

# THE LEGIONARY

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Paul C. Graham, Editor

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

## RUNNING SCARED ON CONFEDERATE HISTORY

By Richard T. Hines

Twenty years after Gen. Robert E. Lee rode into Appomattox and surrendered his tattered army, ending the War Between the States, a memorial chapel was built in Richmond in memory of the 260,000 Confederate soldiers who died during the conflict.

The organ in the chapel was donated by a group of Union veterans from Lynn, Mass. One of the contributors to the soldiers' home that surrounded the chapel was Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. And a Union private from Massachusetts donated his annual pension to support the home.

Back then, folks argued -- as they do today -- over why the war was fought. Some said slavery. Some said tariffs. Others said the Constitution. One captured Confederate soldier, as he was being marched off to prison, was asked, "Why are you fighting?" He is said to have grunted, "Because you're here."

Of course, the truth is that men fought for different reasons. But once the war was over, they handled their arguments about it with mutual respect and courtesy. Today in the Old Dominion, this has been lost,

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Confederate Memorial Chapel, Richmond, VA

## VIRGINIA'S BLACK CONFEDERATES

By Walter E. Williams

One tragedy of war is that its victors write its history and often do so with bias and dishonesty. That's true about our War of 1861, erroneously called a civil war. Civil wars, by the way, are when two or more parties attempt to take over the central government. Jefferson Davis no more wanted to take over Washington, D.C., than George Washington, in 1776, wanted to take over London. Both wars were wars of independence.

Kevin Sieff, staff writer for *The Washington Post*, penned an article "Virginia 4th-grade textbook criticized over claims on black Confederate soldiers," (Oct. 20, 2010). The textbook says that blacks fought on the side of the Confederacy. Sieff claims that "Scholars are nearly unanimous in calling these accounts of black Confederate soldiers a misrepresentation of history." William & Mary historian Carol Sheriff said, "It is disconcerting that the next generation is being taught history based on an unfounded claim instead of accepted scholarship." Let's examine that accepted scholarship.

In April 1861, a Petersburg, Va., newspaper proposed "three cheers for the patriotic free Negroes of Lynchburg" after 70 blacks offered "to act in whatever capacity may be assigned to them" in defense of Virginia. Ex-slave Frederick Douglass observed, "There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real

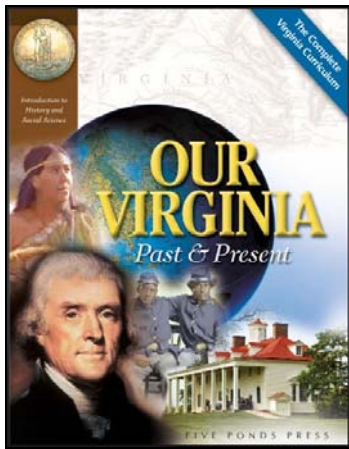
soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down ... and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government."

Charles H. Wesley, a distinguished black historian who lived from 1891 to 1987, wrote "The Employment of Negroes as Soldiers in the Confederate Army," in the *Journal of Negro History* (1919). He says, "Seventy free blacks enlisted in the Confederate Army in Lynchburg, Virginia. Sixteen companies (1,600) of free men of color marched through Augusta, Georgia on their way to fight in Virginia."

Wesley cites Horace Greeley's *American Conflict* (1866) saying, "For more than two years, Negroes had been extensively employed in belligerent operations by the Confederacy. They had been embodied and drilled as rebel soldiers and had paraded with white troops at a time when this would not have been tolerated in the armies of the Union."

Wesley goes on to say, "An observer in Charleston at the outbreak of the war noted the preparation for war, and called particular attention to the thousand Negroes who, so far from inclining to insurrections,

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The Offending Text Book

*The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.* – George Washington

November 11th marks Veterans Day in our country and is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to US national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty. The holiday was first proclaimed as Armistice Day by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 am, with the day also marked by parades and public

meetings.

Our country has been defended by an all volunteer service corps since 1973. Throughout history, media outlets have scrutinized the causes and purposes of military conflicts, and it has been the general public that has undertaken the task of showing support and appreciation of the soldier's dedication to duty. It is not uncommon to see the words "Support Our Troops" daily on bumper stickers, banners, and billboards. However, in the mass of patriotic fodder, we often become complacent in the true message we are trying to send to our troops.

I ask that all compatriots take a moment out of their daily lives to thank a service member in uniform, not just during Veterans Day and Memorial Day, but every day. Please shake their hands and let them know you appreciate their service to

our country. Their sacrifice is what makes our country great. A small gesture of appreciation to a soldier can mean so much more than hundreds of flags and bumper stickers. Please join me in making sure that every soldier knows how much pride our citizens have in their work.

