

TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E. Lee
Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

September, 2017



CAMP MEETING
September 11, 2017

Speaker: Mark Buchanan

Topic: Confederate Political Issues

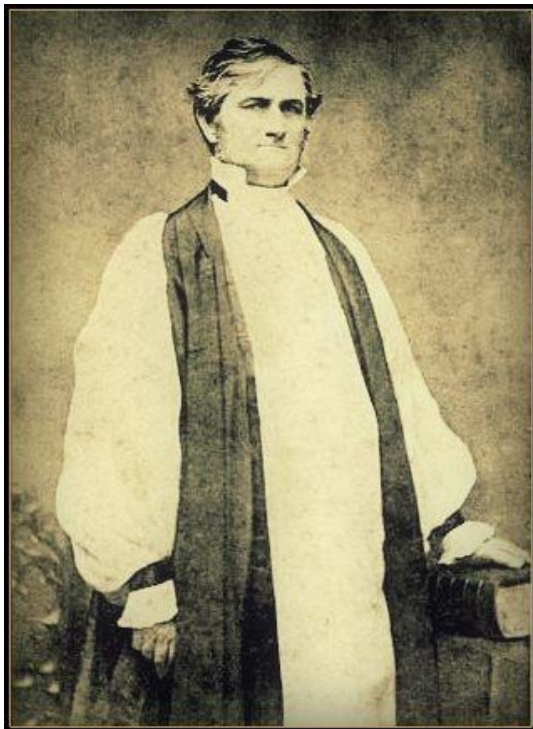
**7:00 p.m. at the at the Germantown
Regional History and Genealogy Center**

Don't miss our next meeting!

DID YOU KNOW?

by Beecher Smith

**GENERAL LEONIDAS POLK: FIGHTING BISHOP
OF THE CONFEDERACY**



Bishop Leonidas Polk

Though not as famous or successful in combat as some of the other Confederate generals (i.e. J. E. B. Stuart, P. G. T. Beauregard, or Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson), no commander of his troops, with the possible exception of Robert E. Lee, excelled in bravery or the love of those who served under him. He lived up to his name like the ancient Spartan king who died defending the pass at Thermopole against the invading Persians.

The son of William Polk, one of the wealthiest planters, landholders, and slave owners in the South, and a cousin of President James K. Polk, young Leonidas applied himself diligently to his studies. He received an appointment to West Point where he excelled in academics, graduating eighth in a class of thirty-eight. Among his undergraduate cadet classmates and friends were Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Albert Sydney Johnston.

His last year at West Point, the would-be artillery officer found a new and higher calling. A fervent religious revival swept through the academy and Polk was caught up in it. He was baptized into the Episcopal Church in the presence of the entire Corps of Cadets. Just six months after graduation with the rank of Brevet Second Lieutenant, Polk resigned his commission in the artillery in order to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary, dashing his father's hopes for military glory. Shortly thereafter, when asked where his newly commissioned son had been stationed, William Polk snorted in disgust and exclaimed: ‘Stationed! Why, he's over there in Alexandria at the Seminary!’

When he was about to graduate from seminary, he became an assistant to Bishop [Richard Channing Moore](#) at Monumental Church in [Richmond, Virginia](#). Moore agreed to ordain Polk as a [deacon](#) in April 1830; however on a visit to Raleigh in March it was discovered that he had never been confirmed. To remedy the fact before his ordination he was hastily confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, NC. He was then ordained a deacon as planned and a priest the following year. On May 6, 1830, Polk married Frances Ann Devereux, daughter of John Devereux and Frances Pollock; her mother was the granddaughter of

Puritan theologian [Jonathan Edwards](#). The Polks had eight children who survived to adulthood

Polk rose in the ranks of the army of the Lord quickly: He was ordained a deacon at age 24, joined the priesthood at 30 and was named missionary bishop of the Southwest at 32 — thanks in large part to his affluence and family name. For the next two decades, Bishop Polk led a quiet and for the most part comfortable life of service to the church. He spent months at a time traveling the vast reaches of his frontier episcopate, preaching sermons, establishing new parishes and ministering to wayward sinners, of which there were many. In 1844 Polk was named bishop of Louisiana — almost a million square miles and well over a million souls now fell within his territory.

