

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 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR NEW CAMP OFFICERS (2018-2020)



Commander

Ron Lakin



1st Lt Cmdr

John Stanton



2nd Lt Cmdr

**Johnny
Kicklighter**



Adjutant

Gale Red



Asst Adjutant

John McKee



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at our Next Meeting
6:30 P. M.
TUESDAY, MARCH 13
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds



FROM YOUR NEW COMMANDER

It's my great pleasure to accept the position as your Camp Commander and look forward to serving you in the next two years. I know from my past experience that this is the best and most active camp in Illinois. After all, we've got the best members – people who really care about their Confederate heritage, the important activities involving our camp and supporting our veteran ancestors, and our families. I know it will take time to fill the competent shoes of my predecessor, but my goal is very sincere and my participation never-ending. I will work hard to make you proud of me. Please do continue to be active as often as you can ... attending and making presentations at the monthly camp meetings, attending field trips, memorial celebrations, the upcoming picnic, and homecoming parades. Thank you in advance for allowing me to lead you and for your loyal Confederate spirit and support!

Confederately,

Ronald J. Lakin

*** NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING ***
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center
200 South Belt East
Belleville IL

Parking/Entrance on West Side of Building

PROGRAM: Civil War Quiz
PRESENTER: Adjutant Gale Red
REFRESHMENTS: 1st Lt. Cmdr John Stanton

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
From Your Commander	1
Minutes: Camp Dixon Meeting, February 13	2-4
Article: General Michael Corcoran and the Confederate Irish In America's Civil War	5-7
Books on the Irish Who Served in the American Civil War	8
News from Around the Camp	9
Calendar of Events ~ March Birthdays ~ Camp Leadership	10

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 13, 2018 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:30 p.m. on February 13, 2018 at the Belle-Clair Exposition Center, 200 South Belt East, Belleville IL, this being the 2nd Muster of the year for 2018.

CALL TO ORDER: 2nd Lt. Commander John Stanton.

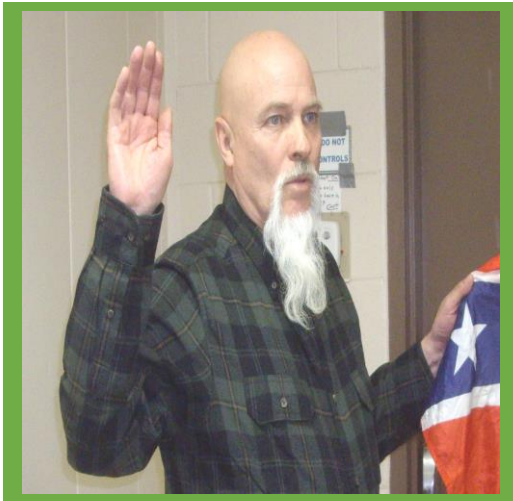
INVOCATION ON "LOVE": Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS: 2nd Lt. Commander John Stanton. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Salute to the Confederate flag.

WELCOME: Commander Johnny Kicklighter.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS: Commander Johnny Kicklighter welcomed Stephen Emel (guest of J. C. Gideon), Austin Williams (guest of Ron Lakin), and Russ Schleicher (former Hecker Camp Commander, SUV).

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY for Jack Sandford.



Jack Sandford recites the SCV oath

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEW MEMBER, JACK SANDFORD: Jack Sandford became our newest camp member.

His ancestor is his 2nd Great-Grandfather Corporal Andrew Jackson Throckmorton, 3rd VA Infantry.



Commander Kicklighter pins Jack Sandford as New Camp Member



Posing with the New Member

(L-R) Adjutant Gale Red, 2nd Lt Cmdr John Stanton, JACK SANDFORD, Commander Johnny Kicklighter, and 1st Lt Cmdr Ron Lakin.

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 13, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

PRESENTATION OF WAR SERVICE MEDAL FOR DWIGHT MOORE. Commander Kicklighter honored Dwight for his war service as a pilot and presented him with the SCV War Service Medal.



