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# DCV TRAVELLER



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**DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS & SOUTH CAROLINA**

[www.DCVTX.org](http://www.DCVTX.org)

**Fall 2022**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:  
J.D. Boydston**



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont.**

We all understand that service in our organization is a hobby and not a vocation and many of us have run up against barriers across our pathway. Be that as it may, the ardor and zeal of so many of our members continues to inspire me each and every day. We have so many talented people from whom we may draw inspiration.

So in this year's coming autumn season, as you observe the changing colors and as the leaves begin to fall, perhaps you will be reminded of what you have read here today and you will think wistfully about the time you have left on earth and find the inspiration you require. This is my sincere 'autumn' hope for every member and friend of the Descendants of Confederate Veterans. Best wishes to all of you.

J. D. Boydston  
President Board of Directors  
DCV

Members and friends of the DCV,

As summer winds down and temperatures are moderating somewhat, I am inspired to hope for a glorious autumn replete with deeply vivid and brightly colored leaves and mornings with a little zing in them. As long as I can remember I have entertained such thoughts every year of my life as the seasons change from summer to fall.

There is one important thing to add – nowadays this change is always accompanied by a touch of melancholy. This is not melancholy in the sense of a feeling that overtakes one's senses for no apparent reason. No, I am talking about a feeling which is not altogether unpleasant, a wistful reverence for all things on earth which must by nature be impermanent and pass away, the transient nature of all things, if you will, made even more poignant by the fact that I am of the age where I understand that I, too, am subject to the process.

At times the sentiments are so intense they can become overwhelming, but that is rare these days. More often than not I am simply reminded that my time here is growing short and I must endeavor to accomplish those things which I have deemed essential. One of those 'essentials' has much to do with the Descendants of Confederate Veterans, and that is to honor my ancestors to the best of my ability.



Garner State Park  
Uvalde, Texas

## 2022 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

As required by the DCV Constitution the DCV Board of Directors held the mid-year meeting at El Conquistador Restaurant in Hillsboro, Texas. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year meeting at that fine restaurant. It has a separate private dining area they allow us to use at no additional cost. If you're ever in the area please consider dining there.

### Agenda Time



Dr. Sam Bennett, President J.D. Boydston, Steve von Roeder, Carl Hedges



Glenn Toal, J.D. Denton, President Boydston, Rosannah Denton, Debbie Boydston, Steve Lucas



Glenn Toal, Susie Toal, guest Betty Bowden

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## 2022 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

### Meeting Highlights

**President Boydston** called the meeting to order. J.D. Denton gave the invocation. Selected members led the pledges to the flags of the United States of America, the State of Texas, followed with the salute to the Confederate flag.

**Registrar Carl Hedges** reported being contacted by a Mississippi resident seeking information on forming a Chapter in that state. Carl is awaiting additional information as the 18 prospective members discuss the matter.

**Treasurer Dr. Sam Bennett** reported the DCV is up to date on all IRS requirements related to non-profit organizations. There are no current outstanding debts.

### Chapter Reports

**Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder** reported with deep regret how the nationwide reaction following the death in May of 2020 of a person in the custody of law enforcement, and the cancellation of most public events due to the COVID pandemic, resulted in the Chapter unable to participate in programs and events the Chapter had long been participants. The results being the Chapter permanently denied further participation.

### Junior Naval ROTC Robert E. Lee Leadership Award

The US Navy cancelled the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award sponsored by the Capitol Chapter. The annual award was presented to the deserving Jr. Naval ROTC Cadet at numerous participating high schools in the central Texas area. Chapter President Steve von Roeder would present a Certificate of Excellence and a replica sword carried by BG Joseph Orville "J.O." Shelby to the deserving cadet selected by the program administrator.



Cadet Master Chief Petty Officer Alejandro Hernandez

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### Robert E. Lee Birthday Commemoration

The chapter is unable to obtain a legislative sponsor or obtain approval by the State Preservation Board to gather at Hood's Texas Brigade Monument to commemorate Robert E. Lee's birthday that included firing a musket volley.



