



# The Delta General

Published by

Brig.-General Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brig.-General Charles Clark Chapter #253

Military Order of the Stars & Bars

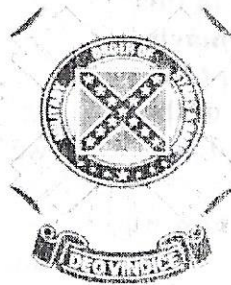
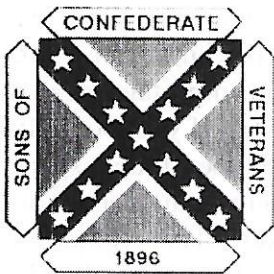
Ella Palmer Chapter #9 - Order of the Confederate Rose

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THE DELTA GENERAL

P.O. Box 63

Webb, Ms . . . 38966



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"Remember, it is your DUTY to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations" — Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee





## Recap of the September Meeting An Info on the October 19 Meeting

Our September meeting again was attended by a record crowd of 40 in attendance. The meeting featured Lt. Commander Alan Palmer and Scott Blaylock giving a talk on their experiences at the 135th Re-enactment of Gettysburg. Also, Camp Chaplain gave a presentation on the Flag Coalition and encouraged all of the members and the ladies of the OCR to help fill petitions to preserve our state flag. We need approximately 19,000 signatures from registered voters in this congressional district. Many feel that it maybe an impossible task but we are ready to accept the challenge. If you did not pick-up a copy of the petition, please contact me and I will send you one. The South needs all of its sons and daughters on this one. The fight is here now we must strike back.

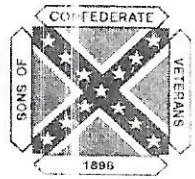
Once again, our Lt. Commander will dazzle us with trivia night so we can learn more about our ancestors. The competition should be heated since Walter Swain won the last Trivia night. Also, be prepared to discuss gathering at Moorehead to confront the Flag Commission and planning for the Lee/Jackson Banquet. Bring a friend for a night of fun, education, and serious discussion.

### Remember to Pay Your Dues by the end of November!!!

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## Commander's Note: Earl McCown, Jr.



Compairiots;

I am encouraged by the attendance at our meetings. I don't remember such a consistant increase in the number of people that are coming out. Keep up the good work. Our membership is also growing and this too is encouraging.

As you all know, the Governor has appointed a group of people to study the Mississippi State Flag issue. There will be several open meetings around the state in the next few weeks. The meeting closest to us is in Moorehead on November 2nd. The meeting will be at 7-10 pm in the Fine Arts Auditorium at Moorehead. This is a very important meeting and we should all plan to attend. If you would like to speak to this issue, please type (double spaced) your comments and present them to the person on the podium after you have spoken. This will give the Governor's Panel a record of what was said and should have a bigger impact. You will not be censored and say what you feel is appropriate. Let us remember to be Ladies and Gentlemen in this effort.

There is hatred, confusion ignorance and bias all around us at this time. This is aimed at destroying our Confederate Heritage. The CSMC Color Guard attended the Dedication of the Yellow Fever Cemetery at Grenada last month and were blasted (along with the 15th Mississippi) for our participation in this dedication. One citizen from Grenada referred to the dedication as a "militia meeting". He went on to "caution any organization setting agendas when the SCV is involved". He went on to say that "what little progress we have made towards racial reconciliation in Grenada will not be aided in this type activity."

We must band together to quell the type of comments made by the above mentioned citizen. His article appeared in the Grenada paper.

I look forward to seeing you at our October meeting.

