

# **2013-2014 Yearly Activity & Event Report (Year Ending May 30, 2014) of the Judah P. Benjamin “Diplomatic Corps” Camp #2210 Tampa, Florida**

JP Benjamin Camp #2210 has 38 members with a 100% retention, 10 legionnaire members, 4 Life members, 1 Ulmer Award recipient. Over 40% increase in membership over 2013.

## **Public Appearances**

- Participated in 12 parades: Zephyrhills Founders & Christmas -2x10k attendance, Dade City Christmas & Pasco Fair 2x10k attendance, Downtown Tampa Christmas -3k attendance, Ruskin Veterans Day-7k attendance & Town & Country Veterans day Parade 15K, Temple Terrace 4th July-8k attendance, Bandon 4th July-25k attendance, Plant City Strawberry & Christmas-2x20k attendance, Rough Riders St. Patrick's Day-Ybor City 80k attendance. Compatriots & friends— displayed the colors before an estimated 150,000 -200,000+ spectators and helped refurbish the “Dixie Lives in my Heart” themed float;
- Sponsored the Bonnie Blue Corvette & Capt. Dickison Javelin in a car show + above listed parades;
- Bonnie Blue Corvette Trophy winner at Masonic Home of Florida Car show;
- Awarded “Best Marching Unit” Zephyrhills Founders Day parade;
- Awarded “Presentation Certificate” for the Pasco County Fair parade.

## **Member Leadership**

- Officers/Compatriots/Legionnaires have attended Florida Division Reunion, National reunion, Stephen D. Lee Institute and Leadership Training Seminars;
- Stephen D. Lee Institute-Chattanooga: 4 Camp members attended the event;
- Commander McCallister spearheaded & Chairs WBTS monument effort at Hillsborough County's Veterans Park;
- Initiated Florida Division SCV Resolution to support a Florida Monument protection bill.

## **Donations to the Cause**

- Donated to Southern Heritage causes including: Virginia Flaggers, Restore the Parks-Memphis, Evergreen Cemetery, Southern Legal Resource Center, H.K. Edgerton Campaign, Flags Across Florida, Confederate Heritage Fund, Tampa Bay Sesquicentennial Commission, etc.
- Co-sponsored scholarship with Augusta Jane Evans Wilson 1623 UDC for one Camper for the Sam Davis Youth Camp. Including coordinating transportation arrangements & providing a chaperone.

## **Events**

- Hosted Lee-Jackson-Maury & Pickett too!! January birthday BB-Q , 50 in attendance;
- Recruiting/Fundraising/Living history-education at Brooksville Raid (attendance 20k) Sponsor: Rifle, Rails & History event;
- Hosted “Community Service “ table for 5 High Schools for student community volunteer events;
- Compatriots & Legionnaire have delivered at least 12 Presentations to 12 organizations on topics such as Lincoln's Lies, Media/Press relations, Jewish Confederates, Emancipation Proclamation Georgia WBTS Vets over multiple states;
- Moderated meetings between SCV, SUV and State Park Officials concerning the Olustee Yankee Monument;
- Co-hosted “Confederate Shoot Out” range day & fundraiser with AJE Wilson UDC chapter;
- Recruiting and Education station with period attire at showing of “Gone With the Wind” at Tampa's historic Theater;
- Hosted an Educational station at the “Battle of Ballast Point” reenactment;
- Hosted and participated in a Youth Trailblazer in Pasco County.

