities, and preserving the memory of the Confederate soldier.

But awards are only one part of a Division Reunion. Much of its value comes from the conversations between sessions, the exchange of ideas among camps, and the opportunity to renew friendships with Compatriots who may see one another only a few times each year.

Gallery





Texas Makes Its Presence Known in Lexington

Compatriots from across the country gathered in Lexington, Kentucky, July 15–18 for the 131st Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Texas was well represented, participating in the business of the national organization, renewing friendships with fellow Compatriots, and returning home with an impressive collection of national honors.

By the third business session, 156 camps were represented, accounting for 670 voting delegates. Texas was well represented, and one of the proudest moments for the Texas delegation came when Division Commander Shelby Little received the Robert E. Lee Award, recognizing his leadership and service to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Robert E. Lee Award Presented to Shelby Little

As Commander of the Texas Division, Little has led one of the largest divisions in the SCV while working with camps and members across the state. His recognition in Lexington placed a Texas Division leader among those receiving one of the organization's significant national honors.

Little was far from the only Texan recognized.

Mackey Fair received the Leadership Award, joining a strong group of Texas Compatriots recognized for outstanding service at the national level. Texans also received numerous Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service awards, reflecting contributions in leadership, preservation, communications, and service to the SCV. The complete list of Texas Division members receiving national honors appears on the following page.

Texas camps also received national recognition. W. W. Heartsill Camp #314 of Marshall earned the SCV ATM Outstanding Camp Award and the General Samuel Cooper Website Award, adding national honors to an already impressive list of awards received at the Texas Division Reunion.



Texas Division at the National Reunion

131ST NATIONAL REUNION CONTINUED

A New National Leadership Team

The National Reunion is also the annual business meeting of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and delegates in Lexington selected the officers who will lead the organization during the coming term.

Anthony Griffin of Virginia, who had been serving as Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief, was unopposed for Commander-in-Chief and was elected by acclamation.

The contested race for Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief was won by Charles Lauret of Louisiana, who defeated Roy Hudson of Florida.

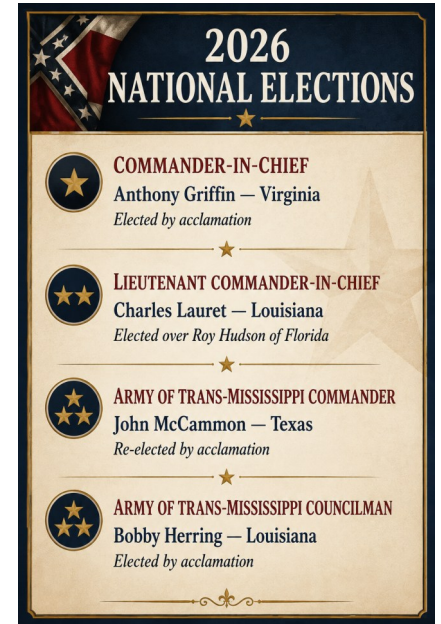
Texas also retained an important position in the Army of Trans-Mississippi. John McCammon of Texas was unopposed and re-elected ATM Commander by acclamation. Bobby Herring of Louisiana was likewise unopposed for ATM Councilman and elected by acclamation.

More Than Business

National Reunions are about more than elections, resolutions, and awards. For the Texans who made the trip to Lexington, the gathering offered something that cannot be duplicated through email or online meetings: the opportunity to spend time with fellow Compatriots from across the country.

Those personal connections are an important part of a national organization. Ideas that work in one camp or Division can be carried home and adapted elsewhere. Members who may communicate throughout the year finally have an opportunity to meet face-to-face. And Texas has an opportunity to participate directly in shaping the future of the national organization.

When the 131st National Reunion concluded, Texas returned home with national awards, continued representation in the Army of Trans-Mississippi leadership, and the distinction of seeing its Division Commander honored with the Robert E. Lee Award.