When Louisiana left the Union, without relinquishing his title as Bishop of Louisiana, he applied for and received from his old classmate Jefferson Davis a commission as a Major General on June 25, 1861. Although a West Point graduate, unlike many of his fellow alumni who had risen through the ranks by merit, Polk was largely considered a political appointee who lacked the field experience for a successful command. He fought bravely at Columbus, Kentucky, then at Shiloh, and was promoted to Lieutenant General to be second in command under Braxton Bragg at Perryville. After having fought with distinction at Stones River and Murfreesboro, he quarreled bitterly with Bragg, whom he tried to have removed as commander and who retaliated by trying to have Polk court martialed.



Jefferson Davis came to the rescue of his long-time friend by having Polk reassigned to Mississippi. From there he led his corps into Georgia to join the army of the Tennessee under Lieutenant General Joseph E. Johnston try to stop Sherman's advance on Atlanta.

Another man of the cloth who became an artillery commander was William N. Pendleton, who joined the Confederate army early in the war and quickly rose through merit under General Johnston to the rank of brigadier general, then assumed command of Robert E. Lee's artillery: four smoothbore 6-pound brass cannons. Pendleton said they "spoke a strong language." Hence he named them Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. He further commented, "We just send the Yankees to God and let him sort them out."

On the morning of June 14, 1864, at the beginning of the Battle of Pine Mountain, while Polk was scouting enemy positions with Generals Joseph E. Johnston and William J. Hardee on the mountain's crest, in full view of the Union troops, a Parrot Gun, far more deadly than Pendleton's 6-pounders, fired with deadly accuracy, penetrating the body of General Polk, almost taking off his head, killing him instantly.



Site where General Polk died

The 3-inch solid shot that killed Episcopal Bishop and Confederate Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk on the morning of June 14, 1864, nearly tore him in half. When his mangled body was carried down from Pine Mountain, Georgia, on a litter, Private Sam Watkins of the 1st Tennessee noted that the bishop-general was 'as white as a piece of marble,' and 'not a drop of blood was ever seen to come out of the place through which the cannon ball had passed.' But plenty of blood had been spilled — advancing Union soldiers found the Georgia clay soaked with it the next day, along with a note reportedly staked by a ramrod into the ground nearby: 'You damned Yankee sons of bitches have killed our old Gen. Polk.'

Military historians largely dismiss the dramatic death of General Polk as no great loss, militarily speaking. Polk had been at best unspectacular and at worst near incompetent in his efforts over the past three years. He

was a mediocre commander whose post would be filled by unremarkable replacements, Maj. Gen. W.W. 'Old Blizzards' Loring and later Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart. Even Polk's usually generous biographer Joseph Parks merely evaluates him as 'competent,' frankly admitting, 'He was not a thorough student of military science.'

But the people of the South and the rank and file of the Army of Tennessee did not see it that way. 'My pen and ability is inadequate to the task of doing his memory justice,' Sam Watkins wrote. 'Every private soldier loved him. Second to Stonewall Jackson, his loss was the greatest the South ever sustained.' President Davis agreed, calling the death of his friend an 'irreparable loss.' For his part, Johnston sent an order to the army that same afternoon:

Head-quarters, Army of Tennessee
In the Field, June 14, 1864

Comrades, you are called upon to mourn your first captain, your oldest companion in arms, Lieutenant General Polk. He fell to-day at the outpost of this army, the post of duty; the army he raised and commanded, in all of whose trials he shared, to all of whose victories he contributed. In this distinguished leader we have lost the most courteous of gentlemen, the most gallant of soldiers. The Christian, patriot, soldier, has neither lived nor died in vain. His example is before you, his mantle rests upon you.

Joseph E. Johnston, General.

The Army of Tennessee would exact a measure of revenge less than two weeks later, inflicting some 3,000 casualties on their blue-clad adversaries at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, 1864.

