

Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS

Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949

March 2017

LET'S CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE MARCH CAMP MEETINGS

Enjoy great food/snacks/drinks and Confederate friendship

6:30 p.m.

CAMP DIXON

***Tues. the 14th 21st**

SQUAD EAST

Mon, the 20th

*** NOTE: date slipped a week from Mar. 14 to Mar. 21 due to SWIC Spring Break.**

WELCOME NEWEST KNIGHT OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

WALTER "MIKE" BIEKERT
From Belleville IL

Mike also honors us as Camp Chaplain



FROM YOUR COMMANDER

I am very sorry to relay the sad news that Compatriot Ben Stetson, member of the Chatham Camp and former Camp Dixon member, passed away on February 27. Ben died suddenly from a heart attack while at work. He was a loyal SCV member and will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Tammy, and sons, Ben, Matt, and Andrew, and family.

Confederately,
Johnny Kicklighter



BENJAMIN C. STETSON
May 23, 1959 - February 27, 2017

*** NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING ***

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.

SWIC Senior Citizen Center
201 North Church Street, Belleville

Location: Corner of East B and North Church Streets

Parking Available Across the Street

PROGRAM: Civil War Quiz

MC: Adjutant Gale Red

REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot Phil Tate

Please check with the receptionist about room location.

Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 14, 2017 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. on February 14, 2017 at the SWIC PSOP Center, 201 North Church Street, Belleville IL, this being the 2nd Muster of the year for 2017.

CALL TO ORDER by Adjutant Gale Red.

INVOCATION was given by Camp Chaplain Walter "Mike" Biekert.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS by Adjutant Red. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and saluted the Confederate flag, which were properly displayed at the meeting.

WELCOME. Adjutant Red welcomed and thanked everyone for attending..

SWEARING IN AND INDUCTIONS. Adjutant Red swore in Walter "Mike" Biekert as a Knight of the Golden Circle (pending completion of family research for qualified ancestor to join SCV), then installed him as Camp Chaplain.



ROLL CALL (22). Walter "Mike" & Mary Beth Biekert, Bill Boyd, Don Carnley, Eric Funkhouser,, J. C. Gideon, Robert Hardy, Walter Hall, John Long (guest), Jim & Barb Lumma, John & Jane McKee, Dwight and Nona Moore, Gale and Sharon Red, David & Yvonne Schmitt, John Stanton, Phil & Dianne Tate.



GROUP PHOTO (by Sharon Red, photographer)

(L-R) 1st Row (seated): Dianne Tate, Nona Moore, Mary Beth Biekert, Barb Lumma, Yvonne Schmitt, and Jane McKee

2nd Row (standing): Gale Red, Robert Hardy, David Schmitt, Eric Funkhouser, Bill Boyd, Mike Biekert,
Dwight Moore, Don Carnley, and Jim Lumma

3rd Row (standing): Phil Tate, John Stanton, John McKee, John Long, and J. C. Gideon,

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 14, 2017 Muster (cont'd)

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

JANUARY 10 MEETING MINUTES. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Dwight Moore, seconded by Don Carnley. Motion carried.. Minutes accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Red). John McKee made a motion to accept, seconded by Jim Lumma. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **COMMANDER KICKLIGHTER NOT IN ATTENDANCE (Adjutant Red).** He sends his regrets.

- **LADY JANICE BEASLEY (Adjutant Red).** She is in Florida for a week vacation and cowboy shooting, then will fly out to Guatemala on Feb. 26 for 10 days to see the Mayan ruins and shop at Tikal.

- **LADY BETSY BLAKE (Adjutant Red).** She is back to work and doing well.

OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

VACANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS NEED TO BE FILLED — 2nd LT COMMANDER, CAMP HISTORIAN, AND GREETER (Adjutant Red). These positions play an important part in the Camp – the 2nd Lt Commander is like a Vice President who will act as the head guy in place of the Commander – the Historian will keep track of what we do in the way of scrapbook pictures and notes – and the Door Greeter is most important to make each member welcome as he/she comes thru the door.

RECRUITING FOR NEW MEMBERS (Adjutant Red). Please keep this an on-going project – talk about us at your work and recreational areas.

CAMP T-SHIRTS (Compatriot J. C. Gideon) J. C. circulated the order form (below), but if you still need to order, please fill out the form and mail to him by March 25, 2017.

Order Form for Camp Dixon Grey Short-Sleeve Polo Shirt	
Name _____	Address _____
Phone _____	Email _____
Circle Choice of Logo:	
SCV	1 st National Confederate Flag
Circle Size Desired:	
Size: S M L XL 2XL	
Cost: \$24.00 (add \$6.00 if you wish delivered to your home) Order Deadline: March 25, 2017.	
(Check payable to: J. C. Gideon)	
Will be delivered to you on meeting night. However, if you wish it delivered via mail, add \$6.00	
Mail order form and check to:	J. C. Gideon 213 Blue Ridge Drive Belleville IL 62223

NEW BUSINESS

STILL NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR APRIL 11 MEETING REFRESHMENTS (Adjutant Red). Mary Beth Biekert graciously volunteered.

SPONSOR A FAMILY (Adjutant Red). Think about a family in need we could sponsor and provide them assistance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COMPATRIOT PHIL TATE. The camp sang the song, he blew out his candles, and everyone wished him many happy returns.

FORMAL PRESENTATION

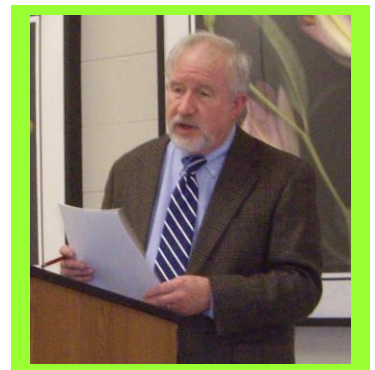
"The Battle of Mobile" by Compatriot David Schmitt. Highlights of the brief follow:

The Battle of Mobile Bay of August 5, 1864 was an engagement of the American Civil War in which a Federal fleet commanded by Rear Admiral David G. Farragut, assisted by a contingent of soldiers, attacked a smaller Confederate fleet led by Admiral Franklin Buchanan and three forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay.

The battle was marked by Farragut's seemingly rash but successful run through a minefield that had just claimed one of his ironclad monitors, enabling his fleet to get beyond the range of the shore-based guns. This was followed by a reduction of the Confederate fleet to a single vessel, ironclad CSS *Tennessee*. *Tennessee* did not then retire, but engaged the entire Northern fleet. *Tennessee's* armor enabled her to inflict more injury than she received, but she could not overcome the imbalance in numbers. She was eventually reduced to a motionless hulk and surrendered, ending the battle. With no Navy to support them, the three forts also surrendered within days. Complete control of lower Mobile Bay thus passed to the Union forces.

Mobile had been the last important port on the Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi River remaining in Confederate possession, so its closure was the final step in completing the blockade in that region.

This Union victory, together with the capture of Atlanta, was extensively covered by Union newspapers and was a significant boost for Abraham Lincoln's bid for re-election three months after the battle.



REFRESHMENTS were provided by Compatriot Dwight and Nona Moore.

BENEDICTION was given by Chaplain Mike Biekert.

MEETING adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m. **Program:** Civil War Quiz by Adjutant Gale Red. **REFRESHMENTS** will be furnished by Compatriot Phil Tate.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

SQUAD EAST MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 20, 2017 Muster

Squad East, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. on February 20, 2017 at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora IL this being the 2nd Muster of the year for 2017.

CALL TO ORDER by Lt Robert Marley.

INVOCATION was given by Chaplain Sam Booth.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS by Adjutant Gale Red and Lt Marley. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Salute to the Confederate flag, which were properly displayed at the meeting.

ROLL CALL (7). David Ash, Sam Booth, Walter Hall, Robert Marley, Gale Red, Larry Weber, John Winterfeld,.

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

NOVEMBER 21 MEETING MINUTES. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Gale Red, seconded by Sam Booth. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

REPORTS

COMPATRIOT PAT BOOTH'S MEDICAL STATUS (Compatriot Sam Booth). Pat is making bigger improvements. He is able to walk further and able to perform personal maintenance tasks for himself.

COMPATRIOT SAM BOOTH (Compatriot Booth). Sam said that he has also undergone more treatment for his aneurism. This time he is hopeful it will prove repaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

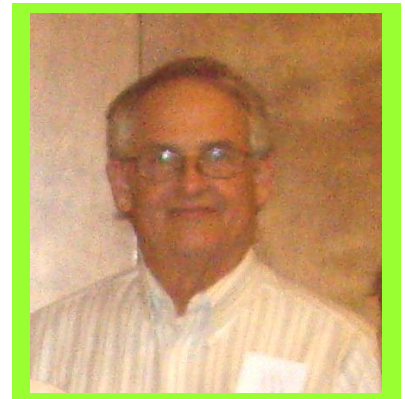
HERITAGE ISSUES (Adjutant Red). Nationally, there are a number of heritage issues, like the proposed removal of General Lee's statue from Charlottesville, that threaten our liberty. The liberal Left continue to push their agenda in an attempt to rewrite history. The SCV is a 501C entity and cannot push a political agenda, but Gale requests that anyone who knows of any action by a community or state to please notify him so that he is, at least, aware of it.

NEW BUSINESS

FUTURE PROGRAMS ~ NEW PROGRAM CHAIRMAN (Compatriot Larry Weber). Will be working on obtaining and scheduling our future programs.

FORMAL PRESENTATION

John Winterfeld presented a brief on "Riverboat, Gunboat Design." John showed various designs of watercraft. Some were retrofitting existing riverboats and others were new construction. What became evident was the total amount of ships involved on both sides is possibly an underappreciated fact in the total Civil War conflict.



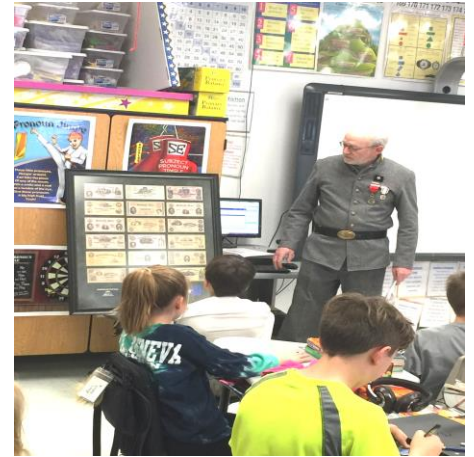
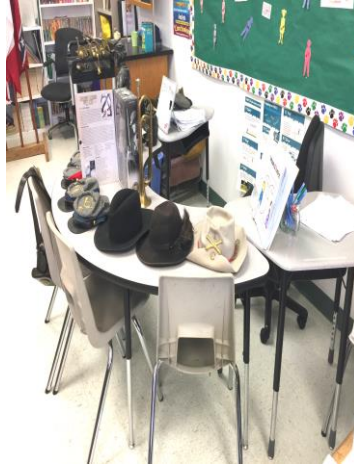
BENEDICTION was given by Chaplain Booth.

ADJOURNMENT 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017, 6:30 p.m. **Presentation** by Adjutant Red on "Rock Island Prison."

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M. Marley
Lieutenant

**ANNUAL CAMP DIXON LIVING HISTORY
AT
SMITHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BY COMMANDER KICKLIGHTER & ADJUTANT RED
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017**



(Smithton IL) Natalie Kicklighter, the granddaughter of Commander Johnny Kicklighter, arranged for the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp to make a presentation on the history of the Civil War to the 4th grade class of the Smithton Elementary School. The presentation was given to three combined classes of over 60 students. Commander Kicklighter and Adjutant Gale Red discussed the causes of the Civil War, flags used by the Confederacy, weapons, and Confederate currency. The students were very attentive and extremely knowledgeable on certain aspects of Civil War history. Many thanks to the 4th grade teacher, Katie Kapp, for hosting the event.



FAREWELL, COMPATRIOT BENJAMIN C. STETSON

MAY 23, 1959 - FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Ben originally was a member of Camp Dixon for a short time until he became a charter member of the Chatham Camp #2275 titled The Guardians of the Forgotten. He strongly loved his Confederate heritage and believed belonging to the Sons of Confederate Veterans was a duty and a right. He even recruited his sons, Ben and Andrew to join. Last year, he and his wife, Tammy, suffered a terrible tragedy when their house caught fire and was completely destroyed including its contents. Now, Tammy and his family are suffering another terrible tragedy. We extend our deepest sympathy.

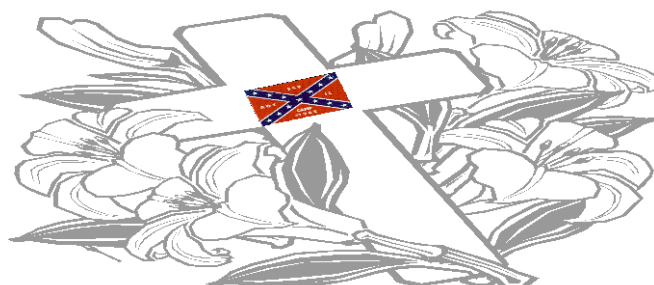
Virden – Benjamin C. “Ben” Stetson, 57, of Virden, IL passed away Monday, February 27, 2017 at St. John’s Hospital Springfield, IL.

Ben was born May 23, 1959 in Hammond, IN, a son of Benjamin J. and Margaret (Akin Nehring) Stetson. He graduated from Portage High School in Portage, IN. Ben married Tammy S. Coleman April 26, 1980 in Springfield, IL. He served from 1982 to 1984 in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans Camp #2275 serving as Chaplin.

Surviving is his wife Tammy S. Stetson of Virden, IL, daughter Abigail R. (Jason) Trucks of Virden, IL, sons, Ben R. (Jessica) Stetson of White Hall, IL, Matt L. (Chablis) Stetson of Chatham, IL and Andrew J. (Heather) Stetson of Virden, IL, 6 grandchildren, sisters, Linda (Frank) Stroney of Owensville, MO, and Juanita Stahl of Hobart, IN, brothers, Dan (Marilee) Stetson of Phoenix, AZ and David (Shirley) Deloera of Hammond, IN, sister-in-law Rose Loera of Fruithurst, AL, and several nieces and nephews. Preceding in death were his parents, a granddaughter, Emily Hansen and a brother, Joe Loera.



Visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday March 2, 2017 at Calvert & Ferry Funeral Home Virden, IL with funeral services at 10:30 a.m. Friday March 3, 2017 at the funeral home. Rev. Terry Turner officiating. Guitarist will be Jackson Price. Pallbearers: Ben, Matt, and Andrew Stetson, Jason Trucks, Adam and Seth Bedinghaus, Josh Austin and Nathan Coleman. Burial will be in Union Chapel Cemetery Girard, IL. Memorials may be made to Virden Fire and Rescue Dept. Virden, IL or the Grand Prairie of the West Library Virden, IL. Please visit www.calvert-ferryfuneralhomes.com to leave a comment for the family.





WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



BECAUSE I have a deep sense of loyalty to my family and that especially includes my Great Grandfather, who, as a private in the Confederate Army, with no hope of recognition except that his sacrifice would be remembered by his family, gave his life in defense of his country, his home, and for those who would come after him.

BECAUSE I have so much to be proud of in the Confederate Army. Its brilliant fight, under conditions of extreme privation, against an enemy overwhelming in numbers and equipment, so won the admiration of the world that 100 years later, a group of retired British Army and Navy officers organized the Confederate Historical Society of Great Britain, headquartered in London, to study its campaigns. In 1974, a group of Belgians organized the Confederate Historical Society of Belgium, based in Brussels, for the same reason and purpose. The Southern Skirmisher's Association in England re-enacts battles of the War. Some members have to wear the Blue but typical of the sentiment, is one study English Confederate who told a reporter: "... one Southern fighting man was worth two Yankees. I would never be anything but a Southerner." (No other army in history has been paid such a tribute by foreigners over a century after the war in which it was engaged. Are foreigners to admire and honor the valor of the Confederate soldier in my family while I remain indifferent?)

BECAUSE I believe in the promise of the Man of Galilee, of life after death. As my Great Grandfather looks down upon me from the Valhalla of Confederate heroes, I want him to know that I am so ungrateful, that I remember and honor his bravery and sacrifice.

BECAUSE I am proud to be a Southerner. I am proud of the culture, grace and elegance of the Old South. I love the Confederate Flag and "Dixie" as stirring symbols of my heritage. I take pride in the earlier leading role the Old South played in the Revolutionary War, the founding of the United States and the drafting of its Constitution. I love The Star Spangled Banner and the Stars and Stripes as the Flag of the United States, and I served under that Flag in World War II.

BECAUSE our Southern heritage has served our nation well since 1865. No section has surpassed the South in percentage of volunteers to defend our country in time of war. The traditional Southern adherence to our free enterprise system, with its liberty and opportunity for all, has been bulwark against the trend towards the dictatorship of the welfare state with its liberty and opportunity for none.

BECAUSE, even today, some our school books, movies, television programs and press falsely portray Southerners as rebels and traitors who fought to preserve slavery, misleading our children and millions of Americans ignorant of history. Since my family fought for the Confederacy, they thereby falsely malign my family and therefore falsely slander me.

BECAUSE there are those in our country today who would forbid as "offensive" the playing of "Dixie" and the display of the Confederate Flag for which so many Southerners shed their blood; who would destroy the monuments to our Confederate dead; who would erase from our history books all honor to Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Wade Hampton, Jeb Stuart, and our other Southern heroes; who would falsify the principles for which Southerners fought and attempt to shame the South with lies about Andersonville Prison. Their purpose is to undermine the proud heritage of the Southern people. These agitators use propaganda and threats and have the support of some self-seeking politicians, weak-kneed educators and even some of the Federal Judiciary. Ironically, the time has come when it takes a little courage to belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a respected, non-partisan patriotic organization since 1896. Do we Southerners today have that courage or have we grown soft and unworthy of our sires?

As Winston Churchill said, any people with contempt for their heritage have lost faith in themselves and no nation can long survive without pride in its traditions. Our enemies know this. At the same time of the movement to ban the display of the Confederate Flag, during the Vietnam War, we saw our American Flag spat upon, burned, and the flag of an enemy nation with whom we were at war, paraded through the streets of our Nation's Capital.

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS (continued)

BECAUSE it is my patriotic duty to my country, and because I intend to defend my family's honor and remember the sacrifice of my Great Grandfather, Wilson L. Dykes, private in the Confederate Army, I belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which is dedicated to preserving our Southern heritage of ourselves, our children, and our children's children, and to seeing that the history of the Confederate States of America and the war fought in its defense, is truthfully recorded.

BECAUSE today, as never before, we need our Southern traditions of strong family ties, religious faith, courage, honor, integrity, respect for womanhood, patriotism, self-reliance and belief in the free enterprise system, if we are to successfully meet the problems facing our nation.

BECAUSE, today, the South needs all of her sons to support the Sons of Confederate Veterans, not only out of duty and family loyalty and pride in our past, but also out of self-interest in preserving for ourselves and our children our way of life.

BECAUSE my membership is not only duty, but a pleasure. It has inspired me to become much better informed about my own family history and heritage and to record it for my children's benefit. I have become better informed about the greatest war ever fought by Americans. I enjoy our social activities, the association with ladies and gentlemen of like background, and many warm friendships that have resulted, both locally, and all over the South.