Texas Division National Awards Winners

Dixie Club	Commendation Award	Meritorious Service Medal	Distinguished Service Medal
Bronze—Bob Hazelwood Certificate—James Bozeman Certificate—Dusty Kobs Certificate—James Turnage	Bobby Deiss Robert Marcotte Dennis Beal Joe Allcock Jr Robert Opiela William Carroll Albert Colvin Carleton Wilkes John Christensen John Estill David Bush John McCammon James Cox Bob Hazelwood James Bozeman Billy Ayers Johnny Anderson	Bob Hazelwood Allen Bourne Tom Henigan Daryl Ware Thomas Scarborough Albert Colvin Richard Smoot Joe Allcock Jr Tommy Holmes Bruce Cunningham Mark Brown	Bruce Engleman James Harvey Dalton Hand Bob Hazelwood Robert Craig Bill Elliott Gary Bray Shelby Little Johnny Anderson Charles Thacker
Superior Achievement			
James Turnage Jimmy Tounge			
Leadership Award			
Mackey Fair			



CAMP SPOTLIGHT



★ W. W. HEARTSILL CAMP #314 • MARSHALL, TEXAS ★

East Texas Camp Earns Honors at Division and National Reunions

The W. W. Heartsill Camp #314 in Marshall has built a strong record of service, fellowship, historic preservation, and communication—work recognized at both the Texas Division and SCV National reunions in 2026.

Chartered November 4, 2003, the camp was organized to establish an SCV presence in the Marshall area. Today, its members remain active in community events and the preservation of graves, monuments, and local history.

The camp earned five honors at the 2026 Texas Division Reunion: 100% Retention, Four Star Camp, Best Newsletter, Best Website, and Superior Camp. At the National Reunion in Lexington, Heartsill added the SCV ATM Outstanding Camp Award and the General Samuel Cooper Website Award.

Those seven awards reflect more than success in individual categories. Together, they recognize a camp that retains and engages its members, communicates effectively, and remains active in its community.

Carrying a Marshall Legacy

The camp is named for William Williston Heartsill (1839–1916), a Confederate veteran, Marshall civic leader and author of the important wartime journal *Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days in the Confederate Army*, who later served as commander of Marshall's W. P. Lane Camp No. 621, United Confederate Veterans.

CAMP LEADERSHIP

- ★ **Commander**
Robb McMahan
- ★ **1st Lt. Commander**
Pete Craig
- ★ **2nd Lt. Commander**
Daryl P. Ware
- ★ **Adjutant**
Franklin Crisp Jr.
- ★ **Chaplain**
Dick Brassell
- ★ **Sergeant at Arms**
T. J. Henigan



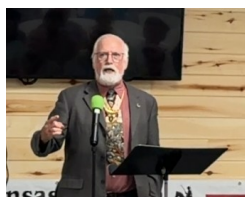


Blair Confederate Cemetery Flag Raising

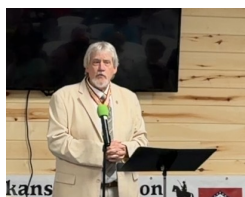
On August 22, approximately 300 compatriots and guests from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana gathered near Doddridge, Arkansas, to honor 30 members of Burnett's 13th Texas Cavalry who died from disease while the regiment was moving through Arkansas in the summer of 1862. Twenty-nine of the soldiers had mustered into Confederate service at Crockett, Texas, and one in neighboring Anderson County. Seven are buried at Camp Blair Confederate Cemetery, while the burial locations of the other 23, believed to have been interred near the historic Walnut Hill community in Lafayette County, have been lost to time.

During the program at the Doddridge Community Center, the names, companies and dates of death of all 30 Texans were solemnly read aloud. Among those participating were Texas Division Commander Shelby Little; Arkansas and Louisiana Division leaders; Army of the Trans-Mississippi Commander John McCammon; Texas Division UDC President Gina Smith; SCV Lt. Commander-in-Chief Charles Lauret; and past SCV Commanders-in-Chief. Following the program, attendees traveled to Camp Blair Confederate Cemetery, where Commander Little presented a new Texas flag donated by the Texas Division. The Lone Star flag was raised above the graves of the seven Texans as Taps sounded across the cemetery—a fitting tribute, 164 years after these soldiers left Texas and never returned home.