Our next meeting is November 18. Our speaker will be Temple Ligon from the Columbia Star. This is an election month and we will be electing a new adjutant. Our current adjutant, Ricky Badger, has done a tremendous job over the past several years and will carry his hard work and dedication to the SC Division level. Please take time to thank Ricky for all his support to the SCV – past, present and future.

I hope to see everyone at 6pm on the 18th! ☺

## CHAPLAIN'S WITNESS

LARRY BATES

Think about something for a moment: What is your image of God? Do things like He is loving, kind, or the Creator come to mind? How about the famous picture you might have seen in Sunday School of Jesus sitting under a big shade tree surrounded by children. Those are all true images, but have you ever thought about God as a warrior? Consider these scripture verses:

*The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.* (Exodus 15:3)

*The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up zeal...* (Isaiah 42:13)

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.* (Psalm 24:8)

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war...He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him...* (Rev. 19:11, 13-14)

As author John Eldredge has said, "Our God is a warrior, mighty and terrible in battle, and he leads armies. It is this God that man is made in the image of. Our God is a Warrior because there are certain things in life worth fighting for. He makes man a Warrior in his own image, because he intends for man to join him in that battle". Famous men of the Bible like

Moses, Joshua, and David fought battle after battle to win freedom for their people.

An often asked question by those of us who love Southern history is "why did the Confederate soldier go to war?" Many answer "for the Cause" or "States Rights". He fought for freedom for his family and he fought to defend his wife and children from an army invading his homeland. General Lee wrote to his sister before the war, "Save in defense of my native State... I hope I may never be called upon to draw my sword." We all know, when it became necessary, General Lee resigned from the Federal army and joined the Southern Cause to fight for Virginia and the South. Our Confederate ancestors have taught us much about honor and what in life is worth fighting for.

What things in your life are worth fighting for? A difficult marriage is worth fighting for, children are worth fighting for. Some fight for a quality education for their children. Those in law enforcement fight crime to keep us safe. In the last couple of years the well known "Tea Party" has become a force which fights to lower government debt and taxes so that we and future generations can live free from the oppression of high taxes and debt. A man with the heart of a warrior cannot let evil prevail and if he is a disciplined man he will be effective.

God is a Warrior who as Creator placed eternity in the heart of a man. And be sure, no one has fought harder for you

than God has fought for you. The Bible says,

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and "For the wages of sin is death..."

We are all sinners and dead in our sin. But God fought for us when he sent his own son, the Lord Jesus Christ to take the penalty for our sin upon himself and to die on a cruel cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." ✝

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**We'll GIT'R DONE Fer Ye!**

and Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) and former senator George Allen (R) -- possibly to their surprise -- find themselves embroiled in the latest debate over honoring our ancestors.

The whole brouhaha began when McDonnell signed a proclamation honoring Confederate History Month. That seemed innocuous enough. After all, we have innumerable heritage commemorations, including, of course, Black History Month. But before the ink had dried, McDonnell's political opponents descended on him hammer and cudgel, all but branding him pro-slavery.

In panicked reaction, McDonnell vacillated. First, he added an anti-slavery statement to his proclamation. When that did not appease his opponents, he did a full about-face and announced there would be no more Confederate History Month Proclamations on his watch. And, finally, he required the removal of the flags of the old veterans at their own chapel in Richmond. Their descendants had unwisely left the land and chapel of the Soldiers Home in trust to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We need to recall that slavery began in Virginia in 1619, not 1861. Indeed, Virginians such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Patrick Henry, George Mason, John Marshall and a host of others were

slaveholders who also opposed slavery. Yet they had to deal with the day-to-day reality of an inherited institution, while looking forward -- they hoped -- to its final abolition by peaceful and orderly means. It is quite easy to revere Confederate history without being pro-slavery, but McDonnell doesn't seem to understand this. His eyes seemingly set on higher office, he took up the banner of "politically correct" history.

Naturally, the Post gushed that McDonnell's decision "took guts," and soon George Allen jumped in. Allen's political problem is his "macaca moment," which got him branded a racist in his last campaign. Perhaps seeing a way to put this behind him before he announces his next bid for the Senate, Allen offered up praise for McDonnell. And McDonnell's political alter ego, former Virginia and national Republican chairman Ed Gillespie, added his "amen," hailing McDonnell's transformation as proof that Virginia has been reborn as "the Dynamic Dominion."

