



# *The* Charge

*Newsletter of the Texas Chapter #5  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars Houston, Texas*



April, 2020

Volume 2, Issue 1

*April is Texas Confederate History Month  
Keep our Southern Heritage Alive*





## Commander's Comments

Compatriots, I am excited about our April 17th meeting! It always gives me great joy to gather together with friends at Rudy Lechner's. I enjoy the good German food and visiting with my MOS&B friends.

I feel we have been fortunate to be able to get very interesting programs at each one of our meetings. This upcoming program will be one of the best yet! Our speaker is coming from Pearland, Texas, and his name is Tom Green.

Tom is a member of the North American Vexillological Association (the study of flags).

He has given over 750 flag programs. Tom has been introduced as a Knight of the Order of San Jacinto - the highest award of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. He is a Colonel in the Texas Army and an Admiral in the Texas Navy. We are fortunate to have him as our speaker and I thank Dennis Giuffre for obtaining him for us.

At each meeting we have a nice turnout. We have several members we have not seen in a long time. I feel like you would really enjoy our great programs, fellowship and food. We would love to see members and friends whom we've not seen in a while. So mark the date April 17th on your calendar at 11:30 am and we will look forward to seeing you!

I love the MOS&B because it helps us to keep our heritage alive. It helps us keeps history alive. There is just something about the pride of being a Southerner.

**Next Meeting**

**April 17, 2020**  
**11:30 am**  
**Rudy Lechner's Restaurant**  
**2503 S. Gessner**  
**Houston, Texas**

**OFFICERS**

Commander - George Williamson  
 1st Lt. Commander - Shelby Stocks  
 2nd Lt. Commander - Dr. John Burdine  
 Adjutant - Kathy Stocks  
 Chaplain - Raymond Holder  
 Newsletter Editor - Shelia Williamson





# January 17 Meeting Happenings

We had 16 in attendance at our meeting and all were fired up for the brand new year. We were honored to have Mr. Johnnie Holley and his lovely wife, Norma, as our guest speaker. Johnnie is the Texas State Commander of the Military Order of the Stars Bars



Texas State Commander Johnnie Holley and his wife, Norma

State Commander Holly presented the Shelby Sword to our camp and Commander George Williamson will be the custodian of it and then pass it on to the next Commander.

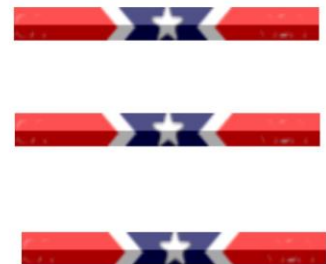


Commander Williamson being presented the Shelby Sword by Tx State Commander Johnnie Holly

The Davis Guard Medal was presented to Phil Whitley for his years of service to the MOS&B by Commander Williamson as Texas State Commander Johnnie Holly supports.



Commander George Williamson, Phil Whitley and Texas State Commander Johnnie Holly



Elaine and Doug Collings

We were blessed to have two special guests attend our meeting - Elaine and Doug Collings. Elaine is a member of many ancestry groups and is the current President of the Rebel Joan Of Arc Chapter, The Woodlands, Texas, of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Doug is also a member of many ancestry groups including The Sons of the Republic of Texas, The Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of the American Revolution.





# This Day In History

by Don Stone

## The Second Battle of Galveston

The Second Battle of Galveston or it is also called The Battle of Galveston Harbor, was a naval and land battle of the War Between the States, when Confederate forces under Major General John B. Magruder expelled occupying Union troops from the city of Galveston, Texas, on January 1, 1863.

Two Confederate cottonclads, *CS Bayou City* and the *CS Neptune* commanded by Leon Smith, sailed from Houston to Galveston in an effort to engage the Union Fleet in Galveston Harbor, which consisted of *USS Clifton*, *USS Harriet Lane*, *USS Westfield*, *USS Owasco*, *USS Corypheus* and the *USS Sachem*. Outnumbered six to two by the Northern ships, *Neptune* was severely damaged by the Union Fleet and eventually sank. While *Neptune* was quickly disabled, *Bayou City* succeeded in capturing the *USS Harriet Lane*.

During this time, *USS Westfield* was grounded on a sandbar. A three hour truce was called for by Magruder, but Union Fleet Commander William B. Renshaw, ignoring the negotiation offer, attempted to destroy the grounded *Westfeld* with explosives rather than let it fall into enemy hands.

Renshaw and several Union troops were subsequently killed when the explosives were set off too early. Union troops on shore were convinced that their own ships were surrendering and, therefore, laid down their retreating to Union-controlled New Orleans.

The Union blockade around the city of Galveston was lifted temporarily for four days and Galveston was the only major port that remained in Confederate hands at the end of the war.

Source: Wikipedia, "Battle of Galveston"



## **William Mills Whitley**

Ancestor of Phil Whitley

William Mills Whitley was the son of Mills Whitley and Elizabeth Little Whitley and he was born on August 6, 1819 in Bond County, Illinois. The family moved to Texas during the winter of 1834/1835 near New Waverly which is now the southern part of Walker County. He married Emily May Collard of Danville, Texas on November 18, 1841.

William joined the Confederacy on August 28, 1863 when he was 44 years of age. This was Company B, 17th Battalion Texas State Troops. He was elected to the position of 2nd Lt of Company B with Colonel Robinson commanding. The 17th Texas State Troops were near Huntsville, Texas.

William's first child was Warwich Whitley who married Ida Mae King in 1875. Their second child was Henry Mellor who married Dorothy Stella Holmes. William and Emily's last child was named Jack Elkins Whitley, whom was my father, and he married Geneiva Robarge.





# *April Is Texas Confederate History and Heritage Month*

## **Senate Resolution No. 526**

**WHEREAS**, April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, and local government control; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas declared herself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, The battlefields, monuments, museums, and other historical sites to be found in Texas allow our citizens and visitors to remember, study, and appreciate the men and women of that unique time in the history of Texas and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, The flag of the State of Texas was carried by Texas Confederate soldiers in every major battle of the War Between the States and the state contributed over 115,000 soldiers and sailors to the service of the Confederate States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, During the period of reconciliation, Texas Confederate veterans became instrumental in the continued development of our state and local governments and our institutions of higher learning; and

**WHEREAS**, We honor our past and draw from it the courage, strength, and wisdom to go forward into the future together as Texans and Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas has long recognized her Confederate history and the leaders who made sacrifices on behalf of the Confederate cause; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texans who served in the War Between the States are memorialized in almost every county in the state, and many cities and counties in the State of Texas bear the name of Confederate veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, It is important for all Texans to reflect upon our state's past and to respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers, and citizens to the cause of Southern liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, In years since the war, the morally abhorrent practice of slavery has in the minds of many Texans become the prime motivation of Southern soldiers, despite the fact that 98 percent of Texas Confederate soldiers never owned a slave and never fought to defend slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Politically correct revisionists would have Texas children believe that their Confederate ancestors fought for slavery when in fact most Texans joined the Confederate armed forces to defend their homes, their families, and their proud heritage as Texans; and

**WHEREAS**, Confederate Memorial Day in April is a time for all Texans to honor those men and women who died for Texas, and also all the Texans who came afterward and benefitted from their legacy of honor and devotion to our state; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, hereby recognize April as Confederate History and Heritage Month in the State of Texas and encourage all Texas schools and citizens to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Texas Senate on March 30, 1999.