### Veterans Day Parade in Austin, Texas

After 13 consecutive years of DCV Participation the chapter was denied participation by a resolution by the City of Austin City Council.



### Pound House Fall Fest

Annual celebration of the founding of Dripping Springs, Texas by Confederate Surgeon Joseph M. Pound. No longer invited by the Friends of Pound House organization to participate in the event.



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### Blue Santa Austin Texas

Following the resolution by the City of Austin to ban the DCV from participating in the Veterans Day parade the chapter discontinued its annual donation to the Austin program. The chapter is looking into a similar children's charity outside of Austin to donate to.



### East Texas Chapter J.D. Boydston Report

At the top of the list was the chapter's highly successful dedication ceremony of the DCV Historical Cemetery Marker the chapter placed in Reeves Chapel Cemetery near Pittsburg, Texas. He noted the dedication was attended by a reporter from the widely circulated Pittsburg Gazette. Although the dedication was featured in the Summer DCV TRAVELLER this Editor contacted the Pittsburg Gazette and requested permission to publish their article and photos in the DCV TRAVELLER.

## **THE PITTSBURG GAZETTE**

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Photos /Elizabeth Lanning

Betty Lanning

Editor

Pittsburg Gazette

### **Honoring The Past With the Present**



Continued Next Page

Reeves Chapel Cemetery unveiled a newly erected Historical Marker on April 9, the 157th anniversary of General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Several Confederate soldiers were honored, as the Color Guard and Honor Guard presented arms and a 15 gun salute was offered.



The Reeves Chapel Cemetery was donated to the community by Counce M. Reeves of the 18th Texas Infantry. Initially, a brush arbor was the first chapel, then a frame building was erected which was replaced by the current church building.



The Descendants of Confederate Veterans presented a check to the Reeves Chapel Cemetery Association for their work in caring for the cemetery. Horace Reeves, descendent of Counce Reeves and the Association President J.D. Boydston stated, "We're keeping something that needs to be kept up for ever and ever."



Eleven soldiers, buried in the cemetery, were honored:

- Texas** • James William Barron Pvt. Co. B Terrell's 37th Texas Cavalry CSA
- A.E. Ramsey Pvt. Co. H 14th Texas Infantry CSA
- John James Spratt, Sr. Pvt. Co. G 10th Texas Dismounted Cavalry CSA
- T.B. "Bob" Lilly 2nd Lieut. Co. D 10th Texas Dismounted Cavalry CSA
- Counce M. Reeves Pvt. Co. H 18th Texas Infantry CSA
- Alabama** • William Mooney Davis Chaplain Alabama Troops Inf. Art. Cav. CSA
- D.W. "Sam" Davis Corporal Co. E Hilliard's Alabama Legion CSA
- John F. Scarborough Pvt. Co. I 19th Alabama Infantry CSA
- Georgia** • James A. Minshew Pvt. Co. E 1st Georgia Cavalry CSA
- Robert H. Bevel Pvt. Co. B Terrell Georgia Lgt. Fld. Artillery CSA
- South Carolina** • M.H. Ellison Pvt. Co. A 4th Battn. South Carolina Cavalry CSA

End  Article

The next DCV Cemetery marker is already being planned for the Hallsville Cemetery. The cemetery has a DCV marker that was placed in 2020. A second marker will have the names of the recently discovered graves of Confederate veterans.



**1st Lt W.E. James Chapter President Ernie Hales**

The South Carolina chapter was very active and extremely busy during the last quarter. The chapter has a highly successful cemetery maintenance program.



Carl Hickson, Ernie Hales, Dan Cox and not pictured Michael Hales and Bob Jones at Pleasant Grove Cemetery mowing, weed eating, and picking up limbs to honor the Veterans and their families that rest there.



Ernie Hales

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**James Chapter Report cont.**

What do you do when you have to kill an hour waiting for AutoZone to charge a battery so it can be tested?

If you're **James Nesmith** first you go to Tractor Supply and get 50' of 1/4 rope, go to Brunson Cemetery, the final resting place of Lt. Co. Axalla Hoole and replace the lanyard.



