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## Greetings Fellow Compatriots:

### Special Multi-Camp Excursion September 3

Fellow compatriots, we will have a special guest visiting our area from Louisiana, Charles Rand, the HQ Adjutant-In-Chief. Chuck will provide us with his impressions of the National Reunion. As we have this special guest, an invitation to join us will be extended to all California camps. Chuck has asked that we be flexible as he wants to do some sightseeing, so this meeting will be a “moving” meeting. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the meeting, scheduled for **September 3**.

We will start by meeting at 9 am in San Jose, at the Park and Ride lot located at Narvaez Avenue and Capitol Expressway. This will allow us to create some carpools for those who are doing the entire day.

First stop is the Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, for a short ceremony at the grave of Confederate General Davidson. We would expect to get to the cemetery around 10 am.

We will then go to the Pizza Pirate in Benicia (707-745-1667) for lunch and a meeting,

with an estimated arrival of 11:30.

Next stop is the historic state capital building in Benicia, the only pre-WBTS CA capital building still standing. Estimated arrival would be around 1:15 pm.

Our final stop, around 2:30, is the Benicia Historical Museum. This is the location of the historic Camel Barns. In 1855, U.S. Secretary of War Jeff Davis imported a number of camels to use as pack animals across the desert southwest to supply the military installations across the West. The barns were constructed to house the camels while they waited for a return trip. The site also served as the Benicia Arsenal through WWII.

That concludes our “excursion”. Of course, any carpools that formed will return to their formation point. Again, please feel free to join for all or part. If you let me know where you are joining and your cell number, I can update you on ETA at your starting location. Lastly, I know this is planned for Labor Day weekend, but this will be a fun day with your compatriots, or bring the family.

### Other Camp/SCV News

- Folks who were not able to attend our meeting on June 18, it was a great and inspirational meeting. We need to boost attendance, so please try to take the time to attend our future meetings.
- The CA Division of the SCV presented a check for \$3000 at the National Convention for the creation of a permanent museum at HQ in Elm Creek, TN. On a per-capita basis, we contributed more than any other Division. Hurrah for CA!
- SCV dues are due now.** All except Life Members are \$40 (\$30 HQ, \$5 Ca Div, \$5 Camp), payment to Gary Waltrip, Adjutant.
- HQ raised a major issue at the National Reunion, the subject of the Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond. More information from HQ is on the reverse of this page. All, please send letters to detest this desecration of our compatriots graves, who should by Law been accorded recognition since 1958.
- For the most current information, please provide me with your email address. The most current information will also be posted on our **new** camp website, [www.scvcamp1440.org](http://www.scvcamp1440.org), currently in development
- Welcome to all new recruits! We look forward to meeting you and your participation in Camp 1440!



1865, note wooden markers



Today, note simple blocks for several graves



## OAKWOOD CONFEDERATE CEMETERY RICHMOND, VA

**THIS IS THE LARGEST PROJECT THE SCV HAS UNDER TAKEN!**

### HISTORY:

- There are over 17,000 Confederate Veterans buried at Oakwood from virtually every state in the Confederacy.
- The original wooden markers were to be replaced with stone. This never happened.
- 6"X6" marble markers with 3 numbers and a letter represent 3 or more soldiers.

### PLAN:

- The Oakwood Committee, under the direction of the SCV, proposes to mark each soldier with an upright headstone, including name, date of birth/death and military data (if available).
- The cemetery will receive the attention to detail necessary to make this a place of HONOR for our CONFEDERATE DEAD.

### PROBLEMS:

- The VA denied our request for headstones because "the soldiers buried at Oakwood have 6"X6" marble blocks with numbers on them therefore they are sufficiently marked."

### WHAT EACH MEMBER OF THE SCV CAN DO:

- Send letters to members of the House.
- Send letters to members of the Senate.
- Website, <http://www.contactingthecongress.org>, can be utilized to find Compatriot's Congressmen.
- Send letters to the Veterans Administration. <http://www.va.gov> (references U.S. codes)
- In 1958 Congress pardoned Confederate service-members and extended benefits therewith. Section 2306 of Title 38 of the U.S. Codes states "headstones may be furnished by the VA if the grave is unmarked", which includes name as minimal.
- Tell your Congressmen and Senators that these men deserve headstones with their name and other information on the marker. **IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION THAT THEY ARE NOT GIVEN THE DIGNITY OF THEIR NAMES ON THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE!**

If the Government can go against their own policy and deny us these grave markers, what will be next? The implications can and will spread to all Heritage issues, throughout the Confederacy. We are not requesting money, but it is of the utmost importance that each and every Politician knows of this issue and will address their concerns to the VA. The third appeal is within 60 days so please do not delay in responding.

Endorsed by:  
C.I.C. R. Michael Givens



California SCV Members, even if you are far removed from the local (Virginia) representatives, please write to our local U.S. congressional representatives to make them aware that you want your Confederate ancestors honored with a proper gravestone.