



FRIENDS OF FORREST NEWSLETTER – 2017
25 June, 2017

EIGHTEEN PARTIES!!! WOW! Can ya believe it? It is truly amazing how the YEARS have literally flown by! During these years sooo much has happened...we've had some victories & sadly, we are experiencing more defeats than we ever imagined. But our fight continues & as Chief Dan George said, in Josey Wales, **“We must endeavor to persevere”**, In spite of New Orleans and so many other towns across Dixie committing culture genocide against the Southern people & our history, heritage & culture, We have one saving grace in this war – an absolute **VICTORY IN SELMA, ALABAMA, THE CIVIL RIGHTS HOT POT OF THE WORLD!** We, Selma Chapter 53, UDC hold the deed since Jan 2014! The General and the other monuments within Confederate Memorial Circle are on **PRIVATE PROPERTY!**

First of all, please note on your flyer that **the FORREST CELEBRATION IS JULY 15, 2017.** Due to circumstances out of our control, we had to change the date to the **THIRD SATURDAY IN JULY!** I hope this date accommodates your calendar better since it is not so close to the 4th of July holiday. However, it will still be **HOT** on the **THIRD SATURDAY IN JULY!** Kickoff is at 3PM – We have a fantastic celebration planned with Brian Steel Wills as our keynote speaker. He is the author **of A Battle from the Start** about General Forrest and **The Greatest Cavalryman in the Confederacy: Nathan Bedford Forrest.** He is a professor of history at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA.

Also, our featured entertainer this year is **Alan Harrelson**. Someone recently described his performing talents as “Ray Stevens on the Banjo”! He is a fun entertainer! I think everyone will enjoy him and have so much fun!

We hope you are making plans to attend the Forrest Celebration this year; this is only the 2nd time that we have had to change the date from the second Sat in July to **the third Sat in July.** As always, in planning this event, we strive to plan a gathering that will make you **WANT** to attend, even though you may have been here several times in the past and also we want you to leave here looking forward to **NEXT YEAR!**

Throughout all these years, we have lost soooo many loyal & precious compatriots who have “crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.” These people are sorely missed in our extended Confederate family but they are not forgotten. I have some sad news to report this year. As many of you remember Bobby Holloway was our Master Chef cooking our fabulous Southern Fried Catfish so many years here at the Forrest Celebration. In 2004 Bobby was diagnosed with inoperable prostate cancer; he had waited too late to go to the doctor & it had spread to his bones. The doctor told him he had about 5 years to live & get his store in order. He underwent years of treatments, experimental programs, different kinds of chemo & radiation trying to live. So much for how much doctors know. The Lord's schedule was 13 more years for Bobby's presence on the planet! On April 22, 2017, Bobby lost his courageous battle against this dreaded disease. Bobby Holloway was a lover of LIFE and didn't have an enemy on the planet – his funeral attendance was testimony of that! He faithfully loved Jesus Christ and his family. Butch & I donated the original Forrest monument dedication (Oct 7, 2000) Forrest Battle Flag for his casket; Belinda had it folded & put in the casket with him on his Heavenly journey to meet our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ and General Lee, Jackson, Stuart & Forrest and President Davis! He is truly in good **CONFEDERATE COMPANY!** Please pray for Belinda & their family as they adjust to not having “Paw-Paw” physically in their life everyday but he will be with them and **ALL OF US IN SPIRIT...especially always at the Forrest Party “manning the mess tent”!** This year we will be dedicating the Forrest Party to Bobby “Marse Robert” Holloway!

Now, some good news. **DING-DONG** Traitor Governor Robert Bentley is **GONE** from the Governor's office and Kay Ivey is now the Gov of the State of Alabama! She signed the Alabama Memorial Protection Act of 2017 after a long legislative session of lobbying, letters, e-mails, phone calls to the legislators and the Governor's office when the bill finally passed. Our people came together and worked

diligently to get the attention of these “servants of WE THE PEOPLE” and finally we had a victory! We encourage you ALL, even out of state folks, to contact Gov Ivey & express your appreciation for her standing up for the PEOPLE and doing what is right by signing that bill to protect Alabama Memorials, no matter what war.

