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