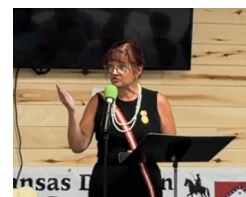
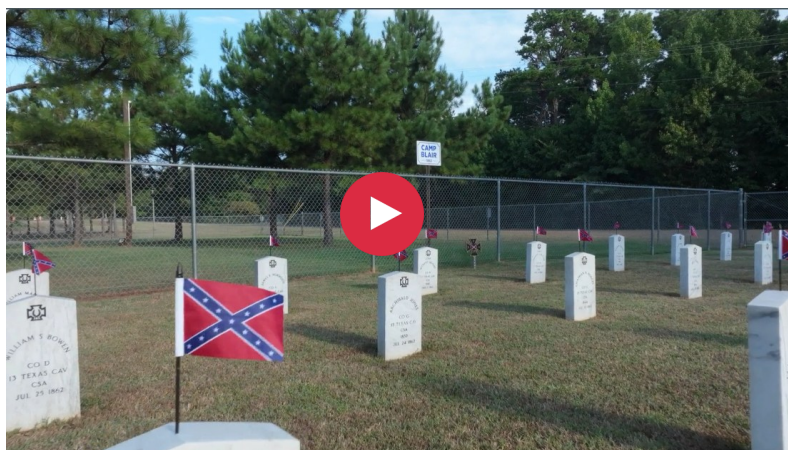
CLICK IMAGE TO PLAY VIDEO



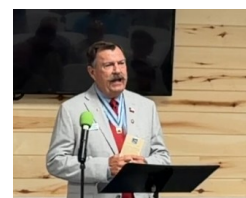
DONNY KENNEDY



CHUCK MCMICHAEL



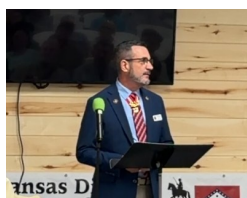
GINA SMITH



JOHN MCCAMMON



ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE



CHARLES LAURET



ROLL CALL



SHELBY LITTLE

AROUND THE DIVISION, CONTINUED

CONFEDERATE FLAG RAISING
2ND FRONTIER DISTRICT CAMP, DE LEON, TX



SALT WORKS CAMP
KINGSLAND FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
CLICK IMAGE TO PLAY VIDEO



WILLIAMSON COUNTY GRAYS
HOLLAND CORNFEST
CLICK IMAGE TO PLAY VIDEO



R.E. LEE CAMP
MEMORIAL DAY, CROWLEY CEMETERY CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL





Protecting Texas History Before It Disappears

Across Texas, monuments and memorials stand in courthouse squares, parks, cemeteries, and on public grounds. They were placed there by earlier generations to remember the people and events they believed should not be forgotten.

Today, many of those monuments have no permanent protection.

During the past several years, Texas has witnessed the removal, relocation, alteration, and vandalism of historic monuments. Confederate monuments have frequently been at the center of these controversies, but the principle extends far beyond Confederate history. If longstanding monuments can be removed whenever political attitudes change, no part of Texas history is permanently secure.

Preparing for the 90th Legislature

The Texas Division, working through SaveTexasMonuments.org and with other preservation organizations, is preparing for the 90th Session of the Texas Legislature.

During the previous session, House Bill 3227 and Senate Bill 317 advanced through committee but did not receive final floor votes. That experience is helping shape a stronger approach for the coming session.

One of the central ideas under consideration is a 40-year protection standard. Monuments and memorials that have stood for 40 years or longer would receive the strongest protection against removal or alteration. More recent monuments would receive graduated protections, while communities would remain free to add historical context and interpretation.

The principle is simple: a monument that has stood in a Texas community for generations should not disappear because a temporary majority decides it no longer approves of the history it represents.

A law must also have consequences. The legislation being developed would therefore combine protections for historic monuments with meaningful financial penalties when governmental entities violate those protections.

