



Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Ga.

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



Volume 4, Issue 12

March, 2010

## Camp Officers:

**Commander: Tommy Cook**

[1st. Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:1st.Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org)

**2nd. Lt. Cmdr: Joe Underwood**

[2nd Lt. Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:2nd.Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org)

**Camp Adjutant: Steve Camp**

[Adjutant@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:Adjutant@joewheeler863scv.org)

## Coming Events

March 13, 2010 - **Middlebrooks Cemetary Clean-up Day** - Highway 81 South of Proterdale.

March 20, 2010 - **Joseph E. Johnston Statue Detication** - Bentonville, NC.  
[www.generaljosephejohnston.com](http://www.generaljosephejohnston.com)

July 21 - 25, 2010 - **SCV National Reunion** - Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center, Anderson, SC.

## Inside this issue:

**"Our Commanders Comments"**

By: Commander Tommy Cook

2

**"Message from the CiC"**

By: Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael

2

3

**"Local Hero's on "The Wall""**

By: 2nd Lt. Cmdr. J. H. Underwood

3

**"The Wall"** From: "The Virtual Wall, [www.virtualwall.com](http://www.virtualwall.com)" (Continued from page 1.)

4



## "The Wall"

"The Virtual Wall, [www.VirtualWall.org](http://www.VirtualWall.org)"



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, USA, "The Wall" now has carved into it the names of the 58,260 American military personnel ([eight were women](#)) who were direct casualties of the war, including about 1300 who are still considered Missing In Action (MIA).

When The Wall was built, there were 57,159 names. A few names have been added each year: those where lost records of wartime death were found later or those names of men who died after the war from physical injuries as a result of the war. Each of the branches of the Department of Defense made and continues to make the determinations of eligibility.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) raised the money from donations of more than 275,000 private citizens and organizations.

Jan Scruggs was president of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund (VVMF). Robert Doubek was Executive Director of VVMF and project director to build the Memorial. Doubek also spent hundreds of hours personally creating the one list of names from many different sources from the Department of Defense.

There was a contest for the design of the Memorial. A jury of eight prominent artists and architects considered 1,421 design

entries. The design submitted by Maya Ying Lin, a 21 year-old architecture student at Yale University won the design competition. Maya Lin was born in Ohio; her parents had fled the communist takeover of China in 1949. A formal ground breaking ceremony was held on March 26, 1982.



The names are arranged by date of casualty, as a continuous flow of names with no demarcation of dates. The earliest casualties are named just to the right of where the two Walls meet, under the large date 1959, on line 1 of panel 1E (east). The names continue to line 2 of panel 1E, down to the bottom of panel 1E, then to the top of panel 2E. That pattern continues to the east end of the East Wall, where panel 70E has names of 4 men who died on May 24, 1968 and 1 man who died on May 25, 1968. May 25 continues at the far end of the West Wall, at panel 70W. The names continue from there back to the center, where the last casualties are listed at the bottom of panel 1W. The names of the last and first casualties are thereby near each other to form a closed circle, described as "a wound that is closed and healing." Within any given day, the names are arranged alphabetically.

The year "1975" is carved on the bottom of panel 1W because that was the year of the last American casualties. The US military left Vietnam in March, 1973 in agreement with the Paris Peace Accords. The US was no longer involved in the war, although a few US Marines were left to guard the embassy. In April, 1975, North Vietnam forces swept through the south. A US Navy ship involved with rescuing American military and civilians came under heavy fire, killing and wounding several Marines and sailors. Those killed are listed above the "1975."

When The Wall was built, it was thought the first American military casualties occurred in 1959. After The Wall was erected, two families brought forth proof that two American military advisors were killed by artillery fire in Vietnam in 1957. Their names were added to panel 1E but it was decided to not correct the carved date, which would deface The Wall.

