

# Parks Cemetery Ridge Confederate Memorial Plaza Dedication Ceremony

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On August 2nd 2008, the small town of Trimble Tennessee was witness to the raising of a massive 20 foot by 30 foot Confederate Battle Flag. The flag was hoisted to the top of an 85 foot flagpole by the descendants of those who served the Confederacy in the war between the states, the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), a fraternal organization dedicated to honoring the Confederate soldiers who valiantly fought for States sovereignty.

Though some denote it to be a symbol of racism, the SCV views the battle flag as a symbol of the Southern fight for States and individual rights to self-determination. The design of the Confederate Battle Flag was based on the St. Andrews flag, the national flag of Scotland.

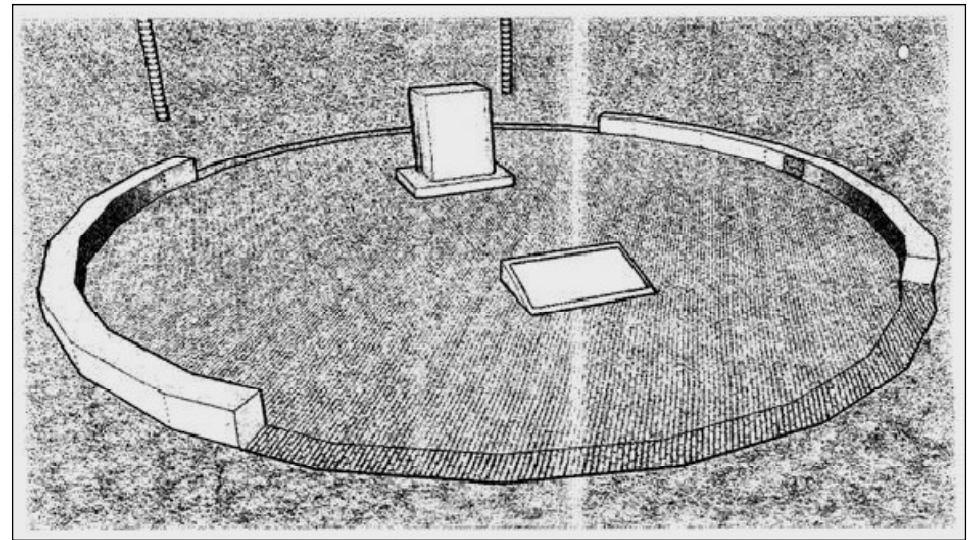
This battle flag is one of many being raised across the south, and is part of a 'mega-flag' project that intends on making the symbol of the Confederacy a highly-visible addition to the landscape along major thoroughfares. The place selected for this flag was Parks Cemetery Ridge Confederate Memorial Plaza, a small plot of land strategically located within site of state highway 51 which will eventually be Interstate 69 linking New Orleans to Chicago. This land was donated to the SCV by Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Parks II, who reside in Trimble. The parcel is near the Pierce Cemetery which is the final resting place of eleven Confederate soldiers. In addition to the plaza, visitors will also see a brick gazebo positioned to honor the spot where Parks great-great grandfather built a log cabin.

The Otho French Strahl SCV Camp #176 built the plaza at a cost of roughly \$20,000. "We project a \$200 monthly cost for electricity once the lights are installed and working." noted Bill Foster, Brigade Commander SCV, during post-ceremony interviews. He continued "We are selling memorial bricks to raise funds in support of the continued operation and improvement of the plaza. " The memorial bricks will be inscribed with the name of the purchasers ancestor that fought for the Confederacy.

## Dedication Ceremony Agenda:

- Song 'Dixie' (Rick Revel, founder of Heritage Keepers of America)
- Presentation of Colors (The 15th Tennessee, Company E, New Madrid Guards)
- Guest speakers (Mr. Greg Briggs, Dr. Michael Bradley and Dr. Lonnie Maness)
- Commendation Award and Medal for Hamilton Parks II
- Musket Salute (15th Tennessee, Company E, New Madrid Guards)
- Artillery Salute (The Pillow Battery, Company K, 1st Tennessee Artillery, Camp 257)
- Wreath laying (Jan Hensley, president of the local OCR)
- Reading "I Am Their Flag" (Dr. Bradley, Tennessee division commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans)
- Retiring of the Colors
- Taps (Scott Reed)

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