



Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp #443
Jasper, Alabama

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The Major John C. Hutto Camp's September camp meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on

Sunday, 15 September 2024 at 2:00PM

Meeting will be at the
First Methodist Church's Adult Center

Speaker - Donna Faulkner Barron,
the oldest daughter of Roy Faulkner,
Chief Carver of the Confederate Memorial Carving at
Stone Mountain Park, Georgia

Door prize this month besides the famous camp memento 15oz mug is James Ronald Kennedy's new book *Reconstruction, Destroying the Republic and Creating an Empire* - a \$50.00 value on Amazon and Shotwell Publishing

If you want to know what happened at Fort Dixie this year,
check out this month's excellent newsletter article,
by Faye Gaston

CELEBRATION OF THE LIVES OF LT. GEN. FORREST AND BUTCH GODWIN

By Faye Gaston



For 24 years Pat Godwin and her husband Butch were the hosts for the annual anniversary birthday celebration of Confederate Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest at their home, Fort Dixie, on County Road 30, Selma. Due to the death of Butch on September 15, 2023, Pat was host for the 25th celebration on July 27, 2024, that would be the last. Included in this event was the celebration of the life of Butch Godwin (1946-2023). On the back of the agenda for the program was a summary of the outstanding life of Cecil "Butch" Godwin.

There was the usual program with the Grand Finale being a fireworks show! Free ice water and cold watermelon were enjoyed. Souvenir hand-held fans were busy in the very hot temperature under several tents. It has not rained out the event for 25 years!

Pat gave the welcome and appreciation for volunteers through the years. Master of Ceremonies was Ronnie Simmons, past SCV Alabama Division Commander. Invocation and memorial service were by Rev. Robert Griffin, SCV Alabama Division Chaplain. Gary Carlyle, Chaplain-In-Chief, led the singing of "Dixie". There was cannon firing. Music was by "String of Secession" starring the fiddle and Confederate anecdotes. The keynote speaker was Norman Dasinger, Jr., who spoke exclusively on "Nathan B. Forrest & Streight's Raid", a successful battle. The live auction of Confederate items, the silent auction, and tickets to

win the mini-bust of Lt. Gen. Forrest helped finance the event and Confederate Memorial Circle in the cemetery in Selma where over 200 unknown Confederate soldiers are buried in two mass graves. Winners of the silent auction, the Forrest bust, and tickets in several categories were announced.

The crowd enjoyed the huge fried catfish supper and the Lt. Gen. Forrest birthday cake.

Sharon Dasinger, President of the UDC Alabama Division, was present with her husband, Norman Sr. and son Norman Jr. , SCV leaders. Also present were officers and members of the UDC Alabama Division.

At 7 p.m. the "Tribute to Butch Godwin" was spoken by Pat and several friends and family members.

Pat asked Faye Gaston to speak about Butch with highlights of the UDC Alabama Division. She is an Honorary Life President of the Alabama division and the current Chaplain. The following is her speech.

(Faye Gaston) "Pat Godwin asked me to make some remarks about a trip I took with Butch on his motorcycle. First, let me give you an introduction.

I have heard it said that no one appreciates your volunteer service. However I can say that many have expressed appreciation to Pat and Butch Godwin for their efforts to preserve the true history of the Confederacy.

I met Pat and Butch at the UDC Alabama Division convention years ago and then attended several of the anniversary birthday celebrations for Lt.

General Nathan Bedford Forrest here at Fort Dixie. It was always a wonderful party, fun but with so much Confederate history. And I learned about the Confederate Memorial Circle in Live Oak Cemetery in Selma. Butch took great pride in maintaining the cemetery. There are two mass graves of over 200 Confederate soldiers. The names of these "unknown" soldiers are known only to God. There are other Confederate soldiers buried here with their names. Historical markers display much Confederate history. There is an impressive General Forrest monument. I attended events there when Pat and Butch were the hosts. As Pat has said, they were "married for 55 years and did everything together".

They were involved in the work for the return of the stolen Jefferson Davis memorial chair from the cemetery. There was an estimate of the value of \$500,000 for the chair but actually it was an irreplaceable historical treasure that no price could be put on it. They were involved in two lawsuits against the City of Selma.

Pat has been the UDC chairman of the committee for the Jefferson Davis highway signs for years. This work is to encourage the maintenance and replacement of the signs for this highway. Butch went with her on the 300 miles of the highway throughout Alabama for updates on the list of all the Jefferson Davis highway signs by location and status.

Pat discovered that a historical marker was down in Midway in Bullock County that was erected by the UDC by the Jefferson Davis highway many years ago. She and Butch wanted to erect the marker on the grounds of the Baptist Church where the Confederate soldiers had drilled in the 1860's. Butch dug up a pole that a local garden club donated that the marker would be attached to, and built a frame around the pole and poured concrete in it to secure the marker. This was in 90-plus degrees weather,

like we have today. The marker had been stored at City Hall and city employees were with us as Butch erected the historical marker.

Several days after that Pat phoned me to request that I ride with Butch on his motorcycle when he came to finish the work. I needed to be with him in an area that did not know him, and was anti-Confederate territory. Butch said that his motorcycle was a Cadillac of motorcycles, and I would be comfortable riding it. He had been riding on his motorcycle for hundreds of miles, even in other states.

So I got on the motorcycle behind Butch in Union Springs and rode to Midway where he finished the work to erect the marker. Then he wanted to ride on to Eufaula to check on something. Then we rode back to Midway and then to Union Springs, about a 100 miles round-trip. One grand-daughter got a big kick out of her grandmother riding 100 miles on a motorcycle.

Yes, people are shown appreciation for outstanding volunteer service. The SCV voted a day "Pat Godwin Day" and also presented her the "Emma Sansom" award that I believe is the highest award the SCV gives to a woman.

The UDC Alabama Division presented the "Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal" to Pat Godwin. At the UDC convention in September 2023 it was voted to present her the award of being an "Honorary Life President" of the UDC Alabama Division for rendering outstanding service to the Division. She is a leader of the Selma UDC chapter.

Butch Godwin went to be with the Lord on September 15, 2023, at the time of our last year's UDC Alabama Division convention. The UDC

members immediately voted to honor Butch. The great-great-granddaughters Club voted to donate \$100 to "Friends of Forrest, Confederate Memorial Circle" in memory of Butch.

UDC members voted that the proceeds from the silent auction at Convention be designated for a college scholarship in Butch's name.

The Memorial Wreath displayed at the Memorial Service for deceased UDC members at Convention was placed on display at Butch's funeral to honor him for his service with Pat on UDC projects. Several UDC members attended his funeral wearing the standard outfit of dresses, hats and gloves.

Today we are celebrating the life of Butch Godwin for his dedication to preserving the true history of the Confederacy---and his dedication to his wife."

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant	John McGraw
Chaplain	Barry Cook
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Barry Cook
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