THANK-YOU TO JOHNNY AS COMMANDER FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS! (ADJUTANT RED)
NOMINATIONS FOR & ELECTIONS OF CC, LT CC, AND ADJUTANT (ADJUTANT RED)

- Ronnie has been the 1st Lt Commander for 4 years, and I nominate him as CC. **Seconded by John Stanton.**
- **Next position is 1st Lt Commander.** John Stanton has been the 2nd Lt Commander for 1 ½ years. **Nominate him as 1st Lt CC. Seconded by Dwight Moore.**
- **Third position is Adjutant.** I have held this position for 16 years and am ready to retire. I would appreciate it if someone would like to be trained. **John McKee volunteered and Dwight nominated him. Seconded by Steve Wilson.** (*I will continue but have John as Asst.*)
- **Request vote of acclamation. Motion made by Dwight Moore and seconded by Ralph Oelschlager. All in favor raised their hands and vote of acclamation passed.**
- **One of the joys as Div Commander is Passing the Sword from the Outgoing Commander to the Incoming Commander (IL Div Cmdr Gale Red).** The sword is an AMES 1855 approved for sale to the Confederacy in VA by the US Secretary of War who soon afterward resigned and became a general a month later. It's the real thing ... presented to Stewart's Cavalry and someone carried it in the war.



PASSING OF THE SWORD
Johnny steps down and Ronnie steps up



SWEARING-IN OF NEW COMMANDER & 1ST LT COMMANDER
Div Cmdr Red swears in Ron & John

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 13, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

ROLL CALL (25): Janice Beasley, Mike & Mary Beth Biekert, J. C. Gideon, Robert Hardy & Valery Countryman (guest), Stephen Emel (guest of JC Gideon), Eric Funkhouser, Walter Hall, Johnny Kicklighter, Greg Kreig, Ron Lakin, John & Jane McKee, Dwight Moore, Ralph Oelschlager, Gale & Sharon Red, Dale Rice, Jack Sandford, Russell Schleicher (guest & former SUV Hecker Camp Commander), John Schmitt, John Stanton, Austin Williams (guest of Ron Lakin), and Steve Wilson.

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

JANUARY 9 MEETING MINUTES (Commander Lakin): Minutes approved by a voice vote with a motion to accept by Ralph Oelschlager, seconded by John McKee. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Red): Current balance was reported. Approved by a voice vote with a motion to accept by Dwight Moore, seconded by Steve Wilson. Motion carried. Financial report accepted.

COMMUNICATIONS

BOB EVERS GARD FORT (2nd Lt Cmdr Kicklighter). Went to Bob's place to repair a generator and he was in agreement for us to have a picnic there. I will arrange a date.

DIVISION CONVENTION 2018 (Adjutant Red). Will convene in August vice April. Date TBD.

MEMORIAL DAY AT MOUND CITY, MAY 26 (Adjutant Red). Looking for a good participation.

JEFFERSON BARRACKS MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 28 (Adjutant Red). Please plan to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

FIELD TRIP TO CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS (1st Lt Commander Stanton). Let's plan to visit a Saturday in April. I will handle the arrangements and advise of a firm date.

UNIFORM JACKETS FOR SALE (Commander Lakin). Please review and see me for info/price.



FORMAL POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON Illinois in the Civil War by Adjutant Gale Red.

The U.S. state of Illinois during the American Civil War was a major source of troops for the Union Army (particularly for those armies serving in the Western Theater of the Civil War), and of military supplies, food, and clothing. Situated near major rivers and railroads, Illinois became a major jumping off place early in the war for Ulysses S. Grant's efforts to seize control of the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. Statewide, public support for the Union was high despite Copperhead sentiment. Several POW camps and prisons dotted the state after 1863, processing thousands of captive Confederate soldiers. There were even calls for secession in Southern Illinois or Little Egypt by several residents; Marion residents voted to secede. A few volunteered for the Confederate States of America in Tennessee. Thirty-four men from the southern tip of the state were recruited from Jackson and Williamson County and joined Company G "The Illinois Rebels" of the 15th Tennessee Regiment of Volunteer Infantry.

Training was conducted at Camps Douglas, Butler, Defiance, Dement, Fry, Fuller, Kane, Mather, Taylor, Yates, Koerner, Palmer and the Rock Island Arsenal. POW camps were: Alton Penitentiary, Butler, Douglas, and Rock Island Prison.

