

TENNESSEE DIVISION SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



COLOR GUARD & HONOR GUARD HANDBOOK 2012

Introduction	2
The Color Guard Creed	3
Standard of Conduct	4
Uniform Requirements	4
Command Structure	5
Color Guard Drills	5
Honor Guard Drills	8
Commander's Sword Drills	9
Order of Flags	11
Musicians	11
As Other Duties Required	11
Appendix: Confederate Burial Ritual October 2, 1889	13

INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee Division Color and Honor Guards welcome you to their ranks. You have joined a group of hard working individuals that have come together with one goal – Forward the Colors! As a member of the Color and Honor Guards, you will be the Ambassador for your Camp, Division, and the SCV. As you read through this handbook and participate in the Guards, you will become a part of a legacy that dates back to 1997 in Maryland. The Tennessee Division is proud of its roots and will continue to carry on the traditions and the set of standards that many before us have established. The Esprit de Corps and élan of the Guards that you have chosen to be a part of will be admired and respected by the members of the SCV and the public. Always remember, those who carried the Colors into battle, and we, their descendants, who carry on their legacy, are...A Band of Brothers.

Bryan R. Green
Tennessee Division
Aide de Camp

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee
Commander-General
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, 25 April 1906

THE COLOR GUARD CREED

I march in memory of my forefathers who fought heroically and bravely for freedom of his home and hearth. He sought not glory or fame, and nor shall I. He braved shot and shell on land and sea, and to defend his name is my sworn duty. I shall always be at the ready, and I will not be threatened by words, or the weather of this good Earth. I will march in his name with my fraternal brothers with camaraderie that will make him proud of me. Memorial Services shall be solemn remembrances of the deeds of the vanquished, and my vigilance shall be in memory of him. My soldierly bearing in front of cheering crowds shall be stoic reflection of his name and his cause for freedom. Battlefields where the heroes of the South gave their last full measure shall be hallowed places in my heart. I shall go wherever I may be needed to defend his honor, with distance no obstacle to my virtuous deeds. I will eternally forward the colors to keep his memory in the public eye with honor, pride and light of God to preserve the true history of the South. It is my duty to see that the true history of his name is passed to future generations. Deo Vindice shall be my motto in this Band of Brothers.

Color Guard Creed courtesy of Ray Rooks, Color Sergeant, Maryland Division, SCV

The History Of The Tennessee Division Sons Of Confederate Veterans Flag

The history of The Tennessee Division SCV flag begins in 2005 when several compatriots met and forged a general idea of the flag that would represent The Tennessee Division SCV. The two design features that were deemed to be most important were the three stars from the Tennessee State Flag and the Southern Cross / Battle Flag design. Past Commander Ed Butler contacted The Ruffin Flag Company in Washington Georgia and a prototype was produced.

The current flag was first voted on and approved at the Tennessee Division reunion in Covington Tennessee in 2005. There was some confusion as to exactly how many Camps must be present at The Reunion to conduct business and a vote to approve the current flag was held and approved. This has been deemed to be merely a vote of approval and not official.

The following year's reunion, 2006 in Spencer's Mill Tennessee, had the issue of approving our flag presented to a bona fide gathering of The Tennessee Division SCV General Assembly. Our current flag, see picture/attachment, was officially approved at this Reunion.

The Tennessee Division Sons Of Confederate Veterans proclaims again in this first year of The Sesquicentennial of The War Between The States that this flag is our Standard and Colors.

Respectfully submitted,
G Frank Heathman, Tennessee Division Historian, June 11, 2011

STANDARD OF CONDUCT

The Color and Honor Guards are the Tennessee Division in the eyes of the public. Your actions, intentional or in jest will be seen and impressions will be set; therefore, by keeping a positive attitude and professionalism, the Color and Honor Guards will achieve the Esprit de Corps that others dream about.

Naysayers and hecklers may be abundant at events and ceremonies and will try to engage you in conversations and actions that are not in the best interest of the Color Guards or the Division. The temptation will be there to react verbally and occasionally physically. Refrain from such actions; we are not in public to embarrass our ancestors, the South, the Division or SCV; but to promote and honor our forefathers. We will be presenting ourselves in a serious manner; HOWEVER, it needs to be fun also.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. The uniform of the Color and Honor Guards is any uniform of the armed forces of the Confederacy. The idea of the Color Guard is that of an early war patriotic unit leaving town for the War.