James Nesmith

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**James Chapter Report cont.**



Chapter member Joseph Matheson at the graves in Grove Hill Cemetery in Darlington, South Carolina. of South Carolina brothers 1st Lt. William Elias James, Co. F 8th South Carolina Infantry & Pvt. John Jay James, Co. B 21st South Carolina Infantry.



1st Lt. William Elias James Co. F 8th South Carolina Infantry South Carolina Brothers Pvt. John Jay James Co. B 21st South Carolina Infantry

**James Chapter Report cont.**

Ten James chapter members were guests at the Capt. Andrew T. Harllee SCV Camp 2010 in Dillon, SC to hear a presentation by Joe Long, curator of the Confederate Relic Room in Columbia, SC. about religion during the War of Northern Aggression. Several members of the Dillon camp are dual DCV/SCV members.



Artie Quick, Patrick Coxe, James Nesmith, Bob Jones, Dan Cox, Ernie Hales, Zachary Brafford, Noah Brafford and Larry Jones



Joe Long, curator of the Confederate Room in Columbia SC.



Noah Brafford, Patrick Coxe, R. L. Kannady (SCV), Artie Quick, and Tray Rodgers (SCV).

**James Chapter Report cont.**



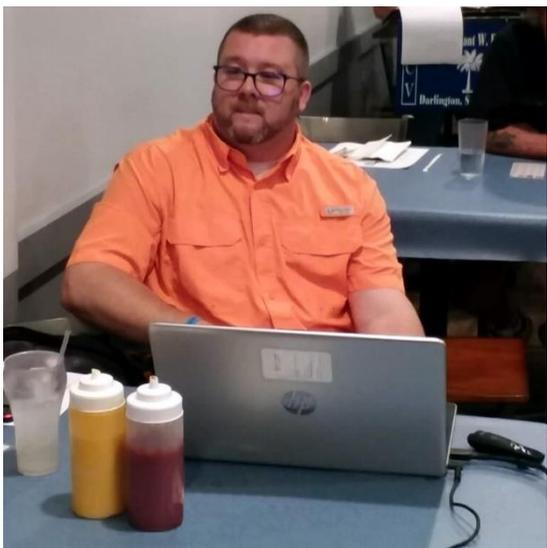
L-R, Dennis Jones, Kenneth Parker, Larry Jones, Dr. John Owens, Chris Daniels, Dan Cox, and Van Johnson



James Nesmith Bob Jones



Dan Cox presents Joe with a Certificate of Appreciation



Brian Gandy, Director of the Darlington County Historical Commission was the guest speaker at the August meeting

**James Chapter Report cont.**

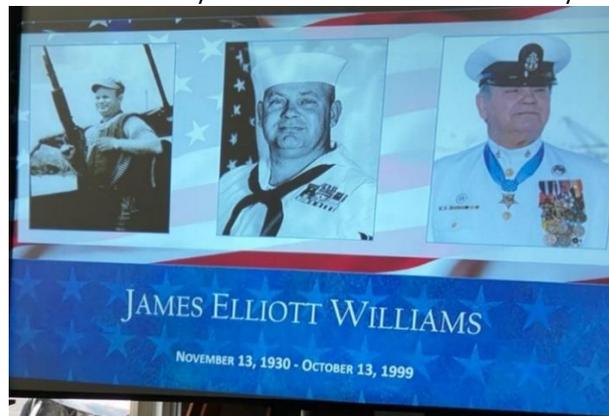
Brian Gandy gave an excellent presentation about Darlington's own Navy Petty Officer James Elliott Williams who earned the Medal of Honor and numerous awards during his time in Vietnam as the most decorated enlisted man in the US Navy. He has numerous things named for him including a US Navy destroyer, USS James E Williams, DD95.



The Group



Elaine Frye Dr. John Owens Brian Gandy



During the business portion of the meeting members voted to restart an "Adopt a Highway" program the chapter started in 2014 on Harry Byrd Hwy adjacent to the Darlington racetrack.