REFRESHMENTS were provided by Lady Janice Beasley.

BENEDICTION was given by Chaplain Biekert.

MEETING adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center.

REFRESHMENTS by John Stanton.



Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

General Michael Corcoran

and the Confederate Irish in America's Civil War



**Flag of the 69th Regiment
Irish Brigade**

The recent erection of a memorial in Sligo to Carrowkeel man General Michael Corcoran inspired historian Paul Burns to write this article on the forgotten Irish who fought on the Confederate side:

All discussions of Irish participation in the 1861-65 American Civil War seem to lead, in next breath, to the North's famous Irish Brigade. Few know that Irish immigrants played an equally important role in the Southern Confederacy. Over 40,000 Irish fought for the Southern cause. They were the largest immigrant group in the army, and they made up about 10% of all Confederate combatants. In contrast, there was less enthusiasm among Irish immigrants to the North, and they were underrepresented in its military.

The Confederate Irish were far more fervent in support of their side's cause because they could identify in America with the desire for self-determination at home and the right to separate from what was viewed as a repressive government. They had little concern about slavery. The Irish in America were working class, and they competed for jobs with free blacks. Consequently, the Irish in both areas tended to support the pro-slavery Democratic Party. The Southern Irish encountered less animosity and much more religious tolerance than did their Northern brethren. There was no Southern equivalent of the anti-draft riots that occurred in the large Northern cities where the Irish were concentrated.

Gen. Michael Corcoran & Sligo's Contribution

Although the birthplaces of some Southern Irish are known, many were listed only as "born in Ireland". The South's army records never were complete and, since the war was lost, much of what existed disappeared. Certainly, there were Confederates born in County Sligo, but none was as well-known as General Michael Corcoran, Sligo's contribution to the Northern cause. Corcoran is often associated with the Union's Irish Brigade, but he was not. He was commander of the 69th New York that later was a part of that famous brigade, but Corcoran was captured at the first battle of Bull Run. After being exchanged two years later, Corcoran founded the Irish Legion.



Georgia Irish Regiment

The Union's Irish Brigade, which was perhaps 80% Irish, was unique. No effort was made to consolidate Confederate Irish into large units. For the most part, they were scattered throughout the South's regionally raised regiments, though many company-sized units, and several battalions, were formed from Irish volunteers--the Emmet Guards of Mobile, Alabama; the Southern Celts and St. Mary's Volunteers of the 13th Louisiana; the Irish Volunteers of the 5th Georgia; the O'Connell Guards of the 17th Virginia; the Emerald Guards of the 9th Louisiana; the Sarsfield Rangers of the 7th Louisiana—to name just a few of the more than 45 distinctly Irish companies.



**10th Tennessee Irish
Regiment**

Many of these units carried variations of the emerald flag with golden harp so favored by Irish military groups everywhere, but company flags were not carried into battle. Since the Irish units were part of geographical regiments, their company flags were never as prominent as the well-known banner of the North's Irish Brigade, which flew at such well-known battles as Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

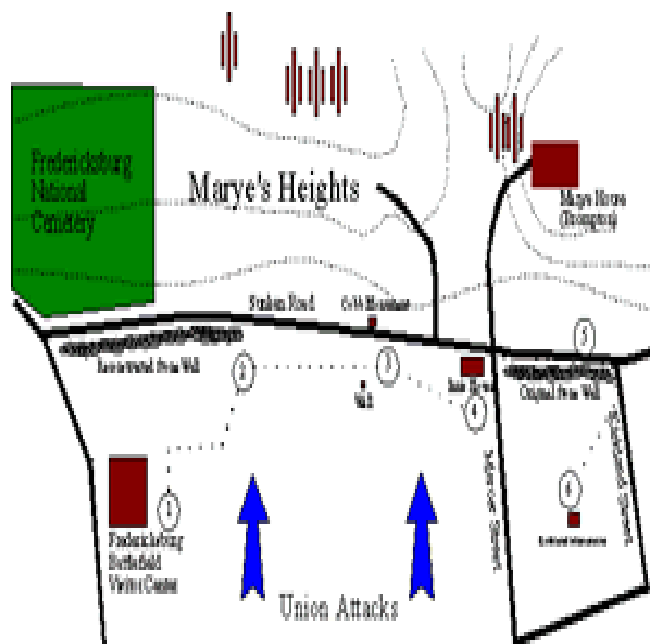
Col. Patrick Moore and the Battle of Bull Run