A small symbol is carved next to each name. A diamond indicates "killed, body recovered". A small percentage of names have a plus sign, indicating "Missing In Action" which has been officially renamed "killed: body not recovered". The plus sign was chosen because it could be changed to a diamond if the person's remains were found, or a circle could be carved around it if that person returned alive. Since The Wall

Continued on page 4



# Our Commanders Comments



By: Commander Tommy Cook



Fellow members and friends of Joe Wheeler Camp 863,

I would like thank each and every member who attended the

February meeting. We made the decision to clean up the Middlebrooks cemetery that is located south of Porterdale on highway 81. It is the final resting place of at least one Confederate veteran that was in the Georgia State Troops. I visited with the property owners who are adjacent to the cemetery on the left. They were very receptive to us cleaning up the cemetery and offered assistance if needed. In our conversation I asked about piling the debris behind the back wall of cemetery and they felt like it would not be an issue as the area behind the cemetery is a green space for the adjoining neighborhood on the right. The cemetery itself is located in the right of way

of hwy 81 and directly under the power lines. Snapping Shoals has trimmed trees and limbs in the cemetery and left them where they fell. For this reason I do not think that anyone would mind us leaving the debris behind the cemetery especially considering how thick it is. We plan to meet at the site on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to start the clean up. If you can't make it at 9:00 drop in later as we will have plenty to do.



The camp also discussed our April meeting and Confederate Memorial Day. Volunteers within the camp are currently seeking information from the UDC camp in

Monroe in preparation for a joint ceremony. Our camp will commit to either supporting their function or asking them to be a part of ours. The James M. Gresham UDC chapter has always done a great job on Confederate Memorial Day and I believe that we should work together to make this a special occasion.

I look forward to seeing you on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the next camp meeting where we hope to finalize our plans for the cemetery clean up and functions in April.

Your attendance is needed and appreciated; please make it special by joining us!

Yours in the South,

Tommy Cook



# Civil War in the West



From: The National Parks Service website [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



### Did You Know?

The western most battle of the Civil

War was fought within the Pecos National Historic Park in New Mexico. On March 26-28, 1862 the Battle of Glorieta Pass, referred to as "the Gettysburg of the West", was fought near Glorieta, New Mexico.

In 1861, President Jefferson Davis approved Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley's plan to raise a force of Texans to invade New Mexico Terri-

tory. His objectives were to capture military supplies from Union forts in New Mexico and to recruit New Mexicans, Utah Mormons, and Colorado miners to the Confederate cause.





## Message from the CiC



By: *Chuck McMichael, Commander-In-Chief*

Compatriots,

Hopefully many of you are about the work of recruiting new members. In times past, camps would hold new member application that were done late in the fiscal year until the next fiscal year so that the new member would get a full year of membership. ( Our fiscal year being from one reunion to the next)

That is longer necessary. Just a few years ago we passed a way for members to prorate dues. That is paid regular dues plus some extra and that would cover them for the remaining of the year and the next. The benefit of this that that we get our new members now and they are already paid for next year.

I urge all camps to take advantage of this as you sign up new members between the present at the reunion this summer. Below you will find an explanation of how this works in more detail. The information can also be found on our website under *forms and documents*.

Keep up the good work!

Chuck McMichael  
SCV-CiC

### DUES PRORATION

This is the way the prorated dues system works:

The SCV operates on a fiscal year (not calendar) beginning August 1st of one year and going through July 31st of the following year. The current fiscal year, August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010, which will be shown as status 2009 on your roster, and it means the member's dues are paid through July 31, 2010. Additionally, there is a 3 month grace period from August 1st through November 1st when members are still current while camps work to collect the annual dues for the next fiscal year. Dues submissions postmarked after November 1st of each year are subject to a \$5 late fee in addition to the normal \$30 dues. This extra \$5 fee also applies to all delinquent members wishing to reinstate.

If someone reinstates or joins as a new member in February, March, or April 2010 (which is technically the 3rd quarter of our fiscal year) he can pay his \$30 yearly dues and the \$5 processing fee, and he has the option to pay an additional \$15 for a total of \$50 to join for both the current fiscal year as well as the next fiscal year, meaning his dues will be paid through July 31, 2011.

If someone reinstates or joins as a new member in May, June, or July 2010 (which is technically the 4th quarter of our fiscal year) he can pay his \$30 yearly dues and the \$5 processing fee, and he has the option to pay an additional \$7.50 for a total of \$42.50 to join for both the current fiscal year as well as the next fiscal year, meaning his dues will be paid through July 31, 2011.

### IMPORTANT

Please remember that this prorated dues option

is only available when the member pays dues for both the current and next fiscal years. There is not an option to pay only the partial dues for remainder of the current fiscal year. This prorated dues policy, originally adopted at the 2005 Nashville Convention, is a great improvement over the past practice when men who joined during the last six months of the fiscal year had only one option which was to pay the entire \$30 for the remaining months in the fiscal year and the three month grace period. Any new member or reinstatement refusing to take advantage of the proration system in the 3rd or 4th quarter of our fiscal year will be responsible for national dues again beginning Aug. 1st of the next upcoming fiscal year.

\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT JUST SEND THE PARTIAL PRORATED DUES AMOUNT WITHOUT INCLUDING A FULL YEAR'S DUES WITH IT\*\*\*



## Local Hero's on "The Wall"

By: *2nd Lt. Commander Joseph Howar Underwood*



Danny McGee

I graduated from Rockdale County High School in 1965 and I had the honor of personally knowing four out of the five local hero's whose names are forever memorialized on the Vietnam Wall. They are:

**Danny Dean McGee** - U.S. Marine Corps, Lance Corporal, Combat Engineer,

B Co., 3rd. Eng. BN, 3rd Mar. Div.  
Killed in Action - 23 Jan. 1967

**Donald Wayne Garrett** - U. S. Army, Private 1st Class, Infantryman, A Co., 1st BN, 2nd Infantry, 1st Inf. Div.  
Killed in Action - 12 May 1969.

**Robert Wayne Hamlin** - U. S. Army, Sergeant, Infantryman, A Co., 1st Inf. Reg., 82 Airborne Div.  
Killed in Action - 5 Feb. 1969.

**James Earl Skipper** - U. S. Army, Specialist Four, Infantryman, A Co., 1st BN, 11th Infantry, 5th Inf. Div. USARV.  
Killed in Action - 3 Feb. 1969.

**Thomas Ronnie Range Jr.** - U. S. Marine Corps, Private 1st Class, Antitank Assault Man, A Co., 1st BN, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Div, III MAF  
Killed in Action - 17 Sept. 1968.

Their lives were lost but not forgotten.

**MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER CAMP #863,  
CONYERS, GA.**

805 Commerce Drive  
Conyers, GA. 30094

E-mail: [commander@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:commander@joewheeler863scv.org)



**«AddressBlock»**

Mailing

Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3



## “The Wall”



“The Virtual Wall, [www.VirtualWall.org](http://www.VirtualWall.org)” (Continued from Page 1)

was built, several hundred remains of men have been found and identified, so the symbols next to their names were changed to diamonds. There have not yet been any symbols changed to circles. In most cases, the date the person became missing was used to place his name with those who died on that date. Detailed information about all the persons listed as POWs or MIAs from the Vietnam War can be found on [www.POWNetwork.org](http://www.POWNetwork.org).

The names of 14 men who came home alive are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. When the Wall was built, their military records were not clear whether they had died in the war or not. It was decided to add their names to err on the side of inclusion, rather than leaving their names off. Once it was confirmed they were alive, their names were removed from the directories and database used for looking up names. Their names were left on the Wall because any form of removing them would deface the Wall.

In 1984 a flagpole and a life-size sculpture

named “The three fighting men” by Frederick Hart were added near the west end of The Wall.

In 1993, the [Vietnam Women's Memorial Project](#) dedicated the Vietnam Women's Memorial, a sculpture by Glenna Goodacre. It honors the eight military and fifty-six civilian American women who died in the war and some ten thousand [American women who served in the war](#).

In 1984, a transportable scale model of the Wall named [The Moving Wall](#) was first put on display. John Devitt was a helicopter door gunner in Vietnam. After he attended the 1982 dedication of the Wall in Washington, he vowed to make a smaller version of the Wall that could travel the country to take the Wall directly to the cities and towns of those named upon it. Friends and relatives of the fallen who could not make the trip to Washington could now experience the Wall. John and his friends built The Moving Wall. Since 1984, two additional

structures of The Moving Wall were added and have made more than 1000 visits all over the USA and Canada.

Since the names on the Wall are listed in the order of death, first-time visitors to the Wall are frequently unable to find the name they came to see. Shortly after the Wall was built, some relatives and friends of the fallen decided to help visitors find names and began to spend their spare time at the Wall with their own copies of the Directory of Names. They formed the organization Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, “The Friends.”

You can now visit “The Wall” from home by going to [www.virtualwall.org](http://www.virtualwall.org). Here the information can be sorted by name, state, city, town or by military branch and company.



Fergit Hell!!!