The uniform will not be a re-enactors uniform. We will not be re-enacting any event. We are honoring our Confederate ancestors. The uniform will be kept in a reasonable manner. Uniforms are not to have patches or holes.

2. Brogans, Officers footwear, or Cavalry boots will be the uniform footwear, NO bare feet.

3. Each member will be required to have the following:

A. White dress gloves, 2 pair (gloves are like socks in a dryer, they disappear).

B. White Gaiters (Leggings) Buckle or button, your choice, 2 pair (same reason as gloves). Gaiter will be worn with Brogans only.

C. White canvas haversack, buckle or button, your choice.

D. Canteen is recommended but not required.

E. CSA military or militia waist belt and buckle that corresponds to the uniform that you are wearing.

F. Cartridge boxes, cap pouches, holsters, knives, backpacks, blankets, bayonets and other unnecessary gear will not be carried in the Color Guard.

4. The Honor Guard uniform will consist of the required items listed above except for the gloves. Also required will be a rifle (2 or 3 band) or carbine, cartridge box and cap pouch. For ceremonies requiring a rifle salute, each member will have a minimum of 7 blank rounds and 15 caps. No bayonets. Bayonets, like the rifle, varied in size and shape.

5. Medals and pins are at the member's discretion. Medals have been known to come off the uniform without notice. Sometimes less is best and discretion is the best part of valor.

6. No Sunglasses unless they are prescription photo rays. Period glasses are suggested.

7. A "foot locker" or other container is recommended to keep your gear in and together at home.

Required uniform items should be obtained within 9 months of enlisting.

Purchasing of the required uniform and accouterments are left to the member's discretion. The Civil War Courier has a variety of Sulters advertising their wares. Remember your Color Sergeant can assist you with any uniform questions.

COMMAND STRUCTURE

Because there are many different uniforms and ranks presented in the Color Guard, yes officers included, the highest ranking officer in the Guard will NOT be commanding. A Color Sergeant and the Sergeant of the (Honor) Guard are in command of their respective units. The Commander of Division Color and Honor Guard shall hold the rank of Lieutenant, as passed by the Confederate Congress March 5, 1864. If the Color Sergeant or Sergeant of the Guard is unable to attend the event, an acting Sergeant will be appointed for the event. [The Lieutenant will be commanding the Tennessee Division Color Guard at any event he is present.](#)

The carrying of swords by the Color Sergeant and Sergeant of the Guard may not happen at all events. Manpower will dictate that, it may be necessary for the Sergeants to carry a flag or arms. In such case the Color Sergeant will carry the first flag on the right of the Guard. See second picture on page 8.

COLOR GUARD DRILLS

Marching and commands adhere to Hardees's tactics. Flags require some modification as compared to rifle, but they are small in scope. They are:

- 1) Attention: Color Bearer stands at attention with the flag on the right. See Figure 1



(Figure 1)

- 2) Shoulder Arms: Two step Command where Color Bearer lifts flag to place it in the carrier. The right arm is raised in "Chicken wing" fashion. The right hand at the chin and the left hand at the belt and the flag straight up. See Figure 2



(Figure 2)

- 3) Present Arms: Color Bearer stretches arms forward; all Color Bearers equate flags to the guide flag on the right of the line. See Figure 3.



(Figure 3)

- 4) Shoulder Arms: Color Bearers pull the flags to straight up.
- 5) Order Arms: Color Bearer lowers his flag to the right and stands at attention.
- 6) Parade Rest: Color Bearer make a "T" with his feet, putting the right foot behind the left. Rest the flag at the bend in the right arm, placing the left hand over the right. See figure 4.
- 7) At the Trail: The flags are carried on the right side and lowered to enter and exit doors. It may necessary to carry the Flags at the Trail if in a wooded area.



(Figure 4)

The Color Sergeant shall march to the right side or lead if in single file, or if the line of bearers is large.

The Color Sergeant before each event shall:

- 1) Assign the Flags to the troops.
- 2) Assign the Flags in order.
- 3) Review the commands with the troops.

The Color Sergeant at the end of each event shall:

- 1) March the troops to an appropriate area to dismiss them.
- 2) Thank each member and shake their hand.
- 3) Have the troops call out a Confederate ancestor's name.
- 4) Record names of those attending.
- 5) Dismiss the troops and collect the Flags.

HONOR GUARD DRILLS

Marching and Infantry commands adhere to Hardees's tactics.