Scattered as they were among dozens of regiments, Irish units probably fought in every major Civil War battle. In one of the earlier fights--called Bull Run in the North and First Manassas in the South--the 1st Virginia regiment, commanded by Galway-born Colonel Patrick Moore, defended strategic Blackburn's Ford. The regiment's Montgomery Guards was an Irish unit and it fought effectively as skirmishers. At one point, Col. Moore led a charge against the Yankees shouting, "Feagh a Ballagh!"—perhaps the first Irish battle cry heard in the war. General Thomas Jackson earned the sobriquet "Stonewall" at that engagement, primarily because his troops held so well at the ford. The Montgomery Guards and the 1st Virginia later were to suffer 120 casualties out of 155 men in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.

In a way, Irish troops of the 1st Virginia regiment created the Stonewall Jackson legend by their stand at Blackburn's Ford— but a similarly named Irish unit ended it. The 1st Virginia Battalion, also called the Irish Battalion, became the provost guard for the Army of Northern Virginia. During the winter of 1862-63 an Irish guard of that battalion failed to recognize General Jackson returning to his bivouac late at night—and shot him.

Irish Brigade at the Battle of Fredericksburg

Did Irish units fight Irish units? Yes. At the battle of Fredericksburg, for example, Cobb's Brigade, of which the 24th Georgia was part, was entrenched on Marye's Hill in a sunken road behind a stonewall. A key component of the 24th was McMillan's Guards, an Irish company that had been raised by Antrim-born Colonel Robert McMillan. McMillan had moved up to command the 24th, and during the battle he took over the brigade when General Cobb was killed. The Union's Irish Brigade made a suicidal attack across an open field against the 24th's strong defensive position, and it was almost annihilated. McMillan's cool leadership cost the Irish Brigade 545 dead and wounded, including three of its five regimental commanders. Ironically, the Irish Brigade's commanding officer, General Thomas Meagher, was in no danger of becoming a casualty himself, having gone into town to get his horse.



Sunken Rd. Battle of Fredericksburg



Battle line at Marye's Hgts.

There were many Irish-born and first-generation Irish officers in the Confederate Army. One of the better known was Major General Patrick R. Cleburne from Co. Cork. Cleburne served in the Army of Tennessee and often was compared to the South's General Stonewall Jackson. He rose from company commander to regiment, and then to brigade and, after leading his troops to victory in several battles and being wounded at least three times, he was promoted to major general. Late in the war he shot himself in the foot, figuratively speaking, by proposing that the South recruit slaves to fight in exchange for their freedom, an idea that could have changed the course of the war but was quickly rejected by the pro-slavery civilian government. Cleburne was killed late in the war.

Brigadier General John McCausland

Another famous, or infamous, Southern officer was Brigadier General John McCausland, who was born in Missouri of Irish parents. Nicknamed "Tiger John," McCausland was a "never-surrender" leader who fought his way out of many tight spots. He was best known in the North for a July 1864 raid on Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which he looted and burned when a ransom demand for \$500,000 was not paid. McCausland refused to submit even after the war ended and left the USA to travel in Europe and Mexico. Several years later, he rather mysteriously returned with sufficient funds to purchase 6000 acres of farmland in West Virginia. McCausland lived until 1927.

During the war, Irish immigration to the South ceased, because the ports were blockaded. After the war, it recommenced--but slowly. Eventually, as the South recuperated from its devastation, some Irish survivors of the war rose to prominence in industry and government. Today, more than 140 years after the Civil War ended, there is little difference between the Irish of the two areas, but since "history is recorded by the victors," little is heard about the Irish contribution to the South's cause, and even less has been written.

