

**SCV MEMORIAL SERVICE
MAGNOLIA CEMETERY
Spartanburg, SC
October 19, 2013**

**By
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We are gathered here today to pay honor and respect to our compatriots buried here in a memorial service.

A "memorial" means, in its original sense, "to remember, with respect, honor, and reverence;" to call attention to an action or person(s) who have done something worth remembering.

We gather today to remember those Southern ancestors, compatriots—who they were, what they did. Some fell in battle; others survived that Great Conflict, only to return home to fight a war of survival against an oppressive and destructive government determined to destroy their culture and way of life.

A proper memorial for this occasion should remember our comrades' gallantry, patriotism and sacrifice. But we should also remember the Cause for which they fought and died. We need to understand *why* they left family and home behind, to go to fight an invading foreign army. We must remember that these brave men were compelled to defend their very life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which their ancestors had fought and died for less than 100 years before.

Our compatriots understood the conflict was a conflict of cultures—between two ways of life and approaches to civilized society. On the one hand, the Southern states believed in the sovereignty of each state; their right to govern their affairs as deemed necessary—rights given to each state by the Constitution of the United States in 1789. On the other hand, those in the North believed in a strong, centralized Federal government as the best way to govern the country.

But--if you look back about a generation before the war began in April, 1861, you will see the fruit of those two approaches:

- the South was extremely prosperous and a center of arts, culture, refinement, higher education and entrepreneurship; and not just because a minority of slave holders.

- the North, at that time, was not yet industrialized; it was a sociological mix of races and ethnic groups, each vying against each other for economic and sociological advantage.

- The South was uniformly stabilized by a preponderance of common faith rooted in Protestant Christianity.

- The North—the historic bastion of individualism and free thinking, was far more diverse in religious faith and practice.

Slavery was established and legal in all states, and was practiced in nearly all the United States. Slavery was common from the early 1600's—when introduced by the British—until the 1840's as the Abolitionist movement gained momentum and political influence in Washington. Today's historians and analysts, after a careful and honest examination of the raw population data for the 40 or so years leading up to the War, are agreed that slave labor was becoming less and less profitable. Based upon a trend of steady decline in slave holding in the South, it is very likely the practice would have died out by the 1880's, as agricultural and industrial machinery began to replace human labor.

Sadly, the course of history led to armed conflict to settle regional differences of culture, economics, religion, sociology and governance. And the South lost that conflict—and it lost the eleven years War of Deconstruction that followed General Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Today, we who are the living descendants, as compatriots and sons of those Confederate veterans, are charged to remember their sacrificial efforts and heroism in battle, and we are charged to inform, instruct our descendants as to WHY they fought, bled and died. Certainly not to defend slavery! Most of those soldiers did not own a slave. They fought to preserve their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—and to those preserve basic principles upon which their culture was based and the cause of their prosperity:

- First principle: God above all, as Absolute Sovereign and Source of all life and liberty;
- Second, a governance based and built upon God's eternal Law;
- Third, a Christ-like code of conduct where we do unto others as we would have them do unto us;
- Finally, a proper stewardship of material goods and possessions: honoring God with a tenth of their first fruits and wisely managing the rest.

These values—these principles—were embraced and lived by our Southern ancestors—whom we remember this day with thankfulness and humility and respect for their legacy.

Compatriots: KEEP AND LIVE THE CHARGE!