



David's Dispatch

1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Mount Pleasant, Texas



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December 2018

WINNER OF THE TEXAS DIVISION BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, 2017 & 2018
WINNER OF THE SCV NATIONAL BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, 2016, 2017 & 2018

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Alvin "Rex" McGee



Confederate President Jefferson Davis declared a "day of fasting, humiliation and prayer" to take place on November 15, 1861. This was seven months into the Civil War.

From the headquarters of the Valley District, Major General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson ordered drills to be suspended for the day. A day of fasting is completely opposite from the way most of us celebrate Thanksgiving today. Although there was no turkey, green bean casserole or pumpkin pie, we can presume that this brief respite was as welcomed by those soldiers who had spent months away from home as our modern holiday is to us.

Two years later, in 1863, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln began a tradition that Americans know well today, declaring that a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise" would be observed on the last Thursday of November. However, it wasn't made an official national holiday until 1941, on the brink of World War II, by the Roosevelt Administration.

In tradition with celebrating Thanksgiving the ILT David R. Reynolds Camp celebrated the occasion with a Thanksgiving meal at our regular meeting. Our Holiday Season celebration always tends to be our largest meeting of the year and this year was no different. We had Compatriots representing six of the eight camps in our Brigade, the Brigade Commander, and the 2nd LT Commander of Texas Division and immediate Past Commander of the Army of the Trans Mississippi, Johnny Holley. Many of the members and visiting Compatriots brought spouses, family members and friends.

As with tradition, business was held to a minimum and socializing to the maximum. The meeting was concluded by a short Thanksgiving program by the Camp Commander and formal wishes for a safe and prosperous Holiday Season. God bless the memory of the South and grant preservation of its memorials and institutions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Old Union Community Center
Hwy 67E, Mount Pleasant, Texas

GILMER CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 1st – 5:00 p.m.
Muster at 5:00 Parade starts at 6:00. Line up on Titus Street behind Gilmer National Bank, Trailer will be available for those that can't march. Look for Flags.

UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 4th, 6:30 p.m.
Walking S Steakhouse, Hwy 852, Gilmer, Texas.
Bring your favorite covered dish.

2019 TEXAS DIVISION REUNION

May 31st – June 2nd, 2019
Hilton Garden Inn
1749 Scott Blvd.
Temple, TX 76504

2019 NATIONAL REUNION

July 10th – 13th, 2019
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel

64 South Water Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
See scvsemmes.org for details



DAVIDRREYNOLDS.ORG

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.davidrreynolds.org>

- I've updated our Events page to include all known events by the Camp and its members. Please let me know when you do anything for the SCV, this includes attending other camp meeting, public speaking, or even putting flags on graves.
- I've updated our Calendar of Events.
- I've update our Guardian Page to reflect Guardians to 38 new Confederate graves.

I'm still looking for biographies of your Confederate Ancestor. Please try to come up with a short bio that we can put on-line.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to: Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org and I promise to give it my full consideration.



Our Honored Ancestors

Elijah Randolph Nelson
Company K, 5th Regiment Tennessee
Cavalry
Confederate States of America

Elijah Randolph Nelson was born in Tennessee on January 22, 1840. About 1860, he married Amanda Clemens. She was born in Blount County, Tennessee, on May 8, 1841. She was a cousin to Samuel Clemens, who achieved fame as writer under the name of Mark Twain.



Elijah R. Nelson was a large man, standing almost 6 ½ feet tall and weighing at least 250 pounds. He was a rather bombastic sort of a fellow and was given to expressing his opinions, and since he was an ardent Southerner, it was but natural that he would enter the Confederate Army as soon as armies were organized in Tennessee. He entered Company K of the Fifth Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, and worked up from a Private to Captain of the company. For the remainder of his days, he was referred to as Cap'n. Nelson.

