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# WE SING "THE EYES OF TEXAS" BECAUSE OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

The next time you hear "The Eyes of Texas" - think about these facts

"The Eyes of Texas," the official Alma Mater of The University of Texas at Austin, is considered by some, according to The Handbook of Texas, as sort of the unofficial state song. What does General Lee have to do with this anthem or hymn sung at all University of Texas events and at other activities in the Lone Star State.

First, I do know that "Texas, Our Texas" is the official state song of Texas. It was adopted by the Legislature in 1929 after being selected in a state-wide competition. The music was written by Wm. J. Marsh of Fort Worth and the words by Marsh and Gladys Yoakum Wright, also of Fort Worth. There are numerous good songs we sing about our State - everything from "The Yellow Rose of Texas" to "Honky-tonk Heaven" - but I really believe that "The Eyes of Texas" is special to most Texans. Of course, being a Longhorn helps make me feel this way. Before all you Bears, Cougars, Raiders, Aggies, Homed Frogs, Owls and others get angry, keep reading. I think you will also enjoy this true story. I suspect, after reading this story, all of us "Confederates" will have a better appreciation for "The Eyes of Texas."

Some time after the surrender at Appomattox in 1865, General Robert E. Lee was named as the President of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia. He served in that high office with honor and distinction. Many families from throughout the former Confederacy sent their children to Washington College due to Lee being the President. On Wednesday morning, October 12, 1870, at 9:30 am Robert E. Lee died in the President's house at the college. His body was taken

# Jefferson Davis 1808-1889

President of the Confederate States of America

"Honor to Whom Honor is Due"

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## MOS&B Member's Pledge

We, the posterity of the Officer Corps and civil officials of the Confederacy, do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the cause of the fundamental American principles of self-determination and states' rights and to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our society, and for generations yet unborn.

to the chapel on Thursday, Oct. 13, at noon. On Saturday, Oct. 15, at 10:00 am, the procession was formed at the Episcopal Church, in front of the President's house, and, to the sound of solemn music, it moved in appointed order as follows: escort of honor, consisting of officers and soldiers of the Confederate army; chaplain and other clergy; hearse and pall-bearers, as follows: Judge F. T. Anderson and David E. Moore, Sr., trustees of Washington College; Ex-Governor John Letcher and Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, for Virginia Military Institute; W. Preston Johnston and J. Randolph Tucker, professors of Washington College; WILLIAM L. PRATHER and Edward P. Clark, students of Washington College; Capt. J. C. Boude and Capt. J. P. Moore, soldiers of Confederate States of America; William G. White and Joseph G. Steele, citizens of Lexington. After the pall bearers came General Lee's horse, the attending physicians, trustees and faculty, dignitaries of the State of Virginia, visitors and faculty of V.M.I. and students of Washington College as a guard of honor. As the procession moved to the sound of solemn music furnished by the band of V.M.I., down Washington Street, up Jefferson Street to Franklin Hall, thence to Main Street. Near the hotel the ranks were opened and the committees from the Virginia Legislature, representatives of the faculty and students of the University of

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# WHAT ABOUT OUR "PLEDGES" AT EACH MEETING?

From time to time I have heard some people complain that we in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars pledge our allegiance to the Confederate Government or the Confederate Flag, and not to the United States of America, our nation today. To all of us, and especially those of us who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation and/or who are a part of various patriotic organizations, this false charge angers us. I know that it angers me. It is typical of "attacks" on us by our enemies, either on purpose or due to their complete ignorance.

Here in Texas the typical MOS&B meeting, and also SCV meeting, has three flags present - properly placed in their correct stations of honor. To make it clear to all, let me cover each flag.



First - always first - we all stand and repeat, with our right hand over our heart, "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."



Second - here in Texas - we honor our State Flag - the Lone Star Flag, by standing and repeating again with our right hand over our heart, "HONOR THE TEXAS FLAG, WE PLEDGE OUR LOYALTY TO THEE, TEXAS, ONE AND INDIVISIBLE."



Third - last but certainly not least - we salute the Confederate Flag. All should remain standing and give a hand salute, if in a military uniform, or if not in uniform, extend the right hand forward toward the flag, with the palm facing upward, and repeat "I SALUTE THE CONFEDERATE FLAG WITH AFFECTION, REVERENCE AND UNDYING DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE FOR WHICH IT STANDS."

Some persons might question our last statement — "devotion to the cause for which it stands." I am not exactly sure what others may always think, but here is what I mean when I repeat this Salute. The "cause" for me was the desire of our ancestors to have what they considered "Constitutional Self-government." The Southern States had committed no wrong nor made any aggression on the north. The South was merely exercising the right of people to govern themselves according to their own wishes without interfering with or in any way molesting the other sovereign and independent States that remained in the old Union. That was the "cause" that so many fought and died for, in my opinion.