## **The “Charge” delivered via Media/Internet**

- Comprehensive” Benjamin Camp website, linking with multiple sources of research, history (Tampa Bay, Florida, Confederacy, Multi-cultural South), like minded organizations, educational material, speakers bureau, Public Educational/Living History appearances, Initiatives including Sesquicentennial events, Veterans Monuments, Stephen D. Lee Institute, Sam Davis Youth Camp, Southern Culture including music, jokes, Lewis Grizzard and News/media links. We wish for the site to serve as a motivation & template for other Camps. Please visit!
- Generated favorable newspaper article in Tampa Tribune for Confederate Memorial Day;

- Compatriot Grey Caulley & legionnaire Jan Caulley published a story in the UDC magazine for assisting the Andrew Jackson McBride UDC Chapter 1772 in Tallapoosa, GA for their CMD program in 2013 as well as local Georgia newspaper;
- Conducted 10 Historical Education program meetings with the Augusta Jane Evans Wilson UDC Chapter i.e. Susan Hathaway on RE Lee Old Veterans Home; Jim Davis on Black Slave Owners; Edwin Kennedy on Ft. Pillow; Mark Simpson on Lincoln's War Conspiracy, Cassie Barrow on the Lost Women of Roswell, "Miss Lee" Young on Life in Alabama during the Blockade.

#### Diplomatic Services

- Marched in Dr. Martin Luther King Day parade (Dixie County) with Bonnie Blue & Gray Ghost, 5th year appearance.; Awarded 11 Hunley medals to JROTC Cadets at: Springstead, Alonzo, Robinson, Strawberry Crest, Leto, Wharton, East Bay, Armwood, Spoto, Riverview, Freedom and Lennard High Schools
- Hosted 9th Brigade "Diplomatic Reception" for National SCV Lt CIC candidate Mark Simpson;
- Hosted Florida Division "Diplomatic Reception" for National SCV CIC candidate & current Lt CIC Kelly Barrow;
- Initiated Resolution in memory of Cmdr. Jim Hayward before Florida Division;
- Commander McCallister Attended Vicksburg National SCV Convention, represented Florida Division in Oratory contest;
- Color Guard: Provided Color Guard for AJEW UDC Military Service Awards;
- Participated with "Scottish American Society" Color Guard for Veterans Day service at Hillsborough Veterans park.
- Legionnaire Lunelle Siegel spearheaded effort to repulse the proposed "Yankee Monument" at Olustee;
- Camp Officers Visited & spoke at multiple SCV/UDC Camps;
- CMD McCallister and Legionnaire McCray attended regular meetings of the Hillsborough County Commission and Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council.

#### Cemetery/Memorial

- Compatriot Don Geary placed 30 CBF on graves at Woodlawn Cemetery for April Confederate Heritage month;
- Placed 75 CBF on graves at Oaklawn cemetery with the Augusta Jane Evans Wilson UDC chapter;
- Co-sponsored CMD ceremony & WBTS Cavalcade visiting 3 cemeteries and 2 memorials/monuments. Generated 1/6 page tory in Sunday edition Tampa Tribune 350k+ readership. Honored 192 CS veterans;
- CMD. McCallister requested and received Proclamation for Confederate Memorial Day from the City of Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County. (Hillsborough County Proclamation was privately issued.);
- Period attired Masonic Education night at Hillsborough Lodge #25 F&AM concerning their early Confederate Masters & Brothers and the Sesquicentennial of the 1864 Raid on Tampa & sacking of Hillsborough Lodge #25;
- Lt. CMD Walters consulted/quoted in Tampa Tribune article of Blockade Runner Kate Dale ruins in Hillsborough River;
- Participated with "Scottish American Society" Color Guard for Veterans Day service at Hillsborough Veterans park.

#### Distinguished Camp Compatriots & Legionnaires:

- "Most Distinguished Camp" Award Army of Tennessee 2013 - SCV National;
- "Dean Boggs Historical Award", Florida Division SCV;
- Cmdr. David McCallister received 9th Brigade Commander's Award, 2013, Florida Division SCV;
- Legionnaire Al McCray awarded "Legionnaire of the Year" Award—Florida Division SCV;
- Legionnaire Lunelle Siegel bestowed with "Ladies Appreciation Medal's from the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Trans Mississippi;
- Presidential Service Awards. The Camp earned the Gold award and Camp has 5 members and 2 legionnaires earn Presidential Service Awards. There are 2 gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Awards for the guys and 2 Gold's for Legionnaires.