He was a member of the Southern Army that was in Tennessee, and he had a brother-in-law, Captain McConnell, who was with the Yankee Army that was in Tennessee. They had married sisters. The Nelsons had a small child when the Civil War commenced; and after the war had been going on for some time, the Yankee Army lines moved south into Tennessee, and the Nelson home was behind the Yankee lines. Mrs. Nelson and her child remained in the home.

It is said that Captain McConnell supplied the wants of Mrs. Nelson and the child, and although they were an opposing sides, Captain McConnell and Captain Nelson met rather often and doubtless talked about their families and the war. This child died during the war.

Captain Nelson was in all of the main battles of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama: was in the Battle of Atlanta, and witnessed the devastation that General Sherman and his army wrought on Georgia when they marched from Atlanta to the sea.

After the war, he returned to his home in Tennessee, but found so much strife and turmoil over the Reconstruction following the Civil War, that in the latter part of 1868 he loaded his family in wagons and made the long trip from Eastern Tennessee to Eastern Texas. He rented land for the year 1869 from Jim Hayes, near the town of Snow Hill.

Cap'n. Nelson was a very literate man and according to his son-in-law. Judge Wilkinson, he could argue with the best of them and was not the least hesitant to do so. He was Tax Collector of Titus County for 4 years during the 1880's. He was one of the stalwart members of the New Hope Baptist Church, and for many years was the Church Clerk and as such it was his duty to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the church.

Cap'n. Nelson liked to take a drink, and, in fact, he told one at his friends that if whiskey wasn't so expensive and didn't make you drunk, he would substitute it for water. On the other hand, his wife was an ardent Prohibitionist, and one of his friends said, "Cap'n. Nelson had more places that he could hide whiskey than any man he had ever seen in his life."

Occasionally, Cap'n. Nelson would be in town and probably get to arguing the Civil War with some of his cronies and they would get too much whiskey, and as a result charges would be filed against him in the church. It is said that he would always come into church and make his confessions and ask the forgiveness of his brethren and, of course, he was always forgiven. but one member of the church said it was quite interesting to hear Captain Nelson make his confessions because he really told all that happened. He was quite audible in his praying, and one person said that the Cap'n. prayed so loud that it made one wonder if he didn't think that the Lord was deaf, but this was just his natural way of talking

because he was one of those fellows that couldn't talk in a normal low voice.

He was one of the leaders of the community, and, in fact, Captain Nelson and his neighbor, Captain Lokey, who lived to the south of him on lands now owned by J. O. Freeman, and Dr. J. F. Wilkinson, pretty well ran the community in which they lived. It is said that on one occasion in the 1880's, a man came into the community to rent some land and let it be known that he was a Yankee soldier. He also said that he was a member of Sherman's Army in that march across Georgia from Atlanta to the Sea. It seems, that the Devil was about the only thing that Cap'n. Nelson hated worse than a Yankee, and he immediately got with Captain Lokey and Dr. Wilkinson, and they let it be known throughout the community that anybody that rented any land to that Yankee or assisted him in any way would have to answer to them. The man didn't get any land or any help in that community.

Both he and his wife lived a full and a good life and were of that type that helped to build a community. Mrs. Nelson died on March 11, 1912, and he died on July 7, 1915. Both are buried in the New Hope Cemetery. (*Editor's Note: Harry King is the new Guardian of Captain Nelson's Grave.*)

Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray 1910

Born Jan. 22, 1840, near Maryville, Tenn., where I enlisted in the Confederate Army, Sept. 24, 1862, as Second Lieutenant, in Company K. Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, Ashby's Brigade, Hume's Division, Wheeler's Corps, Army of Tennessee. DeWitt C. Gormley, first Captain, and G.W. McKinzie, first Colonel. Was never changed nor wounded. Was taken prisoner Dec. 8, 1863, near Knoxville, Tenn., but was paroled, thereby escaping prison.

I commanded a company but was never commissioned. Was in the battles of Richmond, Ky.; Chickamauga, London, Tenn.; Ringgold, Ga., and in the engagement from Knoxville to Tunnel Hill, Ga.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

*(Taken from the December 1918 Edition of the
Confederate Veteran 100 Years Ago)*

THE CONSTITUTION AND SLAVERY. BY JAMES CALLAWAY, IN THE MACON TELEGRAPH.