The Sergeant of the Guard shall before each event:

- 1) Review commands with the troops.
- 2) Inspect firearms.
- 3) Inspect the troops for proper amount of caps and blanks.
- 4) Have the troop's fire one cap to clear the firearm.

The basic commands for the Honor Guard are the same as the Color Guard.

1) Attention.

2) Shoulder Arms

3) Present Arms



4) Shoulder Arms (Same as Command 2).

5) Order Arms (Same as Command 1).

6) Parade Rest: Rifleman makes a "T" with his feet, putting the right foot behind the left. Rest the rifle at the bend in the right arm, placing the left hand over the right.

The Sergeant of the Guard at the end of each event shall:

- 1) March the troops to an appropriate area to dismiss them.
- 2) Have the troop's fire one cap to clear the firearm.
- 3) Thank each member and shake their hand.
- 4) Have the troops call out a Confederate ancestor's name.
- 5) Record names of those attending.
- 6) Dismiss the troops.

COMMANDER'S SWORD DRILLS

Carry Saber (Sword)

At carry saber (sword) (Figures - 5 and 6), the officer (NCO) is at the position of attention. The saber (sword) is held in the right hand; the wrist is as straight as possible with the thumb along the seam of the trouser leg. The point of the blade rests inside the point of the shoulder and not along the arm. The saber (sword) is held in this position by the thumb and forefinger grasping the grip and it is steadied with the second finger behind the grip.

The carry saber (sword) position is assumed under the following situations:

- (a) To give commands.
- (b) To change positions.
- (c) By officers when officially addressing (or when officially addressed by) another officer, if the saber is drawn.
- (d) By NCOs when officially addressing a soldier, or when officially addressed by an officer, if the sword is drawn.
- (e) Before returning the saber (sword) to the scabbard.
- (f) At the preparatory command for (and while marching at) quick time.



Figure 6



Figure 5

Present Saber (Sword)

Present saber (sword) may be executed from the carry when serving in the capacity of commander of troops or serving in a command that is not part of a larger unit. On the preparatory command of **Present**, the saber (sword) is brought to a position (at the rate of two counts) approximately four inches from the nose so that the tip of the saber (sword) is six inches from the vertical (Figure -7). At the command of execution **ARMS**, the right hand is lowered (at the rate of two counts) with the flat of the blade upward, the thumb extended on the left side of the grip (Figure - 8), and the tip of the saber (sword) about six inches from the marching surface.

On the command **Order ARMS**, the saber (sword) is returned to the position of carry saber (sword).

Figure 7



Figure 8



Parade Rest

This position is assumed without moving the saber (sword) from the order arm position. At the command of execution, make a "T" with the feet, putting the right foot behind the left. Rest the saber (sword) at the bend in the right arm, placing the left hand over the right. (Figure - 9). At the command of execution **ATTENTION**, the left hand and foot are returned to the position of attention.

Figure 9



ORDER OF FLAGS

Flags shall be aligned according to Flag protocol with the Flag of the United States on the right, followed by National Flags with the organizational flag on the far left. As the Color Guard grows, the number of flags will grow also.

The order of Flags will be:

US National, First National, Second National, Current National, Army of Tennessee, Tennessee Division, Sesquicentennial, Bonnie Blue, Forrest Flag. Other Confederate Flags, Non Confederate Flags.

► When presenting the flags, all flags except the US National will dip to a 45 degree angle.

The Flags will be attached to 8 ft wood poles with a spear finial.

The flag bearers will be using black leather carrying straps.

MUSICIANS

The military always had a drummer, fifer, bugler, or other musicians to play while on the march. It is the goal of the Color and Honor Guards to have Musicians in the ranks.

A Bagpiper has always gained attention when he is around. Not only does the Piper contribute to marches, his contributions to the ceremony as a whole.

The Guard marches to the beat of the drum.

AS OTHER DUITES REQUIRED

After Action Reports – After Action Reports (AAR) are one of many tools of the Guards. The AAR will be the Journal of the Guards. The AAR will be published in the Division and Camp newsletters. They will be used to keep track of the events that the Guards attend. The Commander and Sergeants shall keep a note pad and pen in their haversack to record the event, date, names of those attending, and other information for the AAR.

Care of the Equipment – The Flags, poles, carrying straps, and banners are property of the TN Division. The Color Sergeant shall keep the equipment in his charge in good repair. The members of the Guard are to treat the Flags and equipment with respect.