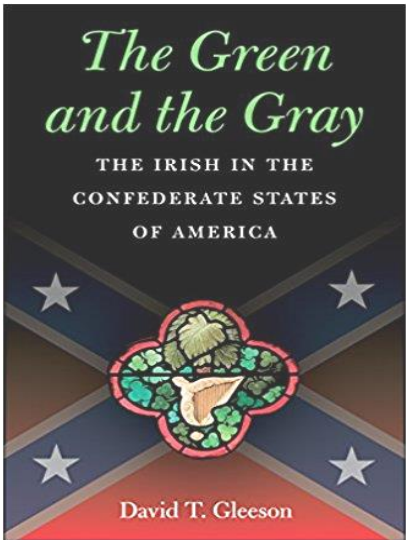
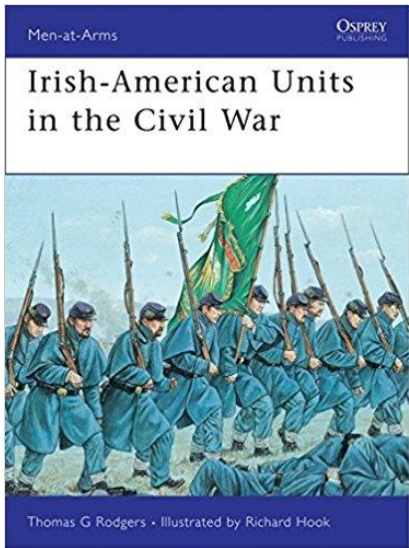
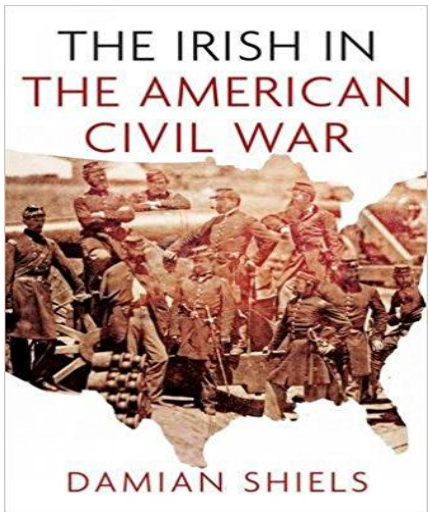
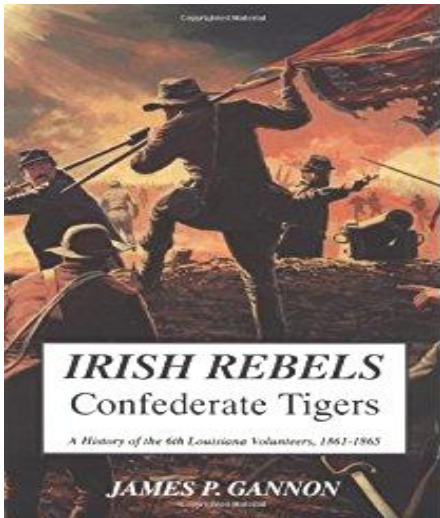
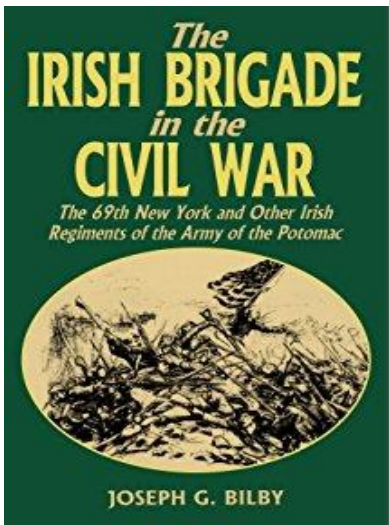
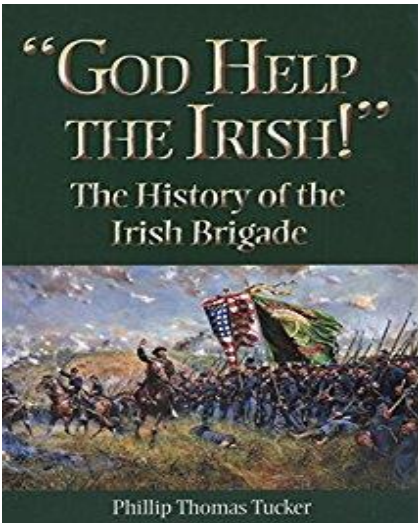
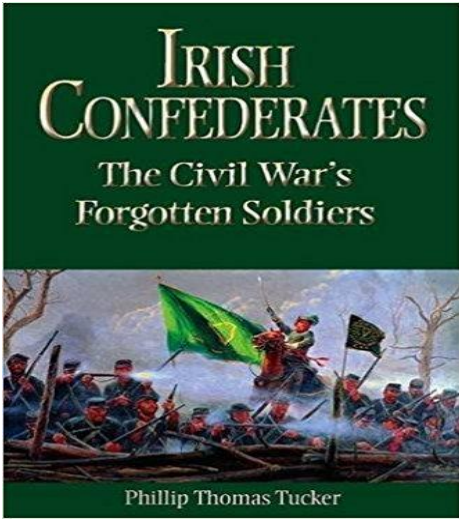
Paul Burns