In much of the literature of Northern magazines and newspapers is still seen a disposition to impress the thought that the South fought to perpetuate slavery and that nothing else was behind the war. When we aver that our soldiers drew their swords in what they believed the cause of liberty and State self-government, the reply is that it was slavery only that inspired the fight on our part. This view does a grievous injustice to half a million patriotic soldiers who were animated by as pure a love of liberty as ever throbbed in the bosom of man and who made as splendid exhibition of self-sacrifice as any soldiers who ever fought on any field of battle. In his book, "A Soldier's Recollections," Dr. Randolph H. McKim, of the Army of Northern Virginia, now rector of the i Church of the Epiphany, Washington, D. C, replies to this criticism of Northern friends in the following words:

"If slavery was the corner stone of the Southern Confederacy, what are we to say of the Constitution of the United States? That instrument as originally adopted by the thirteen colonies contained three sections which recognized slavery, Article i, Sections 2 and 9, and Article 4, Section 9. And whereas the Constitution of the Southern Confederacy prohibited the slave trade, the Constitution of the United States prohibited the abolition of the slave trade for twenty years. And if the men of the South are reproached for denying liberty to three and a half millions of human beings at the same time they professed to be waging a great war for their own liberty, what are we to say of the revolting colonies of 1776 who rebelled against the British crown to achieve their liberty while slavery existed in every one of the thirteen colonies undisturbed?

"Cannot those historians who deny that the South fought for liberty because they held the blacks in bondage see that upon the same principle they must impugn the sincerity of the signers of the Declaration of Independence? We ask the candid historian to answer this question: If the colonists of 1776 were freemen lighting for liberty, though holding the blacks in slavery in every one of the thirteen colonies, why is the title of liberty denied the Southern men of 1861 because they too held the blacks in bondage?

"Slavery was an inheritance which the people of the South received from the fathers, planted in the colonies by the common law of England ; and if the States of the North within fifty years after the Revolution abolished the institution, it cannot be claimed that the abolition was dictated by moral consideration, but by differences of soil, of climate, and of industrial interests.

"The sentiment in favor of emancipation was rapidly spreading in the South in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Wilson acknowledges that there was no avowed advocacy of slavery in Virginia at that time. In the year 1826 there were one hundred and forty-three emancipation societies in the United States, and of these one hundred and three were in the South. The Virginia Legislature, under the advice of Thomas Jefferson, so strong was the sentiment for emancipation, in 1832 came near passing a law for gradual emancipation, and under the growing sentiment would have passed it the next session but for an unfortunate reaction created by the fanatical agitation of the subject by the abolitionists led by William Lloyd Garrison. Garrison and his followers resorted to such violent abuse of the Southern people that the Virginia Legislature postponed action. A Massachusetts writer, George Lunt, says: 'Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee were engaged in practical movements for gradual emancipation, and this movement was arrested by the violent aggression of the abolitionists.'

"These facts are beyond dispute: (1) That from 1789 to 1837 slavery was almost universally considered in

the South as an evil; (2) that public opinion there underwent a revolution on this subject in the decade 1832 to 1842. What produced the fateful change? Not the invention of the cotton gin, as is often asserted, for that took place in 1793. No; but the abolition crusade launched by William Lloyd Garrison January 1, 1831. Its violence and virulence produced the result that such abuse does. It angered the South. It stifled discussion. It checked a movement on its way to gradual emancipation. At Farmington, Mass., Garrison before a great multitude burned the Constitution, declaring it a league with the devil and a covenant with hell. Vile literature was sent out among the negroes of the South advocating insurrection and the torch. It was so incendiary in character that President Jackson in his message to Congress in 1835 called attention to the transmission through the mails "of inflammatory appeals addressed to the passion of the slaves, in prints, magazines, and various sorts of publications, calculated to stimulate them to insurrection and to produce horrors of a servile race war.'