That is why SaveTexasMonuments.org is working to build a broader coalition of historians, preservationists, heritage organizations, and concerned Texans around one simple principle: **All Texas History Matters**

Members of the Texas Division will have an important role as the legislative session approaches. Relationships with legislators must be built, local monuments documented, and other preservation organizations brought into the effort.

Heritage defense does not begin when the crane arrives.

It begins long before that—with research, education, organization, and legislation designed to ensure that the tangible reminders of Texas history remain standing for generations to come.



TEXAS HISTORY CORNER

OUR HERITAGE • OUR STATE • OUR STORY



Texans in the Atlanta Campaign

From the Mountains of North Georgia to the Fall of Atlanta

In the summer of 1864, some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War unfolded along the roads, ridges, and railroads of North Georgia. For nearly four months, Confederate forces under General Joseph E. Johnston—and later General John Bell Hood—contested Major General William T. Sherman's advance toward Atlanta, and Texans were there throughout the campaign.

Beginning near Dalton in May, Sherman's armies repeatedly maneuvered around Johnston's defensive positions, forcing the Confederates steadily southward. The campaign carried both armies through places whose names soon became part of Civil War history: Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, the Chattahoochee River, Atlanta, and Jonesboro.



Among the Texans fighting in the campaign were Granbury's Texas Brigade, Ector's Brigade, Sul Ross's Cavalry Brigade, Terry's Texas Rangers, and Douglass's Texas Battery of Artillery.

At Pickett's Mill on May 27, Granbury's Texans occupied a critical portion of the Confederate line when Union troops launched a determined assault. The attack ended in a costly Federal defeat. The Texans' performance there became one of the best-known episodes of their service during the Atlanta Campaign.

The campaign, however, was not decided in a single battle. Sherman continued extending and shifting his armies around the Confederate positions, while Johnston repeatedly withdrew to avoid being trapped. By July, the Confederates had been pushed to the outskirts of Atlanta.

President Jefferson Davis then made one of the campaign's most consequential decisions. Johnston was relieved of command and replaced by John Bell Hood, a commander closely associated with Texas through his leadership of Hood's Texas Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Hood immediately adopted a more aggressive strategy. Battles followed at Peachtree Creek, east of Atlanta, and Ezra Church, but the Confederates were unable to break Sherman's grip around the city.

Finally, Sherman shifted forces south toward the railroads supplying Atlanta. At Jonesboro on August 31 and September 1, Granbury's Texans were again among the Confederate troops engaged. With the railroad severed and Atlanta no longer tenable, Hood ordered the city evacuated.

On September 2, 1864, Union troops entered Atlanta.

The campaign had lasted nearly four months and carried the armies roughly 100 miles from the mountains of North Georgia to one of the Confederacy's most important cities. For the Texans who fought there, it had been an almost continuous ordeal of marching, digging, skirmishing, fighting, and falling back—only to repeat the process a few miles farther south.

Their story is one chapter in a much larger campaign, but it is a distinctly Texas chapter.

WATCH THE STORY

The Lone Star Warriors episode, "The Atlanta Campaign," follows the Texans through the campaign and visits many of the places where they fought https://youtu.be/_AguJIgEKjM



HONOR THEIR MEMORY.
TEACH THEIR LEGACY.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

A PROJECT OF THE TEXAS DIVISION,
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ TEACH



Each December, we have the opportunity to say "Thank You."

Wreaths Across America is a national remembrance effort to ensure that every veteran's grave is honored with a wreath during the Christmas season.



REMEMBER the fallen.



HONOR those who served.



TEACH our history to future generations.



Through your sponsorship, a wreath will be placed on the grave of a Confederate veteran at a participating cemetery in Texas. Your gift is a visible tribute and a lasting expression of gratitude for the sacrifices made on our behalf.

SPONSOR
A WREATH
TODAY!



BE A PART OF OUR MISSION
SPONSOR A WREATH
HONOR. REMEMBER. TEACH.

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SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS ★ TEXAS DIVISION