Your Obedient Servant  
Earl M. McCown Jr., Commander

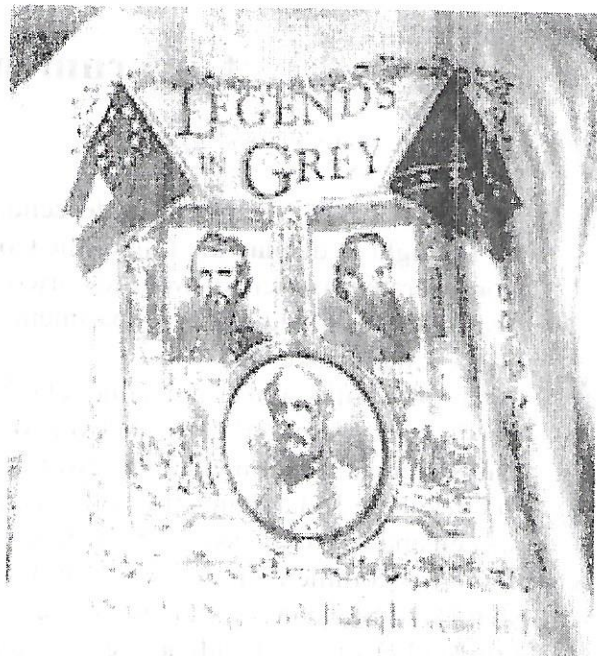


# News Around the Southland: Student seeks free speech, school just wants peace

By ROBERT KING

© St. Petersburg Times, published September 7, 2000

BROOKSVILLE -- Joel Roberts says he doesn't hate anybody. He concedes that, if his black schoolmates were offended, he might even think twice about pressing the issue he now faces at Central High School. But Roberts, 16, is convinced that his school is wrong to keep him from wearing any of his three "Legends of the Confederacy" T-shirts, which feature portraits of Confederate generals and -- more to the point -- an assortment of Confederate flags.



Roberts says the shirts represent his interest in the Civil War and his appreciation for Southern heritage. But the school, citing past instances of problems spurred by Confederate flag apparel, has reprimanded Roberts twice this year for wearing the shirts, which he bought on a trip to Hattiesburg, Miss. He got an oral warning the first time. But Friday, when he tried wearing another shirt, he received a written reprimand, an order to change clothes and a warning that future violations could get him suspended. Reluctantly, Roberts complied. But the more he thought about it the more he felt he had done nothing wrong. "It's where I was brought up, and it's part of my heritage," said Roberts, who was born in Memphis, Tenn., and moved to Brooksville at age 3. "It's just a flag. I don't attach anything racist to it. I'm not a racist."

Roberts, his mother, DeLana, and his girlfriend, Kristy Johns, showed up at Tuesday night's School Board meeting wearing the shirts, which typically feature a small Confederate flag on the front and larger ones on the back. Mrs. Roberts thinks her son is merely exercising his right to free speech. She sees other students walking around in clothes with Cuban and African flags. She wants her son to be treated fairly. "My son is not a white supremacist. My son is not a racist. He collects flags and stuff from the Civil War," she said in an interview. "If he was a white supremacist, I think I would take him to see a psychiatrist." Roberts has six Confederate flags in his bedroom. One features a skull in the middle, another the face of Elvis. One refers to the South rising again.

Those sorts of things have been grist for controversy all over the South, whether with similar clothing battles in the Richmond, Va., schools or debates about the banner that flew atop the South Carolina Statehouse. What some view as Southern heritage, others see as a blatant symbol that evokes images of slavery, lynchings and the Ku Klux Klan. Roberts said he sees the flags merely as a part of Civil War history. Michael Sawyer, a history teacher at Central who has seen Roberts in Confederate flag shirts with portraits of Ulysses S. Grant as well as Robert E. Lee, believes him. But Sawyer also sees his school's perspective on the need for racial harmony. Some kids have shown up with Confederate flag apparel on their backs and hate in their hearts. Roberts, Sawyer said, is not one of them. "His is not a racial; it is a historic perspective," said Sawyer, who signed a petition Roberts and his girlfriend are circulating to seek support for their cause. So, they say they have gathered about 100 signatures.

Central principal Dennis McGeehan plans to meet today with Roberts and his mother to discuss the matter. But he said school district policy is quite clear: Schools have the leeway to restrict clothing that could provoke disruptions. While Roberts' clothing has not caused trouble, Confederate flags have been a source of tension at Central. "It has been something that has raised the dander of some students," McGeehan said. "Certainly we want to make our campus as peaceful as it can be." Roberts does not know what he'll do if the school sticks to its guns. "I would like to see the rebel flag get to be worn," he said, "as long as there are no racial things."