Remember we Pledge Allegiance to the U.S.A. – Honor our State – and Salute our ancestors and their efforts to maintain self-government.

G. Ronald Aldis, Commander, Texas Society

# ALL MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL TEXAS SOCIETY CONVENTION

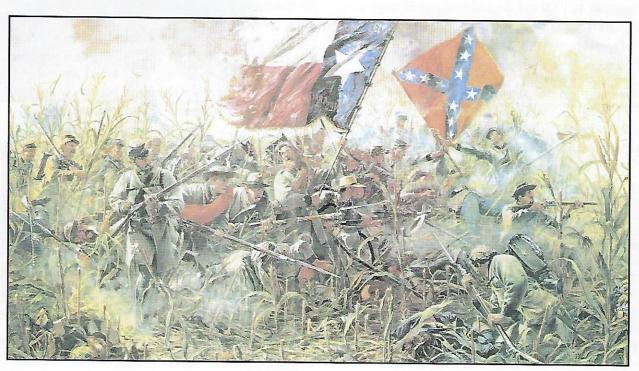
The annual Texas Division SCV & Texas Society MOS&B convention will be held Friday night and all day on Saturday, June 15th & 16th, at the La Quinta Inn & Suites near 1-30 & Highway 360 in Arlington. The April edition of the SCV TEXAS DIVISION DISPATCH had a full story with all details of the convention. Here we intend to specifically cover primarily the convention activities specifically related to the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

For those planning to arrive on Friday, a 7:30 p.m. Reception, featuring Texas Chili, Chips and Salsa, and fine Southern Entertainment, will be held in the Red Apple Lounge at the La Quinta. This should end by 10:00 p.m. A cash bar will be available and Casual Dress is prescribed.

Saturday will be a full day of SCV and MOS&B activities. Hotel guests will have a Free Continental Breakfast from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. in the Red Apple Lounge. Convention Registration, which actually began at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, will resume at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and continue until 10:00 a.m. The area for Vendor and Camp Sales will also be open. Opening Ceremonies start at 8:00 a.m. and the SCV General Business sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. A BBQ Luncheon and Awards Banquet (\$20.00 fee – please preregister) is at Noon. Other SCV Business Sessions and Brigade meetings occupy the afternoon. The Order of the Confederate Rose will also have sessions during the day while other convention activities are in progress.

The TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B MEETING is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. in the "Arlington Downs Meeting Room" and all MOS&B members are urged to attend. We are allowed one hour – until 6:00 p.m. – according to the schedule. We have several items of importance to the Texas Society to discuss and we encourage each and every Chapter in Texas to be represented.

At 7:00 p.m. a Texas Steak Dinner, Awards, Auction and Installation will be held. The cost of this gala affair is \$35.00 per person. Those planning to attend should pre-register and order the tickets for this, as well as the Noon Texas Bar-B-Q. The deadline date announced was May lst. We are not sure if last minute tickets will be available, but that is often the case. Questions about tickets and any other convention activities should be addressed to Phil Johnson, Chairman, P. 0. Box 172306, Arlington, TX 76003 – (817) 465-6451 – pegprof@flash.net – or to the Co-Chairman, James Dark, 816 Woodrow St., Arlington, TX 76912 – (817) 261-0241 – james-dark2@attbi.com. Every member of the MOS&B is invited to attend- not just officers. We look forward to many of you being present for this annual Texas Society MOS&B meeting.



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# WE SING "THE EYES OF TEXAS" BECAUSE OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

Virginia and other distinguished 'guests took their appointed places. Passing the Courthouse a large body of citizens joined the ranks as bells were tolled and guns were fired from V.M.I. Eventually this all reached the chapel and the funeral service of the Episcopal Church was then read by Rev. W. N. Pendleton, D.D., the pastor of Lee's church and a distinguished officer who had served in the Army of Northern Virginia. When the service was concluded the corpse was removed by the pall bearers and conveyed to the vault in the basement of the chapel, which had been prepared for its reception.

In 1903 the President of The University of Texas was WILLIAM L. PRATHER (1848-1905), a lawyer and now University President - the same person who had served as a pall bearer at the funeral of Robert E. Lee. Born near Paris, Tennessee, Prather moved with his family to Texas in 1854 where his Father acquired a large plantation near Waco. In 1867 his father sent him to study under General Lee at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, where Prather received an LL.B. degree in 1871. He returned to Waco, was admitted to the bar, and practiced law there for twenty-eight years. He served as City Attorney, was counsel for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, and in 1895-96 he was president of the state bar association. Prather's connection with The University of Texas began with his appointment as a Regent by Governor Lawrence Sullivan Ross in 1887. Prather became Vice-Chairman of the Board of Regents in 1895 and Chairman in 1899. Soon he was named Acting President and in 1900 was named President of The University. He was awarded a LL.D degree by Washington and Lee University in 1900 and the University of Pennsylvania in 1901. He was Vice President of the National Education Association in 1903-04 and Vice President of the Association of State Universities in 1904-05. Prather thought that the President should promote The University and that The University should serve the State, and that the students should remember that the State looked to them for leadership. Over and over Prather told the UT students "the eyes of Texas are upon you" - just as he, three decades earlier, had heard Robert E. Lee admonish his students "the eyes of the South are upon you."

On May 12, 1903, the Hancock Opera House in Austin was the site for a minstrel show to benefit the track team of The University of Texas. Lewis Johnson, director of the band and the person in charge of the show, asked his roommate, John Lang Sinclair, to write the lyrics to a lively song. Sinclair grew up on a dairy farm in eastern Bexar County, and lived until 1947. He is buried in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery. Sinclair is said to have written the lyrics on a piece of scrap paper memorializing President Prather's frequent saying "Students of The University of Texas, the eyes of Texas are upon you." The tune used was from the popular song of that time "I've Been Workin' on the

Railroad." The glee club quartet performed the song repeatedly at the show to great applause, and the band paraded the campus playing and singing the song the next day. It gradually became the students favorite school song. On July 24, 1905, Dr. Prather's died and his family requested that the song be sung at his funeral, and following this tribute it achieved its complete dignity.

It is still played prior to the start and at the close of all UT sporting events and at all other official University of Texas functions. Some years ago I attended the dedication concert on a fabulous new pipe organ in the recital hall of the then new Performing Arts Center on the UT campus. They played 80 or 90 minutes of high-brow "heavy" music which I am sure was great music written by the greatest composers of all time. However, at the conclusion this world renowned organist played "The Eyes of Texas" and the entire audience rose and sang and applauded. much more than for anything else played that day. I recall Oklahoma University coach Bud Wilkinson saying he thought "The Eyes of Texas" was worth at least a touchdown for the Longhorn football team. Some current Longhorn players have been quoted: "Singing 'The Eyes of Texas' right before we run out onto the field and 80,000 fans singing with you gives me just an amazing feeling" - "Singing 'The Eyes of Texas' after every game gives me a feeling that is indescribable." - "Singing 'The Eyes of Texas' after a game really means a lot to me. It shows our togetherness as a team and a University, regardless of what we do on the field." Therefore, the next time each of you hear the band playing "The Eyes of Texas" and see a number of people making an odd hand gesture and singing at the top of their lungs, you can know that it all started back in Lexington, Virginia, with General Robert E. Lee telling WILLIAM L. PRATHER, who would later be one of Lee's pall bearers, and all other students something they would remember always. I can't speak for the rest of the South, but I know that many, many of us in Texas remember it 'All the live long day'!

The Eyes of Texas are upon you.

All the live long day.

The Eyes of Texas are upon you,

You can not get away.

Do not think you can escape them

At night or early in the morn 
The Eyes of Texas are upon you

'Till Gabriel blows his horn.

June 1, 2002



As descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps, we are expected to do more for our Confederate ancestors. Since we are all members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans we are all responsible for the work of the various SCV Camps and all projects and programs of the SCV. However, as members of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, we have an even higher responsibility in this work to help preserve our true Confederate history. Remember that we are the only ones left to honor our ancestors who assumed positions of leadership and much responsibility - often in times of hardship and despair. The men who served in the leadership positions of the Confederate States of America civil government and the military fought, not for a price, but for a principle. It is now our time to provide leadership that will insure that our own children and grandchildren and future generations will commemorate and honor the leadership of their forefathers. Your active participation is needed in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Can we count on you to make special efforts to attend our meetings and activities? Will you work to interest others and ask them to join with us in this work? Without YOU, we cannot succeed! With YOU, we will not fail!

### A LITTLE HUMOR FROM RICHMOND

In 1961, Robert E. Lee, IV was invited to Appomattox to participate in the en-enactment of the surrender between General Robert E. Lee and General U. S. Grant. Lee flew to Charlottesville and began driving south. About 10 miles out of town, a Virginia State Trooper pulled him over. Lee ssumed he had a speeding ticket coming. Instead, the cooper walked up to the car and slipped Robert E. Lee IV a note. It read: "WHEN YOU GET TO APPOMATTOX, DON'T SIGN ANYTHING."

#### NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MEMPHIS

All members are welcome to attend the 2002 Nat'l. Convention, July 30th -Aug. 3rd, with Headquarters at the historic Peabody Hotel. We hope to have a large delegation from Texas. If you wish to attend and have not yet made any reservations, you can contact the Convention on the internet at:

<www.SCVMemphis2002.org>

### MISCELLANEOUS CHAPTER REPORTS

ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON #5 – Our meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> included a program by Charles Nettles on the Confederate Ram, the CSS Albemarle, commissioned in April 1864 after being built virtually from scrap at Edward's Ferry, NC. On April 27<sup>th</sup> our Commander was the featured speaker at the UDC Confederate Memorial Service at historic Washington Cemetery. We were honored to have four visitors at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting who are eligible and interested in joining our Chapter. Visitors are always welcome. The next regular quarterly meeting will be the 2nd Thursday in August. Please attend. Our new elected officers are Mac Smith, Commander, Dennis Giuffre', Lieut. Commander, and Jeff Cobb, Adjutant. Submitted by Mac Smith, Commander.

GASTON GREGG CHAPTER #68 – Our meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in conjunction with the Gaston Gregg Camp. The Chapter and the Camp are discussing the idea of adopting the Robert E. Lee School, a local school. Our plan is to be of help in any way possible and we are open to ideas and suggestions. We are happy to report that all dues have been collected and sent. Submitted by George Perry, Adjutant.

JOHN H. REAGAN CHAPTER #127 – Our previous Commander and Adjutant have both resigned. The Texas Society is completing the necessary Chapter reports and has submitted a number of new member applications. As soon as these new members are accepted a meeting will be called in Austin where all SCV members eligible for the MOS&B will be invited and urged to attend. There are four SCV Camps in a 35 mile radius of our Capitol City and we hope to include new MOS&B members from each of the SCV Camps. The State Commander would welcome contact from any interested members or prospective new members.

WAUL'S TEXAS LEGION CHAPTER #194 - We are happy to report our participation in the televised Fort Worth Fat Stock Show parade in January. On January 19th, Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, after services at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church under the direction of our SCV Chaplain, Pastor Robt. Morris, our Chapter #194 met at a local restaurant for a program including discussion of Gen. Lee's remarkable life, a formal Toast to the General, and some "Battle Flag Cake" and refreshments. On April 20th our Chapter took part in the annual Oakwood Cemetery Memorial dedication. We placed wreaths on the grave of Gen. Thomas N. Waul as well as the grave of Maj. K. M. Van Zandt. These wreath laying ceremonies were witnessed by Van Zandt family descendants, and a large bus load of friends from the Fort Worth Historical Society. In June our Chapter is to meet again to celebrate the birthday of His Excellency, the Hon. Jefferson Davis, the only President of the Confederate States of America. In July we will gather again to honor the one and only, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. This meeting is to be an evening complete with Memphis style Barbeque and a Toast to the great "Wizard of the Saddle," always the "Firstest with the Mostest." Submitted by Commander Bill Morris.

MAJ. CHATHAM ROBERDEAU WHEAT CHAPTER #224 – After being "rather dormant" in the past couple of years, our Chapter is again active and busy. New Officers include Dennis Todd, Commander, Lester Prince, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander, Monty Matthews, Adjutant, and Chris Tankersley, Color Sgt. We are happy to report that some Charter members who had dropped out have rejoined, the annual Candlelight Ceremony and Dinner honoring our ancestors was again held in April, and a new program to place a War Between the States related book in a Collin County elementary school library monthly has been launched and is on schedule. Also, we are happy to aid and join with the W. H. L. Wells SCV Camp, Plano, Texas, in their Living Histories for the education of elementary school students and the general public in Collin County. Submitted by Dennis Todd, Commander.

COL. RICHARD BENNETT HUBBARD CHAPTER #261 - Our Chapter has been happy to join with the James P. Douglas SCV Camp in many activities. However, the most exciting recently has been the trip to Raymond, Mississippi to participate in that May 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Confederate Monument Dedication, where our Tyler compatriots were invited to provide the Color Guard for the ceremonies. Submitted by Bob Davidson.

MAJ. JOHN LOUDERMILK CHAPTER #264 - Our Chapter officially inducted its 10th & 11th new members, Marshall Bryant of San Angelo SCV, and Kevin Wilson of Brownwood SCV, on Sunday, March 24th, in a meeting just prior to the Comanche Monument Dedication. After starting with just the minimum number of 5 last June, we have more than doubled our membership in nine months. Four more potential new members have been identified in our area and we also expect to have a transfer from a distant Chapter. Following our formal meeting, the ladies of the local OCR Chapter served a snack and then, in an informal setting, each MOS&B member gave a brief report on themselves and one of their ancestors. It was a great "get acquainted" session. Nine of our members actively participated in the dedication of the beautiful SCV Monument erected on the lawn of the courthouse in Comanche, Texas. An "Electronic Newsletter" has been started and the first issue was published in March. It will be a quarterly publication and include articles about and for our Chapter, including the history of various members' ancestors. Royce Lesley, Chapter Adjutant, is the Editor. Commander Loudermilk had the unexpected honor and privilege of commanding the Honor Guard at two recent events, a grave dedication in Pontotoc, Texas and a ceremony presenting a new First National Flag to Ladies of the UDC in Llano, Texas. Our Chapter continues to discuss whether we can afford to participate in the National "Legacy Fund" and the consensus of our members is that this is an item for discussion at the State Level. Submitted by Commander G. M. Loudermilk.

June 1, 2002

# "Honor to Whom Honor is Due"

## PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS

June is a month when many MOS&B Chapters and other Confederate organizations honor Jefferson Davis, the only President of the Confederate States of America. He was born June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kentucky. His father, Sam Davis, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. His brother, Joseph Davis, had moved to Mississippi and became a wealthy and successful planter. Jefferson's family moved to Wilkinson County, Mississippi when he was an infant. He attended school in Wilkinson County before entering Transylvania College in Kentucky. At age 16 he entered the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1828.

His career in the U. S. Army took him to the western frontier in Wisconsin where he fought in battles against the Indians. He took charge of the Indian removal after the Black Hawk War.

He resigned from the army in 1835 and married the daughter of President Zachary Taylor. He and Mrs. Davis moved to Mississippi where he became a successful cotton planter. His wife died just three months after their move back to Mississippi. After her death he traveled and eventually came home to Brierfield", his plantation, where he studied philosophy, history, and the U. S. Constitution. He became very wealthy as a successful planter before becoming interested in politics in 1843.



In 1845 he won a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives of the U. S. Congress. He resigned in 1846 to serve as a Colonel in the Army during the Mexican War. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Buena Vista and became a national hero. In 1847 Davis entered the U. S. Senate, being appointed by the Governor to fill an un-expired term following a

Senator's death. He was elected on his own in 1848 and again in 1850 for a full term. Davis, believing in strict interpretation of the Constitution, became involved in opposing the Compromise of 1850 in debates. He was a devoted supporter of Sen. John C. Calhoun who was a leader of the southern rights group in the Senate.

President Franklin Pierce appointed Davis Secretary of War in 1853 and his service in that position was noteworthy. He made many improvements to the U. S. Army including making it larger, buying new and better weapons and improving the system of infantry tactics. He tried to import camels for use by the Army in the deserts of the Southwest, including Texas.

Returning to the Senate by election in 1857 he became a leader for all southern causes and points of view. However, he tried to discourage secession. After Mississippi withdrew from the Union, Davis resigned his Senate seat and returned home. He was, however, chosen as the President of the new Confederacy and he held that position as long as the war lasted and the government continued to exist. He conducted the South's war effort in the face of a lack of manpower, supplies, and money, and often hampered by discord from radicals from within his administration. It has been said that he conducted his duties as the President with much devotion.

After the war and his capture, he was indicted for treason, but was never tried. Most believe that the government was afraid to have him in court because he might win the argument that the south had every legal and constitutional right to withdraw from the Union. Davis never sought amnesty or restoration of his citizenship. However, it was finally restored posthumously in 1978.

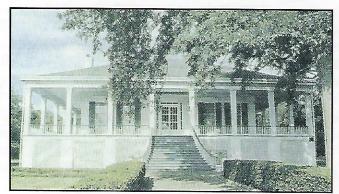


Jefferson Davis spent his final years studying and writing at "Beauvoir", his home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. His best work was "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" in 1881. He died December 6, 1889 and was buried in New Orleans. His body was moved to Richmond, Virginia in 1893 and a monument later was built there in his

memory. In recent years a "Jefferson Davis Presidential Library" has been erected and is open and operating at "Beauvoir" in Mississippi. All true Confederates should make certain to visit this library and museum.

The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library





"Beauvoir"

LAFEK TX 767039433 10858 MOSSWOOD DR BOBBY GENE DAVIDSON









FIRST CLASS

Texas Society, Millitary Order of the Stars and Bars
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