**End Chapter Reports**

### Begin Old Business

**President Boydston** opened a discussion seeking clarification on a motion a previous Board passed providing the allocation of Association funds to subsidize the cost of an East Texas chapter DCV historical cemetery marker. DCV Parliamentarian Steve Lucas ruled that was not a blanket motion covering future markers. Any request in the future must be on an individual and as needed basis.

**President Boydston** inquired if anyone had checked on the historical marker at the Texas Confederate Woman's Home in Austin. He was prompted to bring it up at the Board meeting after recently reading an excellent article in the **Texas Observer** about the DCV's victory in saving not only the marker but the home itself. The article rightly credits DCV President at the time **Steve Lucas** for his convincing testimony before the State of Texas Historical Commission.

[Link to the article](#)> [A Texas Agency Is Defending Confederate Memorials \(texasobserver.org\)](https://www.texasobserver.org/a-texas-agency-is-defending-confederate-memorials/)

### Begin New Business

**President Boydston** asked for suggestions on a possible location for the 2023 DCV annual reunion. Not having any promising suggestions the matter was tabled for later consideration.

**President Boydston**, referring back to Registrar **Carl Hedges** report regarding having received an inquiry from a group in Mississippi expressing interest in forming a new chapter read from the constitution the requirements for forming a chapter. Discussion followed to determine if the current language in the constitution was adequate. After a lengthy discussion among the Board DCV Parliamentarian **Steve Lucas** reassured the Board that section of the constitution was adequate and no amendment(s) was needed.

**Registrar Carl Hedges** opened up a discussion on the feasibility of the DCV implementing a process so DCV members can obtain supplemental membership(s) in addition to the primary ancestor on their application. A motion was approved to begin work on developing a DCV Supplemental Program and present it to the entire Board for approval.

As a gesture of appreciation **President Boydston** presented DCV Founder **Steve von Roeder** with a pin of Texan First Lieutenant Audie Murphy's US Army Third Infantry Division..



**J.D. Denton** gave the benediction and the mid-year Board of Directors meeting group photo was taken.



Debbie Boydston, Rosannah Denton, Steve von Roeder  
J.D. Denton, Carl Hedges, Steve Lucas, J.D. Boydston  
Terry Ayers, Laure Bennett, Dr. Sam Bennett, Glenn Toal

### Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting Adjourned

**Member Contributions to the DCV TRAVELLER**

**Ernie Hales**, President of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter announces granddaughter and also James chapter member **Haley Heape** is a recent Summa Cum Laude graduate of Liberty University. CONGRATULATIONS!



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter Bob Jones informs us this past August marks three years that brothers Zachary (older) and Noah Brafford became members of the DCV and the James chapter. Outstanding young men!



Three generations of Jones in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James chapter. Luke, Bob, and Rob.

**Member Contributions cont.**

DCV co-founder and Capitol Chapter member **Steve Lucas** submits: If War Between the States history is your thing and/or history in general you're highly encouraged to go to this web site

click> <https://downloads.paperlessarchives.com/>  
The site offers a ton of it. Some of it is free but all of it is worth it. Peruse their home page to see what is available at very inexpensive rates, if not free. Some of these archives offer tens of thousands of pages of searchable pages of information

Capitol Chapter member **Dr. Sam Bennett** recently made a trip to his homeland in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. A place now where the past and present share the landscape. Located only 11 miles and 157 years apart from the last land battle of the War Between the States at **Palmito Ranch** is **SPACEX Starbase**, an American aerospace manufacturer.

**The Battle of Plamito Ranch**, a Confederate victory was fought May 12–13, 1865 more than a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to Union forces and 13 days before the Army of the Trans-Mississippi under Gen. Edmund Smith surrendered in Galveston on May 26.

**Starbase** is a spaceport, production, and development facility for Starship rockets, located in Boca Chica, Texas. It is owned by SpaceX, an American aerospace manufacturer.