Back in north Georgia, Pine Mountain was not included within the postwar boundaries for the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, leaving the site of Polk's demise on private property, hidden in the piney woods and in danger of being lost to history. Thanks to the efforts of a Confederate veteran, J.G. Morris, an impressive monument stands on the spot today. The 20-foot marble obelisk, dedicated in 1902, is inscribed on its south face 'In Memory of Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, who fell on this spot June 14, 1864,' with a moving verse carved below. The remains of the earthworks that protected Beauregard's hilltop battery are clearly visible nearby.

Historian and author Roger Busbice says: "But a more fitting postwar remembrance may be the sentiment Polk expressed in a prayer on October 9, 1862, the day after

the bloody Battle of Perryville. 'Peace to the land,' he said, 'and blessings on friend and foe alike.'"

Amen.

END

Bonds, Russell S. *Civil War Times Magazine*, May 2006 ed. (6/12/06)

Busbice, Roger. The Attakapas Historical Association. *Attakapas Gazette*, 2013-14

Encyclopedia Britannica. "Leonidas Polk," (2016)

Wikipedia. "Leonidas Polk," (2015)

Memphis Council Readies to Remove Confederate Monuments as 'Unconstitutional Nuisances'



If the Tennessee Historical Commission denies the city's request to remove Memphis' Confederate statues, Memphis will remove the statues anyway, City Council members said Tuesday.

All 12 council members agreed Tuesday to sponsor an ordinance to remove statues of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest from Health Science Park and of President Jefferson Davis from Memphis Park after Oct. 13, the date of the commission's next meeting. A final vote on the ordinance is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Before enforcing the ordinance, Mayor Jim Strickland would need to decide whether the city can legally remove the statues without the permission of the commission, said City Attorney Bruce McMullen.

"The administration has been consistent: We want to go through the process," McMullen said of seeking a commission waiver for removing the statues. "We think that's the cleanest legal way to do it."

The council's action was celebrated by activists, who have called in a series of rallies since Charlottesville for the immediate removal of the statues. The Forrest statue sits on top of the graves of Forrest and his wife, which would be moved back to their original resting place in Elmwood Cemetery per a 2015 council vote.

Council attorney Allan Wade advised council members that the city could successfully argue the statues prevent African-Americans from reasonably accessing the public parks, which would cross a Supreme Court of the United States decision requiring equal access to parks, regardless of race. McMullen said that's a "valid argument, but not the only argument."

The city is still waiting to hear whether its waiver request will be added to the commission's October agenda. And if it does, the commission could still "do the right thing" by granting the city's waiver, Wade said.

"If they don't, this ordinance says, 'Unleash the dogs,'" he said.

The commission's membership includes supporters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization, which has opposed the city's waiver application. The commission voted in 2016 to deny the city's request for a waiver, although the vote was later overturned on a technicality. However, this go-round, the city has the backing of Gov. Bill Haslam, who appoints commissioners and is a non-voting member of the commission.

The committee vote followed a report from the Memphis Police Department showing the city spent \$16,530 in overtime as it monitored four rallies Aug. 15-28. MPD also spent an additional \$8,795 in regular pay for details at the parks during that time, bringing the city's total cost to patrol the parks to more than \$25,000, MPD Deputy Chief Don Crowe said.

The city also spent another \$38,500 patrolling a rally at a candlelit vigil at Elvis' home Graceland.

Author of Heritage Protection Act Cautions City About 'Consequences'

In Memphis, Rep. Steve McDaniel warns that violators of state law on statue removal can be "prosecuted for felonies."

by Jackson Baker
September 07, 2017



State Rep. Steve McDaniel

One day after the City Council agreed unanimously to adopt an ordinance allowing relocation of local statues of Nathan Bedford Forrest and Jefferson Davis regardless of whether formal state approval can be obtained, the author of the state's Heritage Protection Act weighed in with words of caution.

"That's against the law. They'd be prosecuted for felonies for destroying public property. Or if somebody vandalizes the property, they'd have to suffer the consequences," said State Rep. Steve McDaniel (R-Parker's Crossroads) in Memphis on Wednesday.

McDaniel was in town to address a Kiwanis luncheon at the University Club and discussed the matter of preserving Civil War history both during and after his remarks to the club. He made the statement about "consequences" when, in the course of an interview after his speech he was reminded that the Heritage Protection Act prescribes no specific penalties for violators of it.

