

The Webfoot

Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Published Monthly

March 16th Issue - April 13th Issue

CAMP REPORT

DIGITAL EDITION

Friends, Compatriots and to all concerned,

I hope this letter finds everyone well. Firstly, we will not be having an April meeting due to all the happenings with Confederate History Month. I encourage all of you to try to attend at least one re-enactment this month and by all means do your best to recruit new members into the camp. I also encourage you all to fellowship with some of our other camps local to the Middle-Tennessee area and especially those who are struggling. Try to remember what it's all about!

At present time our roster is at fifty-five members and we've had 4 inquiries this past month alone. It is a dream of mine to have at least one hundred by this time next year. This of course can only happen with your help.

Don't forget the Tennessee Division Reunion, which will be held from April 23rd ~ April 25th. This is an election year and attendance should be very high.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant,

Jack Taylor, II

Camp Adjutant/Editor

The Webfoot

Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Digital Edition

March 16th Minutes

March 16th, 2004 marked the third meeting of the year for the Sam Watkins Camp #29. Guest speaker was Lt. Colonel Michael Guthrie, PHD of Madison, Alabama.

7:08PM - Meeting started with prayer. After prayer the camp said the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and said the honorary salute to the Confederate battle flag.

7:10PM - Commander Greg Atwell began with an introduction on Lt. Colonel Michael Guthrie of Madison, Alabama and gave a short resume on his accomplishments.

7:15PM – Michael Guthrie introduces himself to the camp and gave a short history on why he is attempting to start up an all male military academy.

7:20PM- Michael Guthrie went over three reasons why current Military schools are becoming hard on Southern traditions and said that current military culture is eliminating the male role model. He made clear to the camp the following:

- ◆ *There are no all male military schools left in existence*
- ◆ *There are no more Christian Military Schools left*
- ◆ *SMI will focus on National Guard training*

For 15 minutes Guthrie spoke on these three topics and why he feels it's important to return to these ideals in a military education.

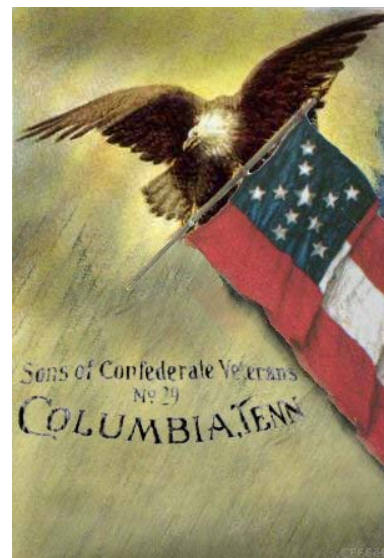
7:35PM – Guthrie tells the camp he feels three of America's greatest leaders are George Washington, Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathan Jackson. He reiterated that all of these men were military geniuses and that they all were devoted Christian examples. He went on to say that we should return to this type of leadership and instruction for today's young people.

7:45PM- Guthrie goes over the starting costs of what it will take to get the "Southern Military Institute off the ground. He said the start up costs will be somewhere in the neighborhood of three million dollars and that the opening date could be as early as the 2nd quarter of 2005. He concludes his presentation by saying the SCV would be good for "SMI".

8:14PM – Commander Greg Atwell talks to the camp concerning the latest news around the confederation. He mentioned the latest concerning our SCV license plates, Tennessee State SCV reunion and the Jackson College Cemetery restoration.

8:25PM – Camp decides that there will not be a meeting for the month of April due to all the heritage events that will be going on during the month.

8:31pm – Meeting adjourns



North Carolina School drops ban on Confederate image clothing

Associated Press 3/30/04

Lenoir, North Carolina - South Caldwell High School administrators have dropped a ban on T-shirts that show a Confederate flag, saying the issue has overshadowed learning.

About 25 students at the predominantly white school were sent home last week for wearing shirts-

that showed the Confederate battle flag after the emblem was banned beginning March 22.

Some students and parents protested, saying they and their children were merely expressing their Southern heritage.

The school also banned T-shirts with messages referring to freedom of expression when Principal Byron Jones became concerned about how those shirts related to the flag.

