

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Resolution

The Year of Davis

Submitted by Charles Kelly Barrow Commander,

Army of Tennessee, SCV

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was born to Georgia Revolutionary War Veteran Samuel Emory Davis and Jane Cook Davis in Christian County, Kentucky, on June 3, 1808;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis attended the United States Military Academy at West Point on the appointment from U.S. President James Monroe where he graduated in 1828;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis' first military assignment was to the 1st infantry, where he served on the frontier, taking part in the Black Hawk War. He was promoted to First Lieutenant of Dragoons on March 4, 1833. He abruptly resigned on June 30, 1835;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 1835, Jefferson Finis Davis married Miss Sarah Knox Taylor, daughter of Colonel Zachary Taylor and future U.S. President. He was happily married until her death on September 15, 1835;

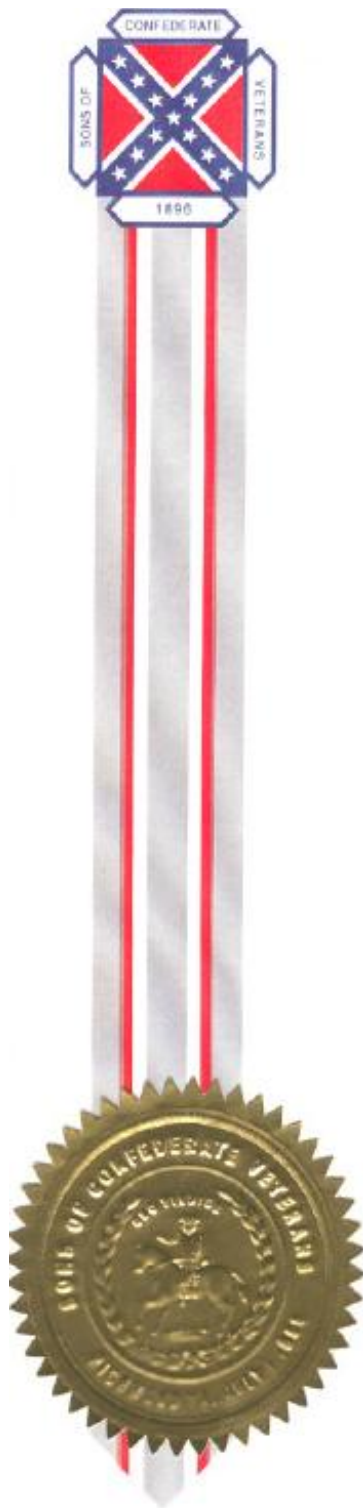
WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis pursued a life of a Mississippi cotton planter, and lived in retirement till 1843, when he entered politics. In 1845 he was elected to the United States Congress as a Representative;

WHEREAS, on February 26, 1845, Jefferson Finis Davis married Miss Varina Banks Howell;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis in June, 1846, resigned his seat in the House to raise a regiment that would become 1st Mississippi Volunteer Rifles. He served as Colonel under his former father-in-law, General Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Buena Vista. In a last desperate effort to break the American lines, his regiment was charged by a Mexican brigade of lancers, which was greatly superior in numbers. He was severely wounded, but remained in the saddle until the close of the fight, and was complimented for coolness and gallantry by his commander-in-chief. He was given the title, "Hero of Buena Vista." Colonel Davis was appointed by President Polk a Brigadier General, but declined the commission on the ground that a militia appointment by the Federal executive was unconstitutional;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis upon returning from Mexico was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to fill a vacancy in the U. S. Senate in August, 1847, and in January, 1848, the legislature unanimously elected him Senator, and re-elected him in 1850 for a full term. He was made Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce's Administration. He was one of the most successful administrators to have ever presided over War Department of the United States. Among his many contributions, he revised the Army Regulations, introduced camels into America, introduced light infantry tactics, ordered the manufacture of rifled muskets, pistols, and the use of the minie-ball, added four regiments to the army, implemented frontier and seacoast defenses, and organized explorations on the western frontier for



geographical purposes and for determining the best route for a railroad to the Pacific. He improved the casting of heavy guns and the manufacture of gunpowder;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis returned to the U. S. Senate in March 1857 and served until he resigned his seat, when Mississippi chose to secede on January 9, 1861. On January 21, 1861 Senator Jefferson Davis took formal leave of the United States Senate in a speech in which he defended the cause of the South, and, in closing, begged pardon of all whom he had ever offended;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederate States of America and would serve from 1861 until 1865 and had the difficult task of leading a new nation while at war ;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis visited numerous Confederate States during the War to boost the morale of the citizens and soldiers a like;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis on May 4, 1865 held the last Confederate Cabinet Meeting in Washington, Georgia;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis on May 10, 1865 was captured by U.S. Calvary outside the town of Irwinville, Georgia;

WHEREAS, following the collapse of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Finis Davis told the people of the South "The Principle for which we contented is bound to reassert itself, though it maybe at another time and in another form.";

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis toured throughout the Southland numerous times after the war for celebrations, dedications, reunions and always believed "If I were to do it all over again, I would again do just as I did in 1861.";

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis died on December 6, 1889, in New Orleans, Louisiana and interred in the Army of Northern Virginia vault in Metarie Cemetery;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis toured the Southland one final time on his 1,200 mile funeral train trip to Richmond, Virginia and was re-interred in Hollywood Cemetery on May 31, 1893 ;

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter stated on the day he signed a Bill restoring Jefferson Finis Davis's citizenship, "He had served the United States long and honourably as a soldier, member of the U.S. House and Senate, and as Secretary of War. General Robert E. Lee's citizenship was restored in 1975. It is fitting that Jefferson Davis should no longer be singled out for punishment."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sons of Confederate Veterans in General Convention assembled in Mobile, Alabama, does hereby declare the year 2008 shall be known and declared as the "YEAR OF DAVIS", and it highly encourages its members and their Divisions to organise, publicise, promote and attend any appropriate observances and commemorations in their states, and

LET IT BE FUTHER RESOVLED this resolution shall be made known to all media outlets now and throughout the year of 2008 and it shall be made patent and entered into the permanent records and archives of the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at Elm Springs in Columbia, Tennessee.

Signed

Adjutant-in-Chief