"We did that on purpose," said Rep. McDaniel, who also functions as Deputy Speaker of the state House of Representatives. In theory, there would be no need to prescribe specific penalties, he said. "We expected governments to follow the law. That's why we have no penalties."

But he repeated: "If [people] don't follow the law, then they have to suffer the consequences.... We're one of the few states that has a process through law that if you

want to move or remove monuments, there's a process to follow."

McDaniel was clear about his own outlook. "I disagree with moving the statue. I fully support that statue staying here in Memphis at its current location. I think his and all the statues need to stay where they are."

A longtime Civil War buff, McDaniel has been city manager of Parker's Crossroads since the Henderson County town was first incorporated in 1981.

That role also gives him direct supervision of the town's major industry, the large and expanding park and museum area which sprawls on both sides of Interstate 40 at mile-marker 108 and commemorates the Battle of Parker's Crossroads.

The battle, which took place on December 31, 1862, was, as McDaniel explained to the Kiwanians, one of the first encounters which earned distinction for Confederate General Forrest, whom the legislator referred to wryly as "a man you see in the news sometimes now, especially in Memphis."

Forrest, a commander of cavalry, was in the Parkers Crossroads area as part of a mission to harass Union forces in West Tennessee and to interdict the movement of troops and supplies via railroad. As McDaniel explained, he was surprised at Parkers Crossroads and flanked on both sides by separate Union Army contingents but escaped the potential trap by a bold decision to "charge 'em both ways."

McDaniel takes part in periodic reenactments of the Battle of Parker's Crossroads, but as a mere private, letting someone else play the part of Forrest. "I don't want to be in charge of things," he says.

He described Forrest as a "natural born military tactician," who deserved recognition for his feats, though "he gets weighed down by other things."

Among those "other things" are the fact that Forrest was a slave trader in Memphis before the war, was accused during the war of a massacre of surrendering black Union troops at Fort Pillow, and was Grand Dragon of the newly formed Ku Klux Klan after the war.

McDaniel did not discuss those matters directly during his luncheon remarks, but in the interview afterward alluded to the last charge.

After repeating that Forrest was a "natural born military tactician" and suggesting that "people ought to focus on the positive," McDaniel said, "This other activity that he got involved in, once he saw what was bad about it, he disbanded it.... You can find something bad on anybody. We wouldn't agree with what he did after the war, but he did a lot of good things."

McDaniel rushed one version of the Heritage Protection Act through the legislature in 2013 in an effort (too late as it turned out) to prevent the Memphis City Council from changing the names of three downtown parks with Confederate associations, including Forrest park (now Health Sciences Park).

In 2016, he successfully sponsored a stronger version of the Act, mandating that a change in the status of monuments can only be approved by a two-thirds vote of the 29-member state Historical Association. The City of Memphis will seek a waiver from that body when the Association next meets in Nashville in October.

Message from James Patterson Members of the Tennessee Division,

In the aftermath of the march/protest/riot in Charlottesville Virginia, the anti-Confederate movement has heated back up here in Tennessee. The news coverage has been on the Forrest bust at the Tennessee State Capitol building, I am afraid there will be others that will be a target. What we need to do is have our members contact their state representatives and let them know that we do not want any monument taken down, period. Also, send letters to all of your local media in support of our Confederate monuments. Be vigilant and keep a continual watch on all monuments in your area, but mostly be safe and aware of your surroundings. A Confederate statue in North Carolina has been pulled down yesterday with a strap by a mob of protesters. In several of the recent instances, for some reason, there is no law enforcement taking action.

Whatever you do, make sure that our members are not drawn in to being associated with any radical groups.

The next meeting of the Tennessee Historical Commission will be on Friday October 13, 2017 at 9 AM at the McMinn Co. Living Heritage Museum, 522 West Madison Avenue, Athens, TN 37371-0889.

Hopefully several of you will be able to attend. The agenda for the THC meeting has not been set, I will send it out as soon as it is available.