Caldwell County Superintendent Tom McNeel apologized to parents and teachers in a letter sent out on March 26.

"I regret that the Confederate Flag issue at South Caldwell High School has become the focal point of the school, rather than teaching and learning," the letter read. "I regret that this past week has been filled with so much controversy, so many rumors and so much unrest."

McNeel told the *Hickory Daily Record* he also was concerned that the ban might not have been legal. His letter said administrators would try to eliminate any racial disharmony among students through Human Relations councils at all the county's schools.

Maryland honors Confederate sailor

Associated Press 3/27/04

Libertytown, Maryland – Maryland descendants of Confederate soldiers are honoring the memory of an Eastern Shore seaman who died when the submarine H.L. Hunley sank 140 years ago off the coast of South Carolina.

Sediment collected from inside the submarine was carried in a coffin through Libertytown on Friday to honor Joseph Ridgaway, who was born in Talbot County in 1836. Ridgaway will be buried with seven other crewmembers in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, S.C., next month.

"This is a physical reminder of the heroism on both sides," said Carl Berenholtz, commander of the Maryland division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "People who stepped up and did their duty for what they thought was a just cause."

Members of a color guard greeted a white hearse at Hartzler Funeral Home in Libertytown. Seven men wearing Confederate uniforms carried the coffin into the funeral home, where it was to remain until Sunday.

The Confederate group had hoped for the return of Ridgaway's remains. But the South Carolina Hunley Commission, citing legal reasons, would only send the sediment, which arrived at Baltimore-Washington International airport Thursday evening.

Berenholtz said there were concerns that if any remains were removed from Charleston, the descendants of a crew member could sue to take possession of them. That would jeopardize the joint burial scheduled for April 17, when about 50,000 people are expected.

Ridgaway was one of eight crewmen on the Hunley when it sank Feb. 17, 1864, after sinking the Union blockade ship Housatonic. The Hunley rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Housatonic's wooden hull, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship.

Ridgaway is believed to have been the eldest son of an Easton man who was a seaman and farmer, according to family records.

Two six-pound naval guns, ammunition, flags from the 1800s, a replica of the Hunley and other memorabilia were displayed at the funeral home, which owner Dan Hartzler offered to the Confederate group after plans fell through to have the ceremony at a Baltimore armory and the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Virginia Honors Confederate Sailor

Associated Press – 3/27/04

Richmond, VA - Two sailors who died aboard a Confederate submarine were honored during elaborate ceremonies in Virginia and Maryland as officials prepared to bury the crew of the H.L. Hunley.

Sediment collected from inside the submarine was carried by casket through Richmond and Libertytown, Md., Friday to honor the crew of the Hunley, which sank off the coast of South

Carolina- in 1864.

The sailors' remains were recovered when the Hunley was brought up from the ocean floor in 2000. Confederate groups seeking to honor the men had sought their remains, but the South Carolina Hunley Commission, citing legal reasons, would send only the sediment.

Richmond re-enactors organized the procession with all the honors of a military funeral, complete with a riderless horse, riflemen marching in formation and a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace."

They delivered a casket containing the sediment to a Confederate color guard, which assigned soldiers to watch over it at the state Capitol.

The coffin honored Frank Collins, a Fredericksburg native who died aboard the Hunley after it rammed a torpedo spar into the wooden-hulled Union ship Housatonic.

The Housatonic also sank, securing the Hunley's place in history as the first submarine to sink an enemy warship. A funeral for the Hunley's entire eight-man crew is scheduled for April 17 in Charleston, S.C.

"I'd have much preferred the skeletal remains," said Brag Bowling, Sons of Confederate Veterans Virginia Division commander. "But I remain convinced there was a portion of Frank Collins here today."



In separate ceremonies in Libertytown, members of a color guard greeted a white hearse bearing a coffin meant to honor Joseph Ridgaway, a Maryland native who served aboard the Hunley. Seven men wearing Confederate

uniforms carried the casket into a funeral home, where it was to remain until Sunday, surrounded by Civil War artifacts.