We are continuing to work on the verbiage for the 19 historical narrative markers to be placed at Confederate Memorial Circle at each point of interest within CMC. The Order of the Southern Cross has been very generous to award us our grant requests; also, a grant from The John Pelham Historical Society, Alabama Division, SCV and the National/International Organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Alabama Society of the Order of Confederate Rose and the Alabama Div. UDC have been invaluable contributors, along with individual chapters & camps and the continued faithful dedication of the MULTITUDE of private donations from all of YOU have helped to make this project become a reality and not just a dream! The first 8 plaques to be mounted on the Battle of Selma Memorial are complete and are awaiting shipment from Southwell Historical Markers in San Antonio, TX. Hopefully, these plaques will be mounted before the Forrest Party! Yipeee!

We are still selling ancestor pavers that are placed around the Battle of Selma Memorial. The 4”x8” bricks are \$50 each, 8”x8” are \$75 each and the 8x8 with the SCV or UDC insignia included are \$100 each. We will have the paver order forms on hand at the Forrest Celebration but if you are unable to attend, contact me via phone or e-mail & I will get the forms to you! We also offer the 3-disc DVD of the 2015 Re-dedication program for \$25 per set. This set includes 2 ½” hours of the ceremony in its entirety including the 4 outstanding speeches of the day! This DVD set is professionally produced and beautifully packaged and is an asset to anyone’s historic library! We still have a few of the Commemorative NBF coins for sale at \$10 each and several of the Commemorative Program Booklets for \$5. This is recorded history never to happen again in our lifetime!

Of course, once again we will be drawing for the hot cast solid bronze NBF mini bust at the Forrest Celebration. I have included 10 tickets at \$2 each in this package. If you wish to participate please fill out the information & mail back to me ASAP with your check made payable to NBF Monument Fund & mark for: Confederate Memorial Circle. If you DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE, please discard the tickets; DO NOT mail back to me. If you wish to have more tickets, feel free to make copies. This hot cast model is poured from the original mold always offered each year & is an exquisite work of art sculpted by Paul D. Spaulding of Hampden Maine and is poured at Somerset Foundry by Digby Carter of Bath, Maine. It is an exact replica of the life-size model mounted on the NBF monument at Confederate Memorial Circle and retails at \$2500.

Of course, the day will consist of our traditional “SOUTHERN MENU” serving ice cold watermelon all day long at the Pickaninny Freeze Watermelon Stand! We will have some great items in our auction this year and door prizes. At 6PM we will serve the best Southern Fried Catfish this side of the Big Muddy & all the fixin’s cooked by our Chief Chef, Nelson Andrews, past commander of the CC Pegues SCV Camp in Selma. Past Ala Div SCV Commander Ronnie Simmons will be our Master of Ceremonies again this year and is always a delightful MC with his GREAT sense of humor & dedication to the cause!

Butch & I, along with the Friends of Forrest, Inc. and Selma Chapter 53, UDC want to thank you for your continued faithful support. We look forward to the Forrest Celebration each year because it has become our extended Confederate family reunion – we get to see old friends and always look forward to seeing new faces & making new friends who come to celebrate the birthday of the GREATEST MILITARY GENIUS WHO EVER WALKED THE PLANET, GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST!

While you are in Selma we encourage you to go into town & tour Confederate Memorial Circle at Historic Live Oak Cemetery. You can check out your paver while you are there and say Hello to the General!

We look forward to seeing you at Fort Dixie, in the Heart of Dixie, FOR DIXIE and General Nathan Bedford Forrest! Y’all hang in there...2021 will be the BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE GENERAL! I sure hope the Lord lets us live at least 4 more years! LOL!

Keeping’ the skeer on, I am

Confederately yours,

Patricia S. Godwin