Deo Vindice.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

James G. Patterson, Commander, Tennessee Division

Orpheum Bans “Gone with the Wind” – CEO doesn’t understand what went wrong

After announcing a ban of “Gone with the Wind” from its Summer Movie Series the ban elicited massive negative public response. The Orpheum issued this statement to its patrons explaining how the ban is not a ban:



As some of you may be aware, the Orpheum Theatre Group in Memphis, Tennessee has unintentionally made international news as a result of our decision not to include *Gone With the Wind* in our 2018 Summer Movie Series. While the traditional media, social media and internet users all over the globe have made this out to be a statement on the film *Gone With the Wind*, I have always simply considered it to be a programming decision.

I make programming decisions every day. If I decide not to present a particular Broadway show at the Orpheum, it is not a judgment of the show itself, nor any audience members who might wish to see it. The same is true when I decide what movies to include in our summer series.

The fact that the decision has been distorted beyond recognition as the story traveled worldwide only proves what a divisive time in which we live.

Our statement did not include the words "banned," "censored," "gone," "never again" or any of the many others that have been incorrectly attributed to us. As there are so many ways viewers can still watch *Gone With the Wind*, it was never our intention to dictate what can and cannot be viewed by any resident of our city. The August 29 online and August 30 print article in *The Commercial Appeal* by John Belfuss does a good job describing the events surrounding the situation.

These past five days have been the longest of my life.

I hurt as a result of this experience. Our Orpheum team has personally been attacked and threatened to the point that there are guards stationed to watch my home and the Orpheum facilities. This is irrational. It is four hours of programming at the Orpheum, out of the 8,760 hours in a year.

Most of the thousands of comments on the internet about this subject come from those who have never met me, never set foot inside the Orpheum or Halloran Centre and do not understand the difficult decisions involved in programming a performing arts center. Our patrons and donors who truly know the Orpheum can rest assured that whether you agree with a decision or not, the Orpheum will always strive to present the highest quality programming for all the citizens of Memphis.

Thank you for your support as a patron and friend of the Orpheum.

Brett Batterson

President and CEO
Orpheum Theatre Group
August 29, 2017

Orpheum letter sent to patrons explaining why the decision to ban “Gone with the Wind” is not a ban

As a former Orpheum patron, your Traveller editor felt obliged to respond to the theater’s ban of “Gone with the Wind” with the following letter addressed to the Orpheum’s President and CEO:

Dear Mr. Batterson

Some of us who do not live in caves have indeed been made unintentionally aware of the media storm in which you find yourself. I had intentionally not contacted Orpheum management in regard to this matter but since you felt compelled to contact me...

Correct me if I am wrong but is the following not the exact wording of the "programming decision" you claim has been "distorted beyond recognition"?

"...the Orpheum cannot show a film that is insensitive to a large segment of its local population"

Forgive me, but I fail to see how "cannot show" is substantively different from "banned" or many other similar words that may have been attributed to you; and you might as well own up and admit there isn't. For all intents and purposes you have singlehandedly and for all time effectively managed in McCarthyistic fashion to blackball one of the most critically acclaimed and beloved films in American cinematic history and now you pretend to not understand what all the fuss is about.

Ironically, you banned GWTW not just to avert possible controversy and criticism of yourself and the Orpheum, but you actively sought to garner publicity, applause, and accolades for your “heroic” decision. Essentially you believed you could safely exploit popular sentiment by means of a self-righteous, ill conceived, feckless gesture when all could have been so easily avoided had you simply said

nothing. To be fair you had no reason to believe the ban would not be well received. But the direction of the prevailing winds of public opinion have proven more complicated than you expected and instead you find your scheme, and now your prevaricating attempt at damage control, have backfired in David O. Selznicky epic proportions.

Everyone makes mistakes, Mr. Batterson, and for that you may be forgiven. However, you have proved yourself perfectly willing to disregard the sensibilities of a segment of your loyal patrons more numerous, more vocal, and more influential than you had bothered to anticipate. Perhaps it really has not occurred to you (or at least I'm sure you hoped it would not occur to us) that the grounds upon which you have banned GWTW suggest those of us who would dare patronize the film are insensitive de facto racists; and you seem genuinely oblivious why we take offense to the implication. Instead, to make matters worse, you offer excuses rather than a simple acknowledgement of your mistake.