"So, we see that, but for the fanatical movement to accomplish results by violence and coercion, emancipation would probably have come. What a disappointment that would have been, for there was such longing to plunder the eleven Southern States, and they did it, even to the Kaiser's taste!

Dr. McKim says: "Not the Southern people, but the government of Great Britain, must be held responsible for American slavery. The colony of Virginia protested time and again against sending slaves to her shores. In 1760 South Carolina passed an act prohibiting the further importation of slaves, but England rejected the act of the Carolina colony with indignation. Virginia was the first of all the States to prohibit the slave trade, and Georgia was the first to incorporate such a prohibition in her Constitution. Virginia abolished the slave trade thirty years before New England was willing to consent to its abolition."

Dr. McKim continues: "The Southern soldiers were not thinking of their slaves: only a few owned any

when they cast their all in the balance. * * No. It was a fight for the sacred right of self-government. It was a defense of their homes and firesides; they fought to repel invasion and resist a war of subjugation. Not one soldier in ten was interested in slavery. Why, in February, 1861, Mr. Davis wrote to his wife: 'In any case our slave property will be eventually lost.'

"The fact is, the South expected peaceable secession and failed to recognize the "revenue" question involved. "If we let the South go," said Mr. Lincoln, "from whence shall we derive our revenue?"

Harmful Agitation – It becomes the duty of all States, and especially of those whose constitutions recognize the existence of domestic slavery, to look with watchfulness to the attempts which have been recently made to disturb the rights secured to them by the Constitution of the United States. The agitation of the abolitionists can by no possibility produce good to any portion of the Union and must, if persisted in, lead to incalculable mischief.

James Knox Polk.

BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



Battle of Prairie Grove - Prairie Arkansas

7 December 1862 - General Thomas C. Hindman verses General James G. Blunt. Casualties: 1317 Confederate, 1251 Union!

Battle of Fredericksburg - Fredericksburg Virginia

13 December 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ambrose E. Burnside. Casualties: 5309 Confederate, 12,653 Union!

Battle of Nashville - Nashville Tennessee

15-16 December 1864 - General John Bell Hood verses General George H. Thomas. Casualties: 5962 Confederate, 3061 Union!

Battle of Holly Springs - Holly Springs Mississippi

20 December 1862 - General Earl Van Dorn verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: {Unknown} Confederate, 1,000 Union!

Battle of Chickasaw Bluffs - Bayou Mississippi

28-29 December 1862 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 207 Confederate, 1776 Union!

Battle of Stone River - Murfreesboro Tennessee

31 December 1862 - 2 January 1863 - General Braxton Bragg verses General William S. Rosecrans. Casualties: 11,739 Confederate, 12,906 Union!

Our Charge...

"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 ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations!

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana April 25, 1906*

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

December 11th – Tim Fletcher

December 19th – Michael Mars

December 10th – Michael & Tara Simpson

December 21st – Randy & Mary Ann Brock

December 6th – This date in 1889 President Jefferson Davis died. President Davis was buried in New Orleans Louisiana. In 1893 he was interred in Richmond Virginia.

LAST CAMP MEETING

This year we did not hold a Birthday Celebration for our Camp Namesake, nor did we schedule a Christmas Dinner as we have in the years past. Instead we had a Holiday Dinner at our scheduled November Meeting.

The food, consisting of Turkey and Dressing, complete with homemade Giblet Gravy, Baked Ham and all the side dishes, deserts and drinks made for a wonderful feast. I dare to say that no one went away hungry.



Camp Commander Rex McGee talks with Compatriot Gary Oliver before the meeting starts.



Compatriots enjoy a wonderful Holiday Feast!

We had many guests, and although all were welcomed and important, I must point out that some were held in distinction, Past ATM Commander Johnnie and Norma Holly, Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander Dennis and Reta Brand, Northeast Texas 5th Brigade Commander Sam and Kristi Mercer, and 2nd Lt Commander of the 5th Brigade, George Linton.