We've been arguing over the causes of our great war between brothers for 150 years, and no doubt we'll go on arguing for another 150. But today one group - the one that insists the war was fought over slavery alone -- tolerates no disagreement. Confederate chapels, history months and monuments, they say, should be banished, and the

history books rewritten to exclude other points of view. Anyone who dares disagree gets called a racist. Allen and McDonnell have given us proof of the power of that charge.

A pair of Confederate flags have flown over the Confederate Memorial Chapel in Richmond since 1887. Those two flags did not trouble the Union soldiers who donated the organ to the chapel; nor did they trouble Ulysses S. Grant. They honored the bravery of thousands of Virginians, most of whom did not believe they fought to defend slavery. But McDonnell panicked when attacked by those who would never support him politically. This was an act of political courage?

The two Virginia leaders who should be praised for their courage on this issue are not Allen and McDonnell but former governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, Democrats who had enough respect for the descendants of Confederate soldiers to allow the flags to fly at the chapel throughout their terms in office. ☾

*Richard Hines is commander of the Jefferson Davis Camp No. 305 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Virginia Division.*

Source: [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (BLOG), November 7, 2010

## BOOK

were grinning from ear to ear at the prospect of shooting the Yankees."

One would have to be stupid to think that blacks were fighting in order to preserve slavery. What's untaught in most history classes is that it is relatively recent that we Americans think of ourselves as citizens of United States. For most of our history, we thought of ourselves as citizens of Virginia, citizens of New York and citizens of whatever state in which we resided. Wesley says, "To the majority of the Negroes, as to all the South, the invading armies of the Union seemed to be ruthlessly attacking independent States, invading the beloved homeland and trampling upon all

that these men held dear." Blacks have fought in all of our wars both before and after slavery, in hopes of better treatment afterwards.

Denying the role, and thereby cheapening the memory, of the Confederacy's slaves and freemen who fought in a failed war of independence is part of the agenda to cover up Abraham Lincoln's unconstitutional acts to prevent Southern secession. Did states have a right to secede? At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, James Madison rejected a proposal that would allow the federal government to suppress a seceding state. He said, "A Union of the States containing

such an ingredient seemed to provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound." ☾

*Walter E. Williams is the John M. Olin distinguished professor of economics at George Mason University, and a nationally syndicated columnist.*

Source: [LewRockwell.com](http://LewRockwell.com), November 2, 2010

## WORDS OF WISDOM

"The Gettysburg speech was at once the shortest and the most famous oration in American history... the highest emotion reduced to a few poetical phrases. Lincoln himself never even remotely approached it. It is genuinely stupendous. But let us not forget that it is poetry, no logic; beauty, not sense. Think of the argument in it. Put it into the cold words of everyday. The doctrine is simply this: that the Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg sacrificed their lives to the cause of self-determination -- that government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth. It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in the battle actually fought against self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves." -- H.L. Mencken

### Important Dates in the War to Prevent Southern Independence:

- Nov. 02, 1861 – The British steamer *Bermuda*, runs through a Federal blockade and escapes Charleston, SC, with 2,000 bales of cotton.
- Nov. 05, 1861 – Gen. Lee is named the commander of the new Confederate Department of SC, GA and East FL.
- Nov. 12, 1861 – The Confederate blockade runner *Fingal*, bought in England, arrives in Savannah with military supplies.
- Nov. 19, 1861 – Round Mountain, Indian Territory. Texas Confederates and pro-Southern Cherokees attack pro-union Creek Indians who are fleeing to Kansas.
- Nov. 28, 1861 – MO is officially admitted into the Confederate States of America.
- Nov. 03, 1863 – Charleston, SC. Federal artillery bombards Fort Sumter with 661 rounds.
- Nov. 07, 1863 – Severe fighting erupts on the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station.
- Nov. 23, 1863 – The Battle of Chattanooga begins.
- Nov. 04, 1864 – Gen. Forrest attacks and bombards Johnsonville, TN, destroying Federal gunboats, transports and storage warehouses, and causing over two million dollars in damages.
- Nov. 18, 1864 – In GA, Sherman's "march to the sea" continues as Union troops move between Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers.
- Nov. 27, 1864 – In VA, the U.S. Army transport ship *Greyhound* is sunk by a Confederate torpedo in the James River.
- Nov. 30, 1864 – Battle of Franklin, TN. Six Confederate generals lose their lives in the largest frontal assault of the war.

**Next Camp Meeting**  
**THURSDAY, NOV 18TH**  
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