## **Government Sued Over Confederate Flag**

c The Associated Press

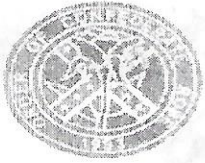
SCOTLAND, Md. (AP) - A descendant of a Confederate Army officer has sued the federal government for the right to display the flag of the Confederacy at Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery. More than 3,300 Confederate prisoners of war are buried in a common grave at the southern Maryland cemetery, which is owned and operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A United States flag now flies at the graveyard on the Chesapeake Bay.

A 1998 policy governing conduct of national cemeteries limits the flying of the Confederate flag to two days a year: Memorial Day and Confederate Memorial Day, which is observed during May in some states, said Veterans Department spokeswoman Jo Schuda said. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, Md., claims the policy is unconstitutional because it violates the First Amendment right to free speech and free expression. Schuda said the department had not yet received a copy of the complaint and could not comment on it. "The bottom line is, you have to protect that right of free speech even if it's offensive," said Steven Campen, the lawyer representing descendant Patrick J. Griffin III. Campen said the regulation applies only to Confederate flags and not others, such as POW/MIA flags. The conservative Rutherford Institute, which is also involved in the case, accused the Department of Veterans Affairs of "politically motivated discrimination."

**Remember to fly your State Flag and encourage people to sign the petition to Save the Flag!!**

**We must show up in force at Mississippi Delta on November 2 to confront the Flag Commission!!**

**There will be a living history at Florewood on October 28-29 sponsored by our Camp Reenactors!!**



## **Ella Palmer Chapter #9: OCR President's Note: Annette McCluney**

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### **Ladies of the South,**

Ms. Barbra Daigre will be honored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on October 18 and receive a special Resolution for what she did at the Yellow Fever Cemetery in Grenada. Barbra is an active member of the Ella Palmer Chapter of the OCR, Mississippi Society, and a very active citizen in the preservation of Southern History. We want to remember her on this special night especially when she conveyed that she was very upset that she would miss our meeting on October 19. Barbra we salute you on a job well done with a big **REBEL YELL!!** But even with this great accomplishment, she was met with such ignorant attacks by so called friends and enemies of our heritage. An editorial in the Grenada Sentinel-Star Newspaper (9/29/00) is provided below. This article is being responded. The person responsible has virtually been shunned in town but I feel he deserves even worse. Maybe he was so preoccupied with criticizing that he forgot to listen to the program and the history that was being presented. Regardless my friends, it is Scalawags like this that we must be on our guard against or else all is lost!

**God Bless our Southland,  
Annette McCluney, President**

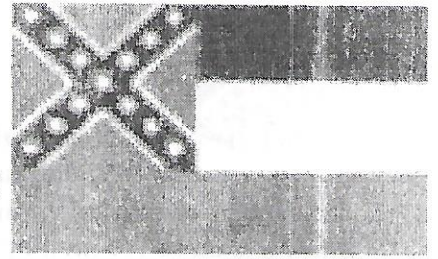
## **Confederate Flair Took Away From Cemetery Dedication (An attack upon our history and one of our Southern Sisters)**

I attended the Pilot Club's Dedication Ceremony of the Yellow Fever Cemetery last Saturday. My intent was to honor Barbra Daigre and the Pilot Club for their wonderful contribution to the preservation of the history of our great city. I had also hoped to learn more about the details and the heroes of that awful time in 1878. I felt shortchanged and a bit eerie as I left. Instead of a presentation of the history of the Yellow Fever epidemic, I received my first opportunity to salute the Confederate Flag. (I found it amusing that you, the Mayor and the pastor of one of our leading churches were cornered into participation. Gladly, I was on the back row so I could quietly sit without causing a stir). Then, I found it rather curious that at least one presenters of the history had not been informed of her part on the program, but we did receive a detailed description of Confederate military divisions, battles, and soldiers -- some of whom are buried in the cemetery, but had little to do with the yellow fever. Then there was the challenge to stand firm for the "cause for which it stands." I wasn't sure if the "cause" was the right to own slaves or a desire to secede from the union - neither of which I care much about. The "for which it stands" confused me since I am sure that we lost the war and the Confederacy nor its flag still stands.

And lastly, as I was leaving, I heard loud chants of "What are we fighting for? States rights, Sir." Maybe I should give them the benefit of the doubt since they were re-enactors, and that surely was a chant used back 165 or so years ago. It just seemed out of place at a cemetery dedication and certainly in the wrong part of town. I am of the understanding that the Sons of Confederate Veterans donated much time and labor to the restoration of the cemetery. For that we should all be thankful. However, this should be a call for caution to any organization setting agendas when the SCV are involved. This dedication felt more like a militia meeting. What little progress we have made towards racial reconciliation in Grenada will not be aided by this type activity, especially when involving our leading citizens.

W.P. Bill Daly





## Locations Where the Flag Commission Will Meet

The state Supreme Court ruled in May that Mississippi hasn't had an official flag or coat of arms since 1906, when state laws were updated and sections dealing with the symbols weren't carried forward. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove of Mississippi created an advisory commission to examine the symbols of the Mississippi State flag. The commission will make recommendations to lawmakers before the 2001 session starts in January, and legislators will vote on the designs. Commissioners studying the flag design will travel the state (of MS) in October and November for five public hearings. They say they want to hear from all sorts of people who are flexible on the issue, to others who are more fixed in their support for or opposition to a redesign. "I think that's the best thing we could do - go directly to the people and give them an opportunity to speak," Fran Ivy of Columbus, one of the 17 commissioners, said in a phone interview Thursday.

There will be one hearing per congressional district. The 1st District hearing is Oct. 19 in the auditorium of the University of Mississippi Advanced Education Center in Tupelo. The 3rd District meeting is Oct. 26 in Room 240 of the Health Center at Meridian Community College. **The 2nd District meeting is Nov. 2 in the Fine Arts Auditorium of Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead.** The 5th District meeting is Nov. 9 in the Fine Arts Auditorium of the Gulf Coast Community College, Jefferson Davis Campus in Gulfport. The 4th District meeting is Nov. 13 at Millsaps College in Jackson. A room has not been set. Each forum is set for 7-10 p.m. Organizers have not decided how people will sign up to speak or for how long.

Remember the above date for our district and place it on your calendar. It is important that we show up in record numbers for this meeting so our voices can be heard on this matter.

## State Flag Issue is Too Sensitive To Vote On from THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

**Oxford** - The battle over the state's current flag received another twist last week. Sons of Confederate Veterans member and Tunica attorney Greg Stewart is being sued by six plaintiffs over the wording of his proposed initiative on the current unofficial state flag. Stewart believes that the voters of Mississippi and not the representatives that they elected should decide whether or not "the flag adopted in 1894 and used continuously thereafter (should) be the Official State Flag." In fact, he told the AP that a vote on this matter will bring "people who are not normally interested in any politics at all" to the polls. However, if Stewart's proposed initiative was to pass, it would do nearly as much harm to Mississippi as Ross Barnett's infamous halftime segregation speech in the fall of 1962.

Mississippians have come a long way since that night 38 years ago. We have attempted continuously to correct the past mistakes that our elected leaders have allowed to happen since our admission to the Union in 1820. Now the challenge of deciding the state flag's appearance should be given to our current elected leaders. Trusted by Mississippians to make decisions on issues ranging from taxes to strengthening prison sentences, these men and women should decide the fate of the current unofficial flag. Since these elected officials have already received voter approval, their decision on the flag will allow the state's very sensitive racial healing process to continue. Stewart appears to have good intentions in his attempt to allow the public to decide the fate of one of Mississippi's most famous symbols. However, putting an issue that invokes as much emotion as the current state flag on the ballot will rip apart fragile relationships in businesses, schools and churches across the state. In fact, former Gov. William Winter is correct in saying that "an election would be divisive and that state lawmakers should make the final decision."