I think I speak for many good people when I say we are growing weary of your type of myopic pandering and you unfortunately have had to find it out the hard way. The long and short of it for my wife and me is that our patronage of Orpheum programming has "levelled off" and we intend to avoid Orpheum events of any kind for the foreseeable future. But take heart and do not let it concern you too much. I am sure there remains a "large segment of the local population" standing ready to support you at least in principle if not with actual ticket purchases.

Best of luck
Steve McIntyre

Go to our website:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

<http://www.facebook.com/RELeeCamp1640>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>

'Gone With the Wind' fans march through social media to shame ban in Memphis



Clark Gable as Rhett Butler, and Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in 'Gone With the Wind.'
WARNER BROS. HOME ENTERTAINMENT VIA AP

SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
T Tarry Beasley IV	Winston Blackley
Eugene Callaway	John Cole
W. Kent Daniel Jr.	James Anthony Davis
Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD	H. Clark Doan
Eugene Forrester	Robert Freeman
Donald Harrison	Frederick Harrison
Frank Holeman	M. Gary Hood
William P Hunter, Jr.	Bobby Lessel
Jerry C. Lunsford	Frank M. McCroskey
James Lee McDowell	Arthur Oliver
Michael Christopher McDowel	
Steve McIntyre	Charles Wendell Park
Steve Reason	Larry J. Spiller, Jr.
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Osborn Turner, IV
Charles L Vernon	William C. Wilson



Join the

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

A society of male descendants of the
military and governmental leadership of the
Confederate States of America.

**Lt. Dabney M. Scales Chapter No. 141
Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Memphis, Tennessee**

For more information on the MOSB
and the Memphis Chapter, contact:

T. Tarry Beasley II

Tarry@BeasleyLawFirm.org

(901) 682-8000

CITIZENS TO SAVE OUR PARKS
AND THE
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save Our Parks



Fight City Hall ? We ARE !!!

The Forrest Camp 213 and the CTSOP have filed suit against the Memphis City Council for their illegal attempt to change the names of our three Confederate parks. We have been joined by all area camps & many UDC members. These parks, Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park, are our history, our Confederate heritage, and a lasting tribute to our Confederate ancestors. They must not be destroyed or taken away by mis-guided politicians.

Help us to save our historic parks: Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park.

Can you, or your group donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

I wish to join CTSOP. Please sign me up as a member. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

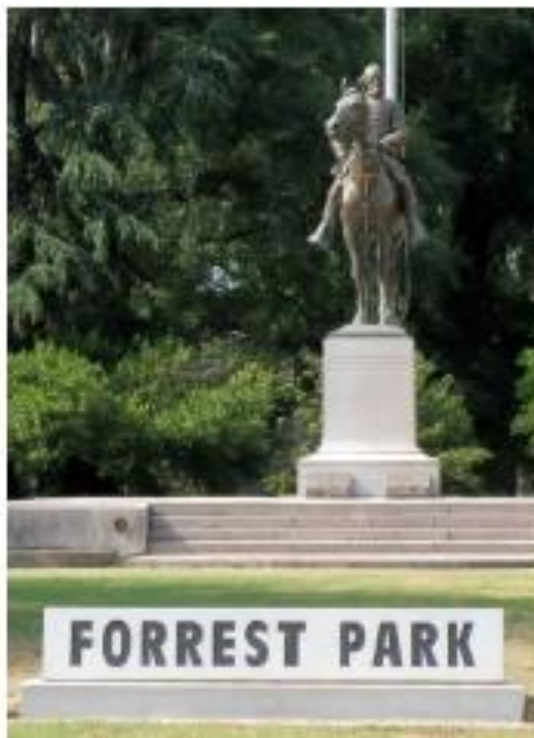
Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Parks Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

COLLECTOR'S

FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

**\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to
Parks Defense Fund**

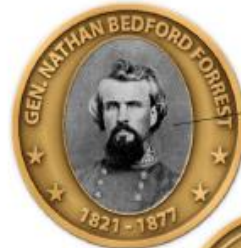
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

harryadamscsa@gmail.com

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640
Sons of Confederate Veterans
and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,
Order of the Confederate Rose
P.O. Box 171251
Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

Next Camp Meeting ** September 11, 2017
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN