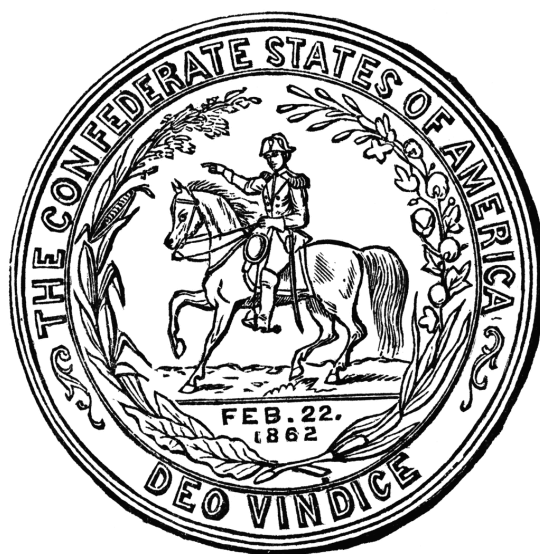


Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys
SCV Camp 2278

December 2021
Volume 2 Issue 8





Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant



LIVING THE CHARGE

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought: to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, and the perpetuation of those principles he loved, and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906*

How do YOU define living the charge? Many people have their own definition, not saying anyone is or wrong. I believe we should all have our own opinion. The way I see it, there are endless ways to interpret our "charge". My ancestors that fought in the war of northern aggression were sharecroppers and had to rely on friends and neighbors to get thru life. Recently I read a comment by someone that made me think a lot about this. We see folks that clean cemeteries, flag graves and have memorial services honoring our Confederate Veterans. Our camp in the past have participated in many of these type events. We tend to focus more on our community. My thoughts on that are that what our events do is open the eyes and hearts to folks that may have preconceived ideas of who we are or what we stand for. What it has also done is help grow our camp membership. It has given us the opportunity to talk about our heritage and our ancestors and get others interested in their own ancestry. It is our opinion that this falls in line with exactly what our ancestors did, help their friends and neighbors.

Thanks,

Billy Bryant
Commander Camp 2278.
The Rankin Greys.

Meeting Minutes – November 2021

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

11/13/2021 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

Meeting Start – 19:04

Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Pledges – Marty McAlilly

The Charge – Phillip Griffin

Chris Bryant – welcome guests and speakers Mark Hildebaugh and Shelby Harriel

Mark Hildebaugh – Barksdale's charge at Gettysburg

Chris Bryant:

- OCR News – Pam, will update later on upcoming projects
- Mech Cav Report – Bruce, updated on 1G annual
- Quartermaster – Phillip, currently have LS and SS shirts and coins available
- Member cards are available if you haven't received yours yet
- Check website for current camp newsletter
- Next month will be the Christmas in Dixie Christmas party at the restaurant
- Keep using Kroger Rewards and Amazon Smiles

Diana Pfingsten – need ages/genders of children under 13 that will be attending the Christmas in Dixie party next month on the 11th BY THE END OF NOVEMBER.

Jerry Dupre is the new Cracker reporter

Remember Smiley's family in prayers due to the loss of his mother

Closing Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Meeting Adjourn – 20:00

10/20/1986 - 11/27/2021

Zachary Dalton Stringer

We lost a great friend and brother this weekend. Dalton Stringer AKA "Tugboat" gone much too soon. This is borrowed from a friend, Ritz Oldenburg.

These Angels are Mine

On this concrete sea I've never ridden alone, I have angels that ride right beside me, everywhere I go they travel wild & free, no longer do they worry of the asphalt tragedies, I feel their presence in every turn & straight away, on every highway, backroad and city street, sometimes it feels like I'm riding on guided wings, every one of their names etched in my heart, memories of moments and the miles we've shared, the rides the rallies and just everyday life, each took the time to guide and teach me, and yes everyone was just a little wild and crazy, the ones that took me in and at times saved me, they are the brothers and sisters of my family...so when you think you only see me, know that I ride with Angels of a rare breed, soldiers and warriors of the concrete sea, a tribe of renegades that reject your society, a family that goes beyond what the word means.

Fritz Oldenburg



BROTHER

*You gave no one a last farewell,
Nor ever said good-bye.
You were gone before we knew it,
and only God knows why.
A million times we will miss you.
A million times we will cry.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly.
In death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place,
no one else can fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone,
for part of us went with you,
the day God took you home.
We will meet again someday
I know in a better place.
I thank God He made you our brother
While you were here on earth.*

Prayer written by our brother Marty McAlilly, too difficult at the time to speak ...

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before you as a Band of Brothers with hearts that are broken and hurting. We have been asked to come to the aid and comfort of a fellow brother's family. Our task, to provide escort for the family and will be an honorable thing. Help us to be focused and ready to wrap our arms and hearts around Dwayne and his family in their time of sorrow, not only Saturday, but in the coming days and weeks. We ask that You bless and guard every motorcycle, vehicle and person that will participate. May Your mighty hands cover us all, both coming and going as we lay this brother to rest. How fortunate are we that we can come before You and ask these things? We ask these things in the strong name of Jesus our Lord – Amen





Gentlemen of the 1G,

I'm extremely proud of the men of the 1G and the accomplishments we've achieved because of your hard work and dedication. It's said in every great undertaking that 10% does 90% of the work. The 1G is that 10%!

Despite the criticisms of some, the 1G continues to lead from the front and by example. Teddy Roosevelt said "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." You are the men in the arena.

I want to leave you with the words of one of my favorite songs that I hoped describes our spirits going forward.

And I don't want no pardon
For what I was and am
I won't be reconstructed
And I do not give a damn.

Forward the colors,

George Conor Bond

Let me start by saying a big "thank you" to all that made the trip yesterday to the 1G Annual. Congratulations to the new officers. A special congratulations to Marty McAlilly for receiving the "Hold The Line Award." This award is the highest honor you can receive in the Mechanized Cavalry and should go to men that have gone above and beyond their call and I can't think of a better man than Brother Smoke to be awarded for his devotion to the cause and having our back.

I want to also thank Cpl. Jeff Ainsworth and Sgt Bruce Warren for leading the squad. Every picture I have seen is a testament to our squad and how we roll. You men were in a tight group of about 20 bikes and that shows how much time we have spent together on the road. Again, thanks for your efforts. Lt.

Billy Bryant
Commander Camp 2278.
The Rankin Greys.





Receiving this award yesterday was an honor. But when I came off the stage from giving my report and looking up to see my brothers standing up and applauding was probably the biggest honor I've ever gotten since I've joined the Mechanized Cavalry. Just wanted to know how much that meant to me. Thank you, boys.

Lt. Marty McAlilly



Sunday, Dec. 5th I will have the honor of swearing in another Central Squad member from the Rankin Greys camp. We will meet at Los Cazadores at 2 p.m. to welcome Aaron Weeks into the SCVMC 1G Central Squad.



The Rankin Greys Annual Christmas in Dixie Party

The Rankin Greys held their annual Christmas in Dixie party and December camp meeting on Saturday the 11th. Daryl and Carol Shute were gracious enough to host our party at their farm in Harrisville once again. The cooking chores were handled by our in-house chefs the "Jerry Squared" cooking team of Jerry Dupre and Jerry Roden. They prepared a huge pot of delicious gumbo in Jerry Dupre's signature black iron pot. To go along with the gumbo 2 large pans of rice were also prepared. Since the day was cold and dreary, it really hit the spot. These brothers always come through for us, arriving early and staying late to be sure we are fed a great meal. Enough can't be said for our resident chefs, they always take great care of us.

The party itself was a big success with between 70-75 people in attendance. The actual number was hard to calculate due to socializing and constant movement of the group. We had 10-15 children anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival. Our Grey Roses, wives, and girlfriends, worked putting together gift bags for our veterans to be presented on the 18th at our "Christmas with Our Heros" event. They really went all out on this with many gifts for our vets. We were honored to have in attendance past CIC Paul Gramling, his lovely wife former first lady Ms. Linda Gramling, Lt. Billy Bryant's mom Ms. Patsy Bryant and sister Terri.

In addition to our main course of gumbo, almost everyone brought a dish or dessert. To name a few we had deviled eggs, potato salad, spinach dip with Hawaiian bread, grilled "drunk" chicken, and many others, also every type of dessert you could imagine from cakes, pies, banana pudding, cup cakes, and assorted cookies. To say we were blessed with a great meal would be an understatement.

After dinner Commander Gramling gathered the children around him and read "The Night before Christmas", followed by a Christmas story. Then came what the children were waiting for, Santa's arrival!! Ol' St. Nick made a grand entrance, called each child by name and presented them with a present. To witness the innocence on their little faces was touching. Once presents were given out all the guys had their picture taken with Santa. It was great fun seeing all those big, burly bikers sitting on Santa's lap.

Even though the party had a festive atmosphere, there were some bittersweet moments. It was 1 week ago we laid our brother Dalton Stringer to rest. His father Dwayne, mother Cathy, brother Houston and family were in attendance. Dwayne gathered the "Horsemen" for a small private meeting. He explained how Dalton always rode with ear plugs. So in memory of him he had keyrings made for everyone that had a small cylinder with screw on top containing a pair of ear plugs and adorned with a small piece of deer antler. A touching tribute to our fallen comrade, followed by a group hug around Dwayne. This truly is a band of brothers, not by blood but bound by our love of our ancestors and each other.

After a bit more socializing, sadly the party had to come to an end. We cleaned up and said our good byes, thankful for another year together. Another great memory of time well spent with brothers, sisters, and friends. I'll end by saying God bless my huge family, God bless Dixie, remain unreconstructed and live the charge.

Glenn Hays (Smooth)
MCFFMC















Grey Roses OCR Camp 24

Christmas With Our Heroes

December 18,2021

Members of the Grey Roses put together Christmas gift bags containing personal care items to be distributed to our Veterans and local first responders. Three members of The Rankin Greys, Jerry Dupre, Jerry Roden, and Donald Gaines, along with Grey Rose, Tatum Adams, met and carried gift bags to the VA Nursing Home today. They were met outside by a small group of veterans that were amazed at our generosity. Although the meeting was short lived, due to the Covid, restrictions, the Vets were most appreciative of the gifts. Following the delivery to the VA, gift bags were delivered to The Florence Fire Department. Totally caught off guard, the firemen wanted to know who we are and if we do this sort of thing regularly. They were told that we constantly try to help people in our community. Our motto being "Answering the call", we always try to help the less fortunate and show our appreciation to our first responders. On Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we carried pizzas and soft drinks to the Florence Police Department. Following the recent hurricane, that hit Louisiana's coast, The Rankin Greys sent several trailer loads of water, food, toilet paper and soft drinks to the people of Point Aux Chenes. Our men had boots on the ground days before the Red Cross or any other agency showed up. These items were not donated by some charity, they were bought by members with their own hard earned money. In addition to these supplies, barrels of non potable water were hauled so that the people could at least flush their toilets, all at members expense. This is only a small part of what we do that people never hear about. It's not done for accolades or recognition, although a little positive media coverage would certainly help our cause. These men do what they do for the love of their community and fellow man. "Answering the Call" isn't just a clever motto, it's a way of life for us. So in closing, as this year nears it's end, I sincerely hope that The Rankin Greys have made a positive impact on at least a few people's lives. I'm reminded of the old adage "Do the right thing even if no ones looking".

Looking forward to a new 2022

Glenn Hays (Smooth)

MCFFMC





Compatriots,

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *Grey Matter*. If anyone would like to submit an article for publication, please do!

Forward the Colors,

Donald Gaines
Editor
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