"This is a physical reminder of the heroism on both sides," Carl Berenholtz, commander of the Maryland division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, told The Frederick News-Post. "People who stepped up and did their duty for what they thought was a just cause."

The Hunley Commission declined to send remains because of concerns that if they were removed from Charleston, the descendants of a crewmember could sue to take possession of them, Berenholtz said.

Commission chairman Glenn McConnell said the sediment was taken from a region of the sub where there would "not be any chance of an atom" of human remains being in it.

Suffolk, Virginia Mayor refuses to designate April as Confederate Heritage and History Month.

The Virginia-Pilot – 03/24/04

For the second consecutive year, Mayor E. Dana Dickens III has rejected a local group's request to designate April as Confederate History and Heritage Month.

"My job is, as mayor, to unify," Dickens said in an interview Tuesday. "This generally does not further that goal."

He added that the group "has a tendency to offend some folks."

In a letter to a local affiliate of the Sons of Confederate Veterans last week, Dickens, who is white, held fast to a position he took in 2003.

His decision comes as the city prepares a "Civil War Weekend" downtown, which Dickens described as a general-interest family event different from backing a Confederate history month.

Dickens' predecessor as mayor, City Councilman Curtis R. Milteer Sr., who is black, sparked national attention – and vigorous debate about the murky waters of race and history here – when he

signed a proclamation recognizing a Confederate history month in 2002.

In an address before the Tom Smith Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans late Monday, Milteer – locked in Suffolk’s only contested City Council race this spring – said he would do it all over again.

“Heritage is a memory that each of us decides we want to celebrate,” Milteer said Monday, according to a tape the group made to provide meeting minutes. “It doesn’t matter whether you wore a gray uniform or a blue uniform, you were all Americans.

“When I made the decision I made two years ago as mayor to celebrate History and Heritage Month, I had people all over the country – both black and white – who pressed me,” added Milteer, who stood at a podium with a Confederate battle flag on it.

“The decision I made I would not have changed if I was mayor today.”

Those in attendance cheered Milteer. In an interview Tuesday, Milteer briefly addressed his reasoning for backing a proclamation.

“It’s history,” Milteer said, before declining to comment further.

There has been statewide debate about such proclamations. In his first year of office, Gov. Mark R. Warner, a Democrat, called a requested proclamation “needlessly divisive” and said he would not address the matter each year.

Milteer has acknowledged that racial representation on the City Council is an issue this election – and his 2002 decision brought heavy criticism from other black leaders here.

Three of the city’s seven council members are black.

Milteer, who was the city’s second black mayor, faces a challenge in the Whaleyville Borough from Roger A. Leonard, a businessman, and the Rev. Isaac J. Baker Jr., vice chairman of the Suffolk Industrial Development Authority.

Leonard, who is white, could not say whether he would back or oppose a proclamation.

“I assume his comments are heartfelt,” Leonard said. “I believe he’s entitled to these beliefs. ... I’m not sure where I’m at right now. It is a very difficult question. I don’t think there’s any one answer.”

Baker, who is black, could not be reached for comment.

Dickens would not comment on Milteer’s decision to speak in front of the Sons of Confederate Veterans this week.

“Mr. Milteer’s his own man,” Dickens said.

Fred D. Taylor, commander of the Tom Smith Camp, requested the proclamation from Dickens on March 1.

In an interview, Taylor said Dickens’ opposition to a proclamation last year helped the group grow in membership by 65 percent to 145 people.

“We are a part of this community, and they can’t keep shutting the door,” he said.

“There’s no need to turn this into a negative thing,” he added. “April is going to be History and Heritage Month in Suffolk, no matter what.”

Rebel flag stirs unease

School suspended some wearing shirts bearing the symbol

Associated Press 3/30/04

Students at Campbell County's Brookville High School returned to their classroom routine yesterday, days after up to 90 students stirred racial unease by wearing T-shirts bearing the Confederate flag.

About 15 students were suspended Friday after refusing to turn the shirts inside out or find new shirts to wear.

After the suspensions, some students had threatened to continue wearing the shirts this week. But principal Jim Whorley said "only one or two" students wore the shirts to school yesterday. One was suspended after he refused to change.