**Member Contributions cont.**



**Dr. Sam Bennett**



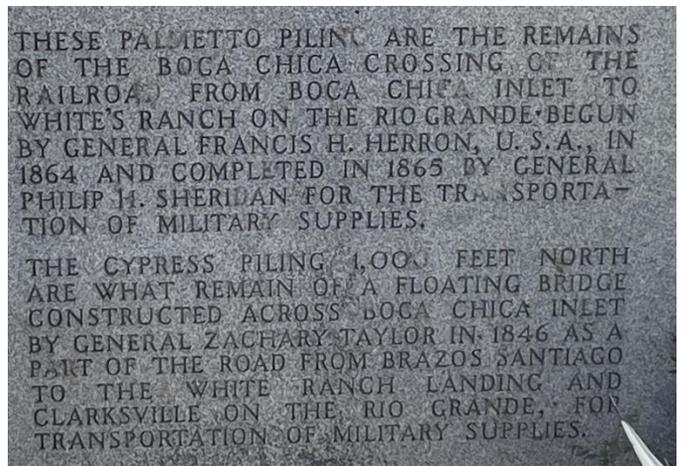
**Starship SN24**

Moving on down the road and back in time to the Palmito Ranch Battlefield State Historic Site.

**Member Contributions cont.**



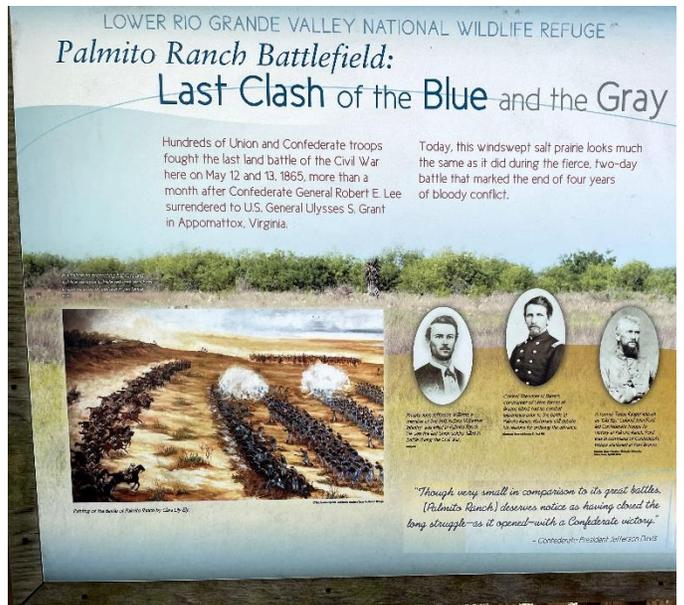
**Plametto Piling**



**Marker Inscription**



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**End Member Contributions**

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## **Battle of Palmito Ranch**

**May 12 and 13, 1865**

Fort Brown at Brownsville was held by the Confederates commanded by Gen. James E. Slaughter and Col. John S. (Rip) Ford. In February 1865 the Union commander at Brazos Island, Col. Theodore H. Barrett, reported to his superiors that his base was secure from attack and that with permission he could take Brownsville and recapture Fort Brown.



**Fort Brown in 1906**

The request was rejected. Instead, Maj. Gen. Lewis Wallace sought and received Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's permission to meet the Confederate commanders of the Brownsville area and Col. John Salmon (Rip) Ford, commander of the southern division of Slaughter's in hopes of arranging a separate peace. Wallace promised no retaliation against former Confederates so long as they took an oath of allegiance to the United States.

Anyone who preferred to leave the country would be given time to gather up property and family before doing so. An informal truce was arranged while Ford and Slaughter sent Wallace's proposals up their chain of command. Wallace was certain the terms would be accepted and informed Grant that the rebels would soon be surrendering.

Not so fast; General Slaughter's superior, Maj. Gen. John G. Walker in Houston denounced Wallace's terms and wrote a stinging letter to Slaughter for having listened to them in the first place.

The commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, was not ready to abandon the cause either.

The federals, meanwhile, had received an erroneous report that the southerners were preparing to evacuate Brownsville. In light of this intelligence Colonel Barrett ordered 250 men of the Sixty-second United States Colored Infantry and fifty men of the Second Texas United States Cavalry (dismounted) to cross to the mainland from Brazos Island at Boca Chica Pass to occupy Brownsville.