Sergeant Major James Murphy from the Red Diamond Camp in Texarkana brought a number of Compatriots with him, Jeremy Shaver, Robert W. Murphy, John Phillips and Terry Penn.

The Matt Barton Camp in Sulphur Springs was represented by Charles and Marilyn Bolden. We also had Bill Elliott, his wife and grandson from the W. W. Heartsill Camp, and Compatriot Frank Smith from the Upshur County Patriots.

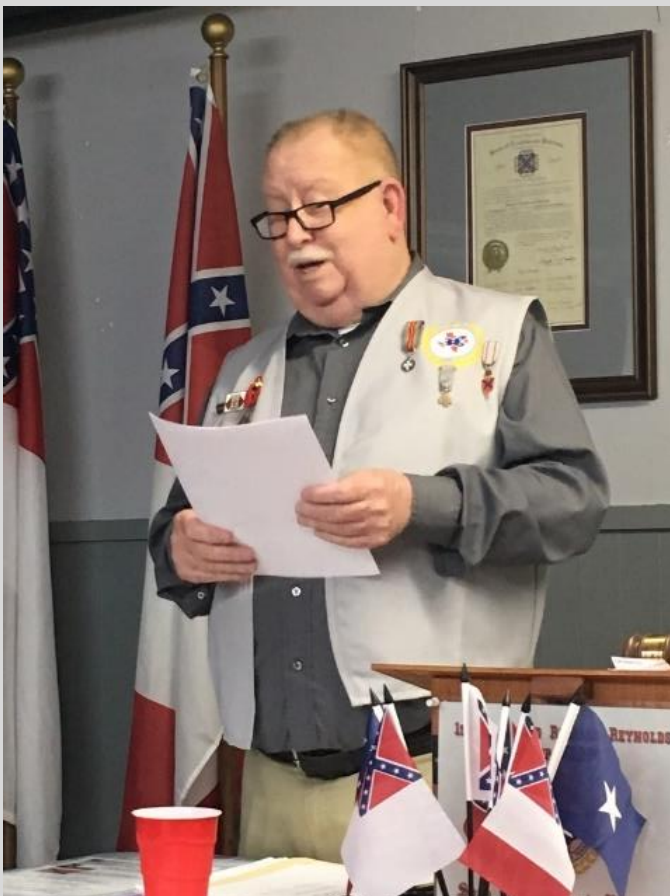
It was especially nice that so many of our wives showed up to support our Camp! A special Thank You goes out to all who attended.



Members and Guests enjoy good a good meal, good fellowship, and a good program.



*Northeast Texas 5th Brigade Commander Sam Mercer
Reads the Roll Call of Confederate Ancestors*



*Camp Commander gives a short program on
Thanksgiving!*



GUARDIAN NEWS

By Commander Rex McGee



The Holiday season always seems to cast a nostalgic mood over my life as well as many of yours. Nostalgia is the glow in the sparkle in your eye, the memory that flashes though ones mind, and the feeling that causes the heart to flutter and makes the voice grow weak and causes dampness to come into your eyes. Many times I find myself reflecting on past experiences, joys and fears from the past and people that have been, but are no longer part of my life. My own life presents itself as an enigma even to myself as I am an individual who attaches great apprehensiveness towards letting go of the past, while grasping for new experiences and more adventures.

The Guardian Program gives me an opportunity to pay homage to the past endeavors and accomplishments of those I never knew, but acknowledge them with reverential awe as I tend their final resting place. I may be tied to some through blood relationships in some instances, but I certainly have eternal ties to them through those fleeting and flashing glimpses traveling through my mind of days gone by.

As we spend time with our family during this season let us make a commitment that our Southern Heroes, their graves, memories, memorials and history will not disappear through the ravages of time and this current brazen and ungodly attack on their very eternal souls.