"I don't know that we're back to normal yet, but we're getting there," Whorley said.-

Brookville does not prohibit T-shirts with Confederate flags on them, and students have worn them throughout the year, Whorley said. But on Thursday, up to two-dozen students showed up wearing the shirts, prompting some black students to complain that they felt threatened. About 10 percent of Brookville's 925 students are minorities.

School officials asked the flag-wearing students to turn the shirts inside out or find other shirts to wear, explaining to them that they were causing racial tension.

School policy allows administrators to deem clothing unfit if it is "disruptive," Whorley said. Though shirts sporting the Confederate flag are normally acceptable, he said, the circumstances prompted him to invoke the policy against disruptive clothing.

The next day, after rumors swirled through the hallways that the school was banning the rebel flag, up to 90 students showed up with the divisive icon on their shirts. About 15 were suspended for the day after refusing to change their attire.

Sophomore Jerrica Wilhelm, 16, told The News & Advance of Lynchburg on Friday that the students wore the shirts to honor a piece of their history that they felt had come under attack.

"We're representing our heritage," Wilhelm said. "It was a big deal when it didn't need to be."

Whorley said he was unable to determine why the two-dozen students showed up wearing the shirts on Thursday.

"I never did get to the bottom of it," he said. "We've never had any [racial] problem at all that I'm aware of. It's been a racially harmonious student body."

Whorley said the school has no plans to change its student dress policy but for the rest of the school year will consider its options each time a student shows up in clothing with a Confederate flag.

Business leaders want production of

offensive T-shirt to stop

Associated Press – 3/30/04

High Point business leaders want to stop production of a T-shirt that offends NAACP members, while a county commissioner tied to the shirts says they should encourage business rather than stifle it.

The shirts show a Confederate flag and a grinning young boy urinating on the NAACP logo. The other side shows a "Yo Yow" Confederate flag logo created last year when NAACP branded Guilford County Commissioner Billy Yow a racist for criticizing the organization.

The High Point Chamber of Commerce asked Yow in a March 24 letter to "cease producing and selling T-shirts and work together with your fellow county commissioners and all community leaders in your fiduciary capacity to represent all of our citizens."

The shirts have "negatively impacted the economic and social climate in our region," according to the letter signed by Chamber Chair Hoyt Almond.

Yow denies having a business interest in the shirts and asked chamber leaders for an apology.

"I don't produce the T-shirts," Yow said. "I'm in the well drilling business. I will continue my business. The chamber has no right to say anything like this to me. The chamber is not supposed to be against corporations."

Yow clashed with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last year over the selection of a county manager and compared the group to the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Commissioners hired former Deputy Manager Willie Best, who is black, with the support of Yow.

Confederate flag debate flares in school tribute

WKRN.com - 3/30/04

A typical week at Lawrence County High School turned tense. It was bad enough that classmates had lost a friend, after 15-year-old Kyle Anderson was killed in a 4-wheeler accident last Friday. But then a tribute to his memory went awry.

Principal Mickey Dunn said, "Kyle didn't have a prejudiced or mean bone in his body,

but he did have an affinity for southern heritage and southern culture."

As a tribute, some students showed up this week wearing the Confederate battle flag on their shirts.

"This morning it was like the black people here, and like a whole table of people with southern heritage shirts on, and another whole table with southern heritage shirts on," said student Desmond McGuire.

Students like Desmond felt conflicted...was it truly a tribute to southern heritage or a symbol of hate? When it comes to the Confederate flag that has long been the debate.

Student Cody McAnaley said, "Some of them were making racist remarks against other people, and that's not what we had intended it to do at all."

"They were going to hand out some flyers about the Confederate flag, and that if you thought it was hatred, then you needed a history lesson, that kind of thing," said Dunn.

Principal Dunn had had enough. On Thursday morning he called an assembly letting students air their thoughts. What they came up with was quite a compromise.

Dunn said, "I think you've got to give the vast majority of the credit for this to the kids."

It turned out that Kyle also loved camouflage clothing and NASCAR. So on Friday, students are wearing something else - a sticker that shows their love and support for Kyle. The student council has even come up with a t-shirt for kids to wear, with a red and black #8 - Dale Earnhart's number.

Female soldiers fought like demons, too.

They enlisted to fight in the Civil War for love, money and patriotism, author says.

03/29/03 – Associated Press

Each summer, re-enactors pay tribute to the brave Southern men who made Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. But it wasn't a charge made only by men.

One female soldier with the Army of Northern Virginia nearly made it to the Union line before being killed.

Another Confederate soldier had her leg amputated by a Union doctor after being captured, and a third female soldier at Gettysburg was last reported lying on Emmitsburg Road, badly injured and screaming.

After a decade of researching woman disguised as soldiers, DeAnne Blanton and Lauren Cook published "They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War" in 2002. Blanton will talk about the book Tuesday at Gettysburg College.

Years ago, a brief reference to a female Civil War soldier piqued Blanton's curiosity and she started researching the issue. Then Lauren Cook arrived at the National Archives, where Blanton is a senior military archivist specializing in 19th century U.S. Army records. The duo teamed up to write the book.

They read newspaper clippings, government records and memoirs. When they found only two memoirs from female soldiers, they pored over men's diaries and letters.

Blanton and Cook documented 260 women who served as soldiers during the Civil War.

But that could be only a fraction of the real figures.

"I don't think it's possible to know how many women served because they were pretending to be men," Blanton said. "They were trying so hard to be Jim and John."

Some women's gender only was discovered when they were injured or found dead.

"Everyone thinks the Civil War is a man's war," said Becky Lyons, Gettysburg National Military Park ranger, who gives talks about female soldiers from the perspective of a composite character she created. "It's not. It's everybody's war."

During the Civil War, women served in the military as nurses and spies. The Union and Confederate armies did not allow women to enlist, but that didn't stop women from disguising themselves as men to fight.

They enlisted for love, money or patriotism, Blanton said.

About half of the female soldiers the authors documented enlisted to serve with their husbands, fathers or brothers.

Lyons recounted the story of one woman who joined the military to be with her husband. Her other options were prostitution or the limited social welfare of the time.

For European immigrants, following men in battle was a tradition women continued during the Civil War. And the army was a big financial step up for women.

"A woman was paid more as a private, two times more than a laundress or a factory worker," Blanton said.

The trends of the Victorian era made it easier for women to hide their gender. It wasn't odd when soldiers went to the woods instead of using the open latrines. Uniforms were ill fitting. Women could pass off their lack of facial hair and high voices by claiming to be teenage boys. And some physicals consisted of a handshake.

Male soldiers generally accepted their female comrades, according to Blanton and Lyons. Other soldiers had no preconceived notions of their abilities.

"It seems that once a woman had proven herself in battle, she was a member of that fraternal group," she said. "Gender became a secondary consideration."

Actions after a woman was "outed" varied because the military North and South didn't have regulations on disciplining impostors. Some women serving with their husbands stayed with the army as a laundress or a nurse.

In the last two years of the war, female Confederate soldiers were not sent home after their gender was discovered, Blanton and Cook learned.

For example Sarah Jane Perkins, a Virginian schoolteacher, joined the Confederate Army. When she was captured in 1864, she had long, braided hair. Perkins remained a prisoner of war until the end of the Civil War.

"It was no secret that she was a woman," Blanton said. ♣

Jackson College Cemetery

As all of you know, work on the Jackson College Cemetery began in October 2003. Work in the beginning was a steady rate and then slowed down due to the rainy winter weather but even then the work was still done at a weekend rate.

In the beginning approximately 80% of the memorials were either fallen over or leaning quite heavily. Only about 20% of them now are left to re-erect. Also, we've removed approximately 100 trees and discovered about 25 new burial spots.

Jackson College Cemetery (A.K.A. Old Brick Church Cemetery) has about 8 Confederate Soldiers buried there along with, Rev. War, 1812 and Mexican War Soldiers. It is quite possibly one of the most historical spots in Middle Tennessee. About 200 Yards to the East runs the Rutherford Creek which is the same Creek the Confederate Army crossed before stopping at the Absalom Thompson home which is no more than one mile from there area. Absalom Thompson along with all of his sons is buried in the cemetery as well. I am not sure of Absalom Thompson's participation during the war but we are certain all of his sons fought for the South and at least three of them died during that time.

As it stands now, most of the work isn't as labor intensive as it was in the beginning. There are a few trash trees left to remove but other than that most of the work is simply getting the memorials back up to their original prominent positions. Four of these

are quite heavy and I'll need at least 4 men to help me since I'm unable to do it by myself.

Please pass on the word to your friends and possibly work out a date to come out. I'd like to see this finished this month.

If you have any questions please call me at 931-381-4835 or 931-505-1889.

The community is well aware of this project now and I've been approached by many who have asked me where all the help is.

I will reiterate that if you have any drop of Southern blood in your veins you'll do your best to help out with this important project. There is something you can do. It doesn't matter if it's helping find a lost stone by probing the ground or simply being there for moral support. You CAN DO IT! Not only are we doing a benevolent act with this project, we are potentially increasing tourism, honoring those brave Southern men who died for the cause and camp wise, bringing a better unity and comradeship within the camp.

"The Webfoot" is a publication of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29, which is a local camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans, located in Columbia, Tennessee. The official newsletter is mailed monthly to camp members and to all interested.

HISTORY:

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

The Samuel R. Watkins Camp is one of the oldest "camps" in the SCV and was organized in 1894 as part of the Leonidas Bivouac #3 of the United Confederate Veterans.

The Original camp title was "Maury Bivouac #13". The original camp over the years eventually dissolved but was re-chartered in 1986. Since the re-charter, and as it was in the beginning, the camp has been the focal point of Confederate descendant in the Maury County area.

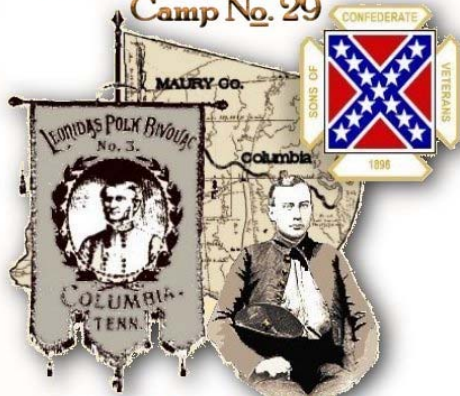
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Sam R. Watkins Camp No. 29



Est. June 23, 1894

Visit us on the web at

www.tennessee-scv.org/camp29

Miscellaneous Notes Worthy of Mention

APRIL 17, 18, 2004 - HENNING, TENNESSEE

In honor of the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Pillow, Fort Pillow State Historic Park is hosting a Civil War Living History Weekend. The event includes military demonstrations with battle skirmishes both days and an authentic civilian demonstration area.

Fort Pillow State Historic Park, 3122 Park Rd. Henning TN 3804

Call 731-738-5581 for more info.

MAY 14, 15, 16, 2004 - SACRAMENTO, KENTUCKY

"Forrest's First." The Battle of Sacramento Reenactment is held on the original battlefield. Nathan Bedford Forrest engaged Crittenden's Army of the Ohio in his first battle. Friday will be youth education school days, with youth and adult pageants in the evening.

Saturday's activities include a parade, ladies' tea, battle reenactment, cavalry competition and ball. Sunday's activities include worship services and battle reenactment.

Like the Webfoot? Let us hear from you! If you have anything you'd like to see or read about please contact any of the camp leadership.

Please take note that all members in the camp can run advertisements for free. Outside sources can run advertisements at a nominal fee.



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JUNE 11, 12, 13, 14, 2004 - PARKER'S CROSSROADS,

The Battle of Parker's Crossroads Living History and Battle Reenactment. Site of the battle fought December 31, 1862 between Gen. N.B. Forrest and Union forces during Forrest's First West Tennessee Campaign.

CAMP CONTACTS:

Commander Greg Atwell ~ 931-381-9444

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Adjutant Jack Taylor, II ~ 931-381-4835 or 931-505-1889

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