Under the command of Lt. Col. David Branson, this detachment marched all night and reached White's Ranch at daybreak. There Branson's men halted and tried to conceal themselves in a thicket along the Rio Grande.

The camp was spotted by "civilians" (probably Confederate soldiers) on the Mexican side of the river. Realizing that any hope of surprising the Confederates was lost, Branson immediately resumed his march toward Brownsville.

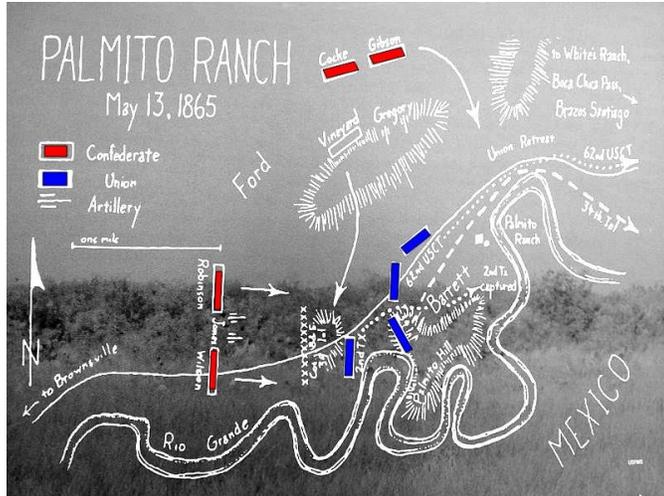
At Palmito Ranch the federals encountered Capt. W. N. Robinson's 190-man company of Lt. Col. George H. Giddings's Texas Cavalry, which skirmished with the Union force. Colonel Rip Ford, at Fort Brown, had ordered Captain Robinson to maintain contact with the federals and promised to reinforce him as soon as possible.

Under pressure the federals fell back to White's Ranch. It was there Union Colonel Theodore H. Barrett arrived in the early morning of May 13<sup>th</sup> with 200 men of the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, bringing the Union strength up to 500 officers and men.

Under Barrett's command the column moved on Palmito Ranch once more, and a "sharp engagement" took place in a thicket along the riverbank between Barrett's 500 troops and Robinson's 190 Confederates.

The outnumbered but persistent southerners were soon pushed back across an open prairie and beyond sight, while the exhausted federals paused on a small hill about a mile west of Palmito Ranch.

At three that afternoon, Colonel Ford arrived to reinforce Robinson with 300 men from his own Second Texas Cavalry, Col. Santos Benavides's Texas Cavalry Regiment, and additional companies from Giddings's battalion, as well as a six-gun battery of field artillery under the command of Capt. O. G. Jones.



The Confederates chased the federals for seven miles to Brazos Island. There the routed Union troops were met by reinforcements, and Ford's men ceased their attack. The action had lasted a total of four hours. Confederate casualties were a few dozen wounded. The federals lost 111 men and four officers captured, and thirty men wounded or killed.



*"Boys, we have done finely. We will let well enough alone, and retire."*

Col. John S. (Rip) Ford

Descendants of Confederate Veterans  
Texas Association  
501 (c) (3)  
Non-profit organization

**Mission Statement:**

To establish and maintain an honorable, non-racist Southern heritage and history organization dedicated to perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors who served their country during the War Between the States, 1861-1865.

**Life Memberships are available**

Life Members do not pay annual association dues  
Age 18-59 years \$ 300.00  
Age 60-69 years \$ 200.00  
Age 70-79 years \$ 100.00  
Age 80 + years \$ 50.00

Contact Carl Hedges Jr.

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**The 2022 Winter Edition of the DCV TRAVELLER will be sent to members December 21, 2022.**

**IMPORTANT:** If you change your email address or USPS mailing address PLEASE inform the Editor of the change to ensure that you will continue to receive the DCV TRAVELLER and all other important DCV correspondence.

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