**ILT David R. Reynolds Guardian Program
As of November 30, 2018**

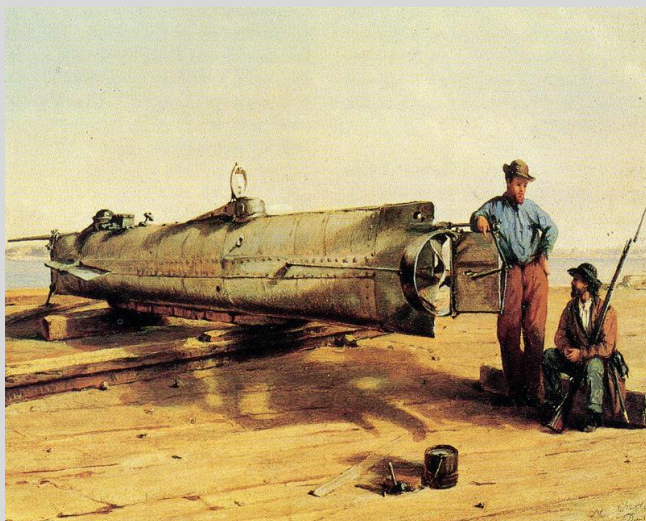
Name	County	Cemeteries	Graves
Adams, O.M.*	Titus	1	14
Davey, David*	Titus	1	6
Gunn, Dennis	Bowie	1	1
Guy, (Bill)*	Titus	1	3
Jones, Robert *	Titus	1	11
King, Harry	Titus	1	10
Love, Rodney*	Cass	7	25
Mars, John M.*	Titus	4	12
McGee, Rex*	Titus	4	50
Reynolds, J.R.	Titus	3	13
Reynolds, Jerry	Titus	1	7
Reynolds, Larry J*	Titus & Morris	6	35
Reynolds, Tommy*	Titus	1	15
Talks With White Buffalo	Titus & Morris	3	46
TOTALS			
Guardians (14)	(4)	(35)	(248)

• Full Guardians

As usual, I'll leave you with the question that Phil Davis, Upshur Patriots CDR and Chairman of both the National and Texas Division Guardian Program always asks,

“Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?”

CSS H. L. HUNLEY
FIRST TRUE SUBMARIEN



In August 1863, a train from Mobile, Alabama, arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, with two of its flatcars loaded with a disassembled cigar-shaped

metal vessel. When reassembled in Charleston Harbor, the propeller-driven H.L. Hunley was about 30 feet long, 5 feet high, and 4 feet wide. She had no engine but was powered instead by an eight-man crew that turned cranks positioned along the drive shaft, which extended most of the length of the vessel.

Because earlier cylindrical vessels of this design had been powered by steam engines, they had to be operated at the surface. The Hunley was the world's first true submarine in that she was able to completely submerge during operations. Ballast tanks filled with water lowered the Hunley to just below the surface, and horizontal fins on the sides of the vessel were adjusted to lower or raise her when in motion. Trial dives in Mobile Bay had shown that she could stay under water for up to two hours before the crew ran out of air.

She was designed to tow a percussion-fused bomb at the end of a 200-foot rope, pass completely underneath an enemy vessel, and continue moving until the bomb made contact with the ship and exploded. During trial runs, the Hunley sank several times. Each time she was salvaged, but the loss of life caused Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, commanding at Charleston, to order the vessel to operate only at the surface. The bow of the Hunley was then fitted with a 20-foot spar, with a torpedo containing 90 pounds of gunpowder at the end. Thus, the Hunley could sink enemy ships by ramming them with her spar torpedo.

At 9:00p.M. on February 17, 1864, the blockader USS Housatonic-200 feet long with nine guns-was struck by an explosion that destroyed her entire stern. The Hunley was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship, but she had also made her last attack. The submarine and all her crew went down with the Housatonic, either because the spar did not disengage or because she came apart in the explosion.

Fascinating Fact: At least 32 crewmen lost their lives during the trial runs of the Hunley. One of them was Horace L. Hunley, the builder.

Written by Stephen T. Foster

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@davidreynolds.org (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)