The dead at Sunken Rd.



Source:
<http://www.sligoheritage.com/archconfedirish.htm>

Here are some of the many books on the Irish who served in the American Civil War, which can be found at Amazon.com or from other book sellers.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP



GET-WELL WISHES TO MARY BETH BIEKERT (wife of Chaplain Mike). Mary Beth has been suffering from abdominal pain and discomfort but doing a little better. Please pray for her complete healing. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)*

GET-WELL WISHES TO COMPATRIOT RALPH OELSCHLAGER'S WIFE. She's been ill for some time. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)*

GET-WELL BLESSINGS TO COMPATRIOT JACK SANDFORD AND HIS WIFE. She's been suffering from unknown seizures, and he is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Please pray the doctor finds her diagnosis and correct medicine and healing blessings to make both of them well again. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)*

GET-WELL WISHES TO COMPATRIOT PHIL TATE who's been feeling ill for some time from a respiratory sickness and sinus infection. Please pray for his good health to return quickly. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)*

ZIEBOLD FAMILY ISSUES. Deepest sympathy to Chris and his sons, Jason and Nathan, on the passing of his mother/their grandmother in England. We will be deprived of his presence at the next two meetings since he's making a trip to England, entertaining his brother while visiting from England, and will travel on a cruise. *(The camp sent a condolence card.)*

COMPATRIOT MATT KING & HIS WIFE, ANDI, will travel to California from March 5-13 to visit their mothers and family. We will miss them at the March meeting.

JoANN GIDEON (COMPATRIOT J. C. GIDEON'S WIFE) has traveled all over the world and on a recent trip from February 17 thru March 2 visited Vietnam.

MARCH 14, 2018

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO COMPATRIOT & MRS. BILL BOYD
ON THEIR 54th Wedding Anniversary**

We wish Bill and Marilyn a very Happy Anniversary and many more blessed years together. *(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*



CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH

11 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
(SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR)

13 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING

17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING

25 PALM SUNDAY

30 GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL

1 EASTER (APRIL FOOL'S DAY)

10 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING

19 (T) SCV AWARD TO JROTC (MASCOUTAH IL)

27 ARBOR DAY

28 (T) SCV AWARD TO JROTC (ALTON IL)

MAY

4 (T) SCV AWARD TO JROTC (DUPO IL)

5 (T) SCV AWARD TO JROTC (O'FALLON IL)

8 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING

13 MOTHER'S DAY

19 ARMED FORCES DAY

26 SCV MEMORIAL (MOUND CITY IL)

28 SCV MEMORIAL

(JEFFERSON BARRACKS MO)



MARCH

4 **Tyler Jacobs**
(from Crossville IL)

7 **Jim Moose**
(from Mascoutah IL)

10 **Bill Presley**
(from Macomb MI)

27 **James Richardson**
(from the West Indies)

28 **Lady Carole Heinrich**
(from Olympia WA)

Commander
1Lt Commander
2Lt Commander
Adjutant
Asst Adjutant
Chaplain
Sgt at Arms
Program Chairman
Historian
Door Greeter
Quartermaster

CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP

Ronald Joseph Lakin
John Douglas Stanton
John Wayne Kicklighter
Gale Franklin Red
John Mitchell McKee
Walter Michael Biekert
David Francis Schmitt
Gale Franklin Red
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT

Cell 618-420-6358
618-610-6464
618-257-9079
Cell 618-622-8949
618-416-5072
618-972-8190
Cell 618-334-6148
Cell 618-622-8949