Initiatives can be powerful statements that should be used for special issues. These issues, however, should be matters that are direct conflicts of interest to our elected legislators. Term limits, the only initiative ever to make it to a Mississippi ballot, is a direct conflict of interest for legislators. The state flag is not. Yes, it will cause some legislators to seriously consider their allegiances to many lobbyists before placing their vote. But voting on the fate of the flag is not a conflict of interest for the trusted politicians that return to Jackson in January. OUR VIEW - A vote on the flag will reopen old wounds

## Editorials and Opinions

### Know Your Enemies by Larry McCluney

I have always believed that before you can plan an attack you must know your enemy and his weaknesses. Of course as we all know, our enemies are Clintonian Politicians and the NAACP. We know about our current federal government and its plight but do we really know the tactics of our main enemy at hand. In a recent article I wish to share with you from the *Sun-Sentinel* of Charleston, Ms I think you will get the true picture of how far the NAACP will go to get support for its cause. This is the type of people we are fighting against and with some of our "Kid Glove Tactics" we may need to rethink how we should fight back at times. Remember, sometimes we have to "Fight Fire with Fire."

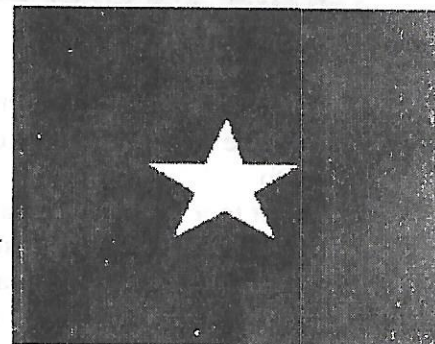
### Enough Crooks Are Already in Elections

The NAACP is really plumbing the depths in pursuit of black voters, trying to sign up felons locked behind bars. You'd think the nation's premier civil rights organization has enough of a job on its hands just trying to get law abiding citizens to register to vote, considering the low turnouts that are typical of most elections. NAACP officials are taking advantage of a loophole in the Mississippi law that allows some felons to cast ballots. The state's 1890 Constitution spells out certain felonies for which Mississippi residents lose their rights to vote. The courts have over the years interpreted the list to cover 19 specific crimes. There are several felonies that are not covered. The distinctions don't make sense. For instance, embezzlers lose their right to vote, drug dealers don't. A person convicted of arson can't vote, another convicted of manslaughter can. The crazy quilt is just another example of the flaws that run throughout Mississippi's Constitution. It should be amended to bar all felons from voting. A person found guilty of a serious crime should lose this right. From a public relations standpoint, this initiative by the NAACP doesn't win it a lot of points. There's not much public sympathy for criminals. Nor can we see many politicians actively going after the jailhouse voting bloc. Besides, there are enough crooked folks already involved in trying to rig elections. Its not a good idea to add bona fide criminals to the mix.



## Bonnie Blue has fewer enemies than battle flag

By Reed Branson DeSoto Appeal



JACKSON - As Mississippi and other Southern states grapple with the emotional symbolism of the Confederate battle flag, a small but growing number of Confederate history buffs are displaying and flying the less-recognizable Bonnie Blue. With its soothing deep blue field and single white star, the flag that was paraded around Jackson in 1861 to celebrate Mississippi's secession from the Union has little if any association with modern hate or supremacist groups and carries considerably less political baggage than does the Confederate battle flag.

"I've seen an increase in (Bonnie Blue) car tags on the front of cars. We don't sell those, but we sell Bonnie Blue flags and we've sold a lot of those over the summer," said Don Todd, manager of the bookstore at Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. "It's something people feel good about, and it doesn't offend anyone." In the wake of controversy over Mississippi's flag, which includes the Confederate (or Rebel) battle flag in one corner, and a state Supreme Court decision finding there was no existing law describing the state's flag, a gubernatorial commission here is exploring whether to redesign the banner. The commission begins holding public hearings on the issue Oct. 19 in Tupelo.