Missing Movement – If a Sergeant cannot attend an event, it is his responsibility to notify the Commander in order that the equipment can be taken to the event by others.

Ladies Participating - Some events may have Ladies dressed in period attire and participating by carrying the Division Banner or walking behind the Guards. The Ladies are to be treated with the upmost respect.

Cross Training – Being knowledgeable in the drills of both the Color and Honor Guards will be encouraged of all. On occasion, it may be necessary to fill in the ranks.

Walk-ons – Walk-ons are not encouraged, however, it may be necessary to pull from the crowd at events. In doing so, the Commander and Sergeants need to adhere to the Standards as closely as they can when doing on the on the spot recruiting.

Sutlers - The Civil War Courier lists many Sulters and their goods. The Tennessee Division Color and Honor Guards do not endorse or recommend one Sulter over another. Choosing where to purchase uniform items is up to each member.

Roster – A Roster of the Guard members shall be maintained by the Aide De Camp and distributed. This will allow members to communicate with each other and the respective Sergeants.

Cell Phones – Cell phones are to be turned OFF during the events.

Notes

BURIAL RITUAL



ASSOCIATION OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

TENNESSEE DIVISION

Adopted Oct. 2, 1889



Burial Ritual

At the hour and place appointed, the Bivouac, of which the deceased was a member, will meet. The President will appoint pall-bearers, marshal and assistant, if necessary. All members to be supplied with a badge of crape and sprig of evergreen, to be worn with badge of Association. The Bivouac will pass in procession from the place of meeting to the place whence the deceased is to be taken for interment. The order of procession will be as follows:

- 1st. The Marshal with black scarf and a baton with black crape and a ribbon on each end, ----- inches wide, of color (blue, red or yellow) representing that branch of service to which the comrade belonged.
- 2nd. The Sergeant-at-Arms, with sword draped as baton of marshal.
- 3rd. Members in double rank.
- 4th. Recording and Corresponding Secretaries.
5. Financial Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6th. Chaplain and Surgeon.
- 7th. Second and Third Vice-Presidents.
- 8th. President and First Vice-President.

On arriving at the house the President will place the badge of the deceased on the coffin.

The procession, in named order, will precede the corpse to the place of burial. On arriving at such place, the members will open ranks, stand uncovered, with hat in left hand, and with right hand raised as if making a military salute, and allow the corpse, mourners, etc., to pass between the two lines, after which the members will reform in reverse order. The President and Vice-President, leading, passing through to the front, others following to the grave, opening ranks and passing around both right and left. After the performance of such religious service as desired by friends of deceased, and before final closing of the grave, the members will silently

approach as near the grave as convenient, the President at the head, the Chaplain at the foot, all uncovered, hat in left hand, when the President will read the following address:

Comrades: We are here to-day to pay the last tribute of friendship in the presence of the honored dead.

Response: Our honored dead.

We are to commit to the grave the body of a comrade whose life—aside from its other ties of friendship and sociability—was drawn very close to our lives by a bond of love which was formed amidst common perils and hardships, and welded in the fires of battle.

Response: The fires of battle

Not in the pomp and circumstance of war, not with musket shot and roll of drum, do we bury our comrade. The road of the cannon and the din of conflict are hushed, and in this time of solemn peace we lay the citizen-soldier in his last-resting place—an honorable grave.

Response: An honorable grave.

He was a veteran Confederate soldier, true and tried. Freely and cheerfully he risked his life in defense of his home and his people, bravely and grandly he bore himself amidst all the dangers and privations of an unequal contest. He answered to the last roll call that summoned him to duty as a soldier, and when he yielded to the arbitrament of war, it was not as a conquered slave, but as a hero—one of the gallant spirits who have immortalized the Southern Arms. He fought a good fight, and has left a record of which we, his surviving comrades, are proud, and which is a heritage of glory to his family and their descendants for all time to come.

Response: A glorious heritage!

With equal courage and fortitude and patience our comrade accepted the fortune of peace, made arduous by losses and reproaches, and as a citizen of a reunited country, true to his innate manhood, he evinced a loyalty which, making no apology for the past, was true in every quality of patriotism and which none can question without aspersion.

Response: He was tried and true.

Rest, soldier, rest! Impartial history will vindicate thy motives and write thy deeds illustrious. Comrade and friend, we give thy body to the dust and commend thy spirit to God.

Response: rest, soldier, rest!

Chaplain's Prayer.

(Chaplain shall pray some short prayer suited to the occasion).