



February 2013

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

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Commander

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Cannon Report Editor
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**DEO
VINDICE**



Commander's Comments

Compatriots: Due to a scheduling conflict we will not have a speaker this month. Our meeting will be held at Cabin Creek Grill on Feb 24th, Lunch at 1:00, meeting at 2:00. It is in the same strip mall at the opposite end from Italian Delight. We will decide if and when to change the meeting. We seem to have three or four choices. Keep as is, later time on Sunday, change to Thursday night at 7:00, or some other night. We will have to decide in order to be able to schedule speakers. If you cannot attend, let me know your preference.

Kenneth Phibbs, Commander

Cannon Report

As noted above, we have changed our meeting place for the February meeting. This was a result of a double booking by the Italian Delight at the January meeting where they had set a table for us in the middle of the main dining area. This setup was a totally inappropriate environment for our meeting. As luck would have it, the Cabin Creek Grill, just a few doors down, has a very nice enclosed meeting room that was not in use. I must say that their hospitality and menu was excellent with very moderate pricing. I, for one, look forward to our next meeting there.

In this month's Cannon Report I want to report on an incident that occurred at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on January 12, 2013. Many of you may have seen it on the news, may have forgot about it or may not have even heard of the incident. Being involved with the internet and Camp emails I receive a lot of correspondence from SCV HQ via the "SCV Telegraph." The information of the incident and the request for financial help for the victim is from Gene Hogan, Chief of SCV Heritage Defense.



Compatriots

Below is an incredible (and sad and ridiculous) story. It concerns Tripp Lewis, the man that was "roughed up" by contract security officers working at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). You probably know that we have had a long-standing problem at VMFA, which is situated on the grounds of the Old Soldiers Home.

I need you to distribute this far and wide. This is a fight -- we need your contribution, whatever you can afford. We need your prayers also -- this is one of several fronts in a battle that has heated up to an incredible magnitude (i.e. Reidsville NC, Selma AL, Memphis, etc.).

Anything will help. Now is the time to step up -- our enemies need to see that this is NEVER going to be tolerated.



"While the Virginia Flaggers have always engaged in peaceful protests, and followed all legal directives by authorities, we will not stand idly by while others are bullied or illegally harassed. Although Mr. Lewis was acting as a private citizen in this instance, we offer him our full support and will stand by him in his defense of these unfair and unreasonable charges.

We know that there were only the most honorable intentions of one man and his children... to honor their ancestor on the hallowed grounds of the park, and it is apparent that museum officials were determined to make an example of him, in the presence of his children.

Nevertheless, the forthcoming legal proceedings will offer us the chance to challenge the arbitrary and ever-changing restrictions placed on the Flaggers by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and allow a court of law to decide the constitutionality of restricting the display of a Confederate Flag on Virginia State Property, specifically designated as "Confederate Memorial Park".

It will also allow us the opportunity to further expose the discriminatory and illegal act of the forced removal of Confederate flags from the portico of the Confederate Memorial Chapel and give us grounds to introduce this evidence into the public record via court proceedings and legal filings.

Now is the time for VMFA officials to recognize that there would be no Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, but for the generosity of the men of the Robert E. Lee Camp #1, United Confederate Veterans, who put their faith and trust in the Commonwealth that sent them to war....the same Commonwealth who now desecrates the Confederate Memorial Chapel, and threatens, intimidates, and arrests descendants of Confederate veterans who wish to honor their ancestors by carrying a Confederate flag on the very same grounds built by Confederate Veterans.

Mr. Lewis has a court appearance on March 21st, at which time he will advise the court of his attorney of record. The judge gave the V.M.F.A. a smack down when they tried to have Tripp banned from the property, and the request was denied.

Tripp has secured a lawyer to handle his defense and he needs funds as soon as possible in order to retain his services. The fees will be \$3,000 and he needs to secure the funds immediately so that his case can be properly prepared.

An account has been set up to receive donations.

Please make checks payable to:

Tripp Lewis Legal Defense Fund

and mail to:

Tripp Lewis Legal Defense Fund

P.O. Box 7938

Richmond, VA 23223

There is also the option to contribute by PayPal using this link...

<http://www.vaflaggers.com/donate.html>

The below link is video that was taken of the incident with a cell phone that was used on the news broadcast of the incident

<http://wtvr.com/2013/01/14/man-arrested-outside-the-vmfa-after-displaying-confederate-flag/>



Hope to see you at this month's meeting and please let Commander Phibbs know of your meeting time preference if you cannot attend the meeting. Remember, this change of days is to give those of you that cannot make it on Sunday the opportunity to attend your Camp meetings. Your input is very important.

Paul M. Houser
Cannon Report Editor