

The Haversack

FALL 2010

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Commander's Comments



Brothers of the 7th Military District,

Fall is upon us and we are closing out the final stages of a great summer of SVR activities and reenacting

events. My comments will be brief but, I wanted to tell all of you that I am very happy with the direction that the 7th Military District is taking with all of the high profile events and participation. We are continuing to grow and have another new unit completed and organized. We should very soon have a new Public Information Officer. I would like to thank the members of my staff for all of the hard work you continue to do each and every

day. As we go about our daily activities let us never forget the sacrifice of our brothers in blue who fought hard to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy today and who made this country a much better place to live. HUZAH FOR THE UNION!
Major Early

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Why We Exist

By Captain Peterson , COS

Those of you who also study World War Two will recall that the famous film director and producer Frank Capra produced a series called

"Why We Fight" That aired in public theaters nationwide to remind Americans why we were engaged in fighting. This series mainly focused on what the Fascists in Germany, Italy and Japan were doing to the rest of the world and why it

was necessary for Americans to stand up and stop them.

Our mission in the SVR is to keep green the memory of the boys in blue. That memory will be under heavy

Why We Exist (cont)

Assault during the coming sesquicentennial as the SCV mounts another campaign to rewrite history. The most recent effort is this "informational advertisement" I received from an SCV member.

Take a few minutes to learn the "REAL" history of the War Between The States. These 12 one minute videos are very informative and should

be viewed by every American, especially all Southerners.

The Georgia Division has created 12 one minute "commercials" that are scheduled to air on the History Channel soon. You can review these videos at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/gascv11#p/u>

These "ads" were created by Tim Pilgrim and his committee in cooperation with our professional Public Relations firm headed by Ray McBerry. These efforts are being made in conjunction with our 150th Anniversary project in the Georgia Division. You can help by spreading the word. Word-of-mouth advertising by satisfied customers is the best, most effective advertising possible.

The very ad starts out with a distortion of the truth by referring to the Great Rebellion as "The War Between the States". This is one of those seemingly cute Southern Euphemisms offered to cover up something ugly. In this case, treason against the Federal Government. I remind the folks that use this phrase whenever I encounter it that for example, South Carolina did not declare war on Wisconsin. They made war on the Federal Government.

Take a look at these commercials on you-tube and then take renewed strength to fight this organized effort to paint the rebellion as American Patriots fighting for their independence.

Their true motives in 1861 were far more sinister and your ancestors in blue knew it.



Two Flag Holidays in November

Veteran's Day – November 11 First observed November 11, 1919

November 11, is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Compiègne by

the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict. At 5 A.M. on Monday, November 11, 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an order was issued for all firing to cease; so the hostilities

of the First World War ended. This day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations; no doubt the world has never before

Flag Holidays (cont)



Armistice at Compiègne

witnessed such rejoicing.

In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances:

To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.

1927 Congress issued a resolution requesting President Calvin Coolidge to issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11, and inviting the people to observe the day in schools and churches...But it was not until 1938 that Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

That same year President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the Chief Executive or his representative placed a wreath. In many other communities, the American Legion was in charge of the observance, which included parades and religious services. At 11 A.M. all traffic stopped, in tribute to

In

the dead, then volleys were fired and taps sounded.

After World War II, there were many new veterans who had little or no association with World War I. The word, "armistice," means simply a truce; therefore as years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. Leaders of Veterans' groups decided to try to correct this and make November 11 the time to honor all who had fought in various American wars, not just in World War I.

In Emporia, Kansas, on November 11, 1953, instead of an Armistice Day program, there was a Veterans' Day observance. Ed Rees, of Emporia, was so impressed that he introduced a bill into the House to change the name to Veterans' Day. After this passed, Mr. Rees wrote to all state governors and asked for their approval and cooperation in observing the changed holiday. The name was changed to Veterans' Day by Act of Congress on May 24, 1954. In October of that year, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. The President referred to the change of name to Veterans' Day in

"On November 11, 1953 instead of an Armistice Day Program, there was a Veterans Day Program".





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*Keeping Green the Memory of the Boys in
Blue*



Only one of the men in this photograph of re-enactors is a member of the SVR. Why is that? We must actively recruit every day if we are to be a factor in the Sesquicentennial.

Flag Holidays (cont)

honor of the servicemen of all
America's wars.

**Veteran's Night/
Remembrance Day – Satur-
day closest to November
19th**

Originally, the "Ritual and Ceremonials" defined "Veteran's Night" as a ceremonial occasion to be observed by a Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. "VETERAN'S NIGHT - Commemorating the anniversary of the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19 (1863), to be observed in memory of Lincoln and the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of 1861 - '65."



The GAR in Augusta, Georgia