Mississippi's action follows a protracted debate in South Carolina that resulted in lowering the Rebel flag there from over the Capitol dome and displaying a more historically accurate - squarer - version on the lawn. Other states that fly or incorporate the Confederate flag are grappling with the issue. Today's tensions surrounding the flag around the South appear to stem as much from its modern uses as from its 19th Century relevance. While the Rebel flag has been incorporated in Mississippi's state flag since 1894, the battle flag also emerged here and in other states in the 1960s as a symbol of defiance to the cause of Civil Rights. And, to the anguish of many Confederate history lovers, the symbol is often waved as well by hate groups today. The Bonnie Blue escaped at least that most recent history. In fact, during last year's legislative debate in Jackson over the flag, at least one black lawmaker suggested returning to the state's previous flag, which includes a Magnolia tree on a white field, but also a smaller version of the Bonnie Blue in one corner. And if Mississippi's political and business leadership is searching for a compromise to this state's debate over the flag - one that would include some less inflammatory recognition of the Confederacy - the Bonnie Blue may indeed hold a key. "People are more familiar with the battle flag and the negative connotations associated with it. Some have done research on the Bonnie Blue and have objections to it, but we're going to sit down and look at everything," said state Sen. Hillman Frazier (D-Jackson), a black state lawmaker who also serves on the flag commission.

"We're trying to consider everything at this point," said Frazier. "We don't have strong feelings on the commission about the Bonnie Blue or any proposal at this time." The Bonnie Blue flag, according to Mississippi historian David Sansing, first appeared in 1810 as a flag of rebellion by Americans who attempted to secede from Spanish Florida and form the Republic of West Florida. A quarter century later, Texas adopted the symbol as that state seceded from Mexico. But its real significance in the Civil War came in 1861 when Mississippi seceded from the Union and spectators in the Capitol balcony handed down the flag to delegates on the floor. "The appearance of that famous banner prompted a tumultuous response," Sansing writes in an article "Flags over Mississippi" published by the Mississippi Historical Society on its Web site. "Later that night, residents of Jackson paraded through the streets under the blue banner bearing a single white star. Harry McCarthy, a singer and playwright who observed the parade, was inspired to write The Bonnie Blue Flag, which after Dixie was the most popular song in the Confederacy."

Bob Hawks, a heating and cooling contractor in Memphis, is a Civil War re-enactor and member of a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter in Mississippi where he lived for 25 years. He said the Bonnie Blue flag's growing popularity is clearly due to its insider status. "I fly it sometimes at my house. There's quite a bit of



people getting interested in it . . . it's not quite as racially sensitive," said Hawks. "It was the first flag of secession. It's kind of a way for Southern patriots to know other Southern patriots." To be sure, Hawks and other enthusiasts interviewed stressed they were not abandoning the battle flag, which they believe has been unfairly co-opted by hate groups and unfairly portrayed by critics. Many are infuriated at the suggestion that the battle flag is associated with racism, or even slavery, echoing the age-old debate over whether the Civil War was over slavery or state's rights. To them, it is the symbol of the cause of their ancestral defense of their homeland. In fact, many stressed, Mississippi's ongoing debate over the flag, as with the recent political wars in South Carolina and others in Georgia, are fueling new interest in not only the Bonnie Blue flag, but all symbols of the Confederacy. Robert L. Hawkins III, executive director of Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library in Biloxi, notes that annual attendance at the former president of the Confederacy's retirement home is exceeding 100,000 a year, up from fewer than 70,000 just a few years ago.

### Flag initiative draws 2nd suit

GINA HOLLAND OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON - A judge will be asked Friday to throw out a plan to let Mississippians decide whether the state flag should be stripped of the Confederate battle symbol. Supporters of the 106-year-old state banner are awaiting a ruling by Hinds County Circuit Judge Swan Yerger before they begin gathering signatures that would put the issue to a statewide vote in 2002. They want the present flag design, with the Rebel banner in one corner, put in the state constitution. Yerger must decide whether attorney Greg Stewart's proposal is unconstitutional.

A group that includes a Jackson restaurant owner and a writer filed suit last week against Stewart and the state officials who gave him permission to proceed with the initiative. Ballot initiatives have previously been successfully challenged in Hinds County, including three plans that would have let Mississippians vote on shutting down casinos. The initiative process lets people propose constitutional changes and have a statewide election if thousands of signatures are collected. Stewart would have to get 91,673 signatures for the issue to be voted on. The latest lawsuit claims Stewart's suggestion is vague and should be accompanied by an illustration of the flag. Yerger, who will meet with the two sides Friday, has three options: uphold the wording of the plan, change it or throw it out. Stewart said Tuesday that even if he loses to the six Mississippians who filed the challenge, he is "not going to go away." "They can hire the fanciest lawyers with the shiniest shoes, but I'm going right back," said Stewart, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and a lawyer in Tunica.