Those of us who belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, do so:

"In testimony of our love, recalling deeds immortal, heroism unsurpassed.
With ranks unbroken, ragged, starved and decimated, the Southern soldier for duty's sake.
Undaunted stood to the front of the battle until no light remained to illumine the field of carnage,
Save the luster of his chivalry and courage."

"Nor shall your glory be forgot
While fame her record keeps
Or honor points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps."

March 25, 1979

Dean Boggs
Kirby-Smith Camp, No. 1209
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Jacksonville, Florida



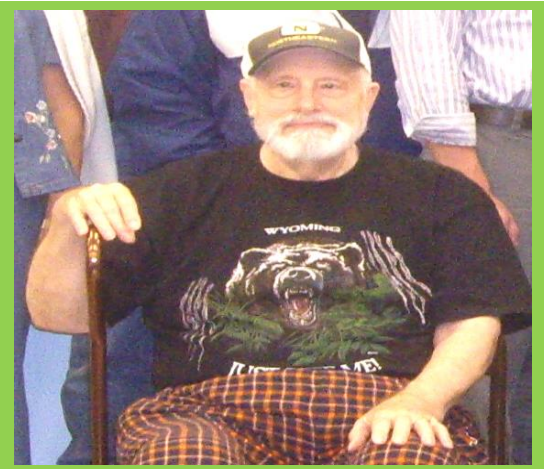
NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP



WELCOME, WALTER "MIKE" BIEKERT. Mike is now officially a Knight of the Golden Circle, but has graced us as Camp Chaplain. Welcome, Mike.



COMPATRIOT BEN STETSON (Member of Chatham Camp and former Camp Dixon member) **PASSED AWAY MONDAY, FEB. 27.** (The camp sent a condolence card to his wife, Tammy.)



THINKING OF YOU, KNIGHT RALPH OELSCHLAGER. We haven't seen Ralph at the meetings and know some surgeries were planned for the future. (Hope the greeting camp card found him well.)



CONGRATULATIONS, COMPATRIOT BILL AND MRS. MARILYN BOYD, MARCH 14, ON THEIR 53rd WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Hope they have many more. (The camp sent a greeting card.)



GET-WELL WISHES TO COMPATRIOT HAM LEMMER. Ham is not doing well. Please pray for him. (The camp sent a get-well card.)



THINKING OF YOU, COMPATRIOT PAT BOOTH (from Squad East). Pat is making progress and bigger improvements. He is able to walk further and to perform personal maintenance tasks for himself. (The camp sent a greeting card.)

CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH

- 1 ASH WEDNESDAY (*Lent began*)
- 12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
(SET CLOCK AHEAD ONE HOUR)
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
- 20 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING
- 21 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING

APRIL

- 9 PALM SUNDAY
- 11 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING
- 14 GOOD FRIDAY
- 16 EASTER
- 17 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING
- 20 5:30 SCV JROTC Hunley Award, Mascoutah

MAY

- 8 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING
- 14 MOTHER'S DAY
- 15 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING
- 20 ARMED FORCES DAY
- 29 MEMORIAL DAY



MARCH

- 4 Compatriot Tyler Jacobs
(from Crossville IL)
- 7 Compatriot Jim Moose
(from Mascoutah IL)
- 10 Compatriot Bill Presley
(from Macomb, Michigan)
- 27 Compatriot James Richardson
(from the West Indies)
- 28 Lady Carole Heinrich
(from Olympia WA)
- 29 Compatriot Greg Reeson
(Armed Forces in Germany)

CAMP DIXON AND SQUAD EAST LEADERSHIP

Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
1Lt Commander	Ronald Lakin	Cell 618-420-6358
2Lt Commander	VACANT	
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Chaplain	Walter "Mike" Biekert	618-972-8190
Sgt at Arms	David Schmitt	Cell 618-334-6148
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Squad East Lieutenant	Robert Neil Marley	Cell 618-662-4765
Squad East Chaplain	Sam Booth	Cell 618-838-3053
Squad East Program Chairman	Larry Weber	Cell 217-663-4804