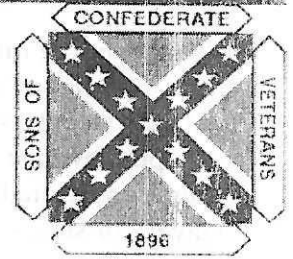
One of the plaintiffs, Hal & Mal's co-owner Malcolm White, said any plan for an election should be delayed until a commission appointed by Gov. Ronnie Musgrove has time to consider flag designs. The commission is meeting this fall and could recommend that the flag remain the same or that the state Legislature adopt a new one. Some blacks and others have complained that the current flag design is a reminder of slavery. Southern heritage activists contend it is part of the state's history.

"When this is all said and done, we're going to have a flag that all Mississippians can be proud of," White said. "History is a wonderful thing. It's also 2000, the last time I checked." The other plaintiffs include novelist Josephine Haxton, who writes under the name Ellen Douglas, Oxford book store owner Richard Howorth, Greenville physician Willie Lucas, former teacher Harriet Kuykendall of Jackson and Perteria Allen of Greenville. Their lawsuit not only claims that the wording is vague, it argues that any decision made in the election could be irreversible. Stewart said the wording is clear and "it's obvious they just don't want to vote." He said Mississippians should get to pick their symbols. The state's flag debate intensified in May when the state Supreme Court ruled that the flag had no official standing. Other Southern states have also had flag debates. Boycotts were held in South Carolina before leaders agreed to remove the Confederate flag from atop the Capitol. There have been also protests in Georgia over that banner.





## Welcome New Members And A Big Rebel Yell To You All!!!



**Jimmie Dale DeLoach**

**Ancestor: James E. DeLoach, Great, Great  
Grandfather**

**Private; Company D 1st Battalion Mississippi Sharpshooters**

**Michelle Spelling, wife of our SCV member Stan Spelling has joined the  
Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR**

**Welcome these new members to our family at the next meeting!!!**

### THE OLD COAT OF GRAY

It lies there alone; it is rusted and faded, with a patch on the elbow, a hole in the side; but we think of the brave boy who wore it, and ever look on it with pleasure and touch it with pride.

A history clings to it; over and over we see a proud youth hurried on to the fray, with his frame like the oak's and his eye like the eagle's, how gallant he rode in the ranks of "The Gray."

It is rough, it is worn, it is tattered in places, but I love it the more for the story it bears, a story of courage in struggle with sorrows, and a breast that bore bravely its burden of cares.

It is ragged and rusty, but once it was shining in the silkiest sheen when he wore it away; and his face was as bright as the smile of the morning when he sprang to his place in the ranks of "The Gray."

There's a rip in the sleeve and the collar is tarnished the buttons all gone with their glitter and gold;

'Tis a thing, of the past, and we reverently lay it away with the treasures and relics of old.

As the gifts of love, solemn, sweet, and unspoken, and cherished as leaves from a long-vanished day, we will keep the old coat for the sake of the loved one who rode in the van in the ranks of "The Gray."

Shot through with a bullet, right here in the shoulder, and down there the pocket is splintered and soiled; Ah! more, see the lining is stained and discolored! Yes, blood drops the texture have stiffened and spoiled.

It came when he rode at the head of the column, charging down in the battle one deadliest day, when squadrons of foemen were broken asunder and victory rode with the ranks of "The Gray."

Its memory is sweetest and sorrow commingled; to me it is precious, more precious than gold; in the rent and the shot hole a volume is written, in the stains of the lining is agony told.

That was long years ago, when in life's sunny morning he rode with his comrades down into the fray; and the old coat he wore and the good sword he wielded were all that came back from the ranks of "The Gray."

And it lies here alone, I will reverence it ever the patch in the elbow, the hole in the side.

For a gallanter heart never breathed than the loved one who wore it with honor and soldierly pride.

Let me brush off the dust from its tatter and tarnish, let me fold it up closely and lay it away.

It is all that remains of the loved and the lost one who fought for the right in the ranks of "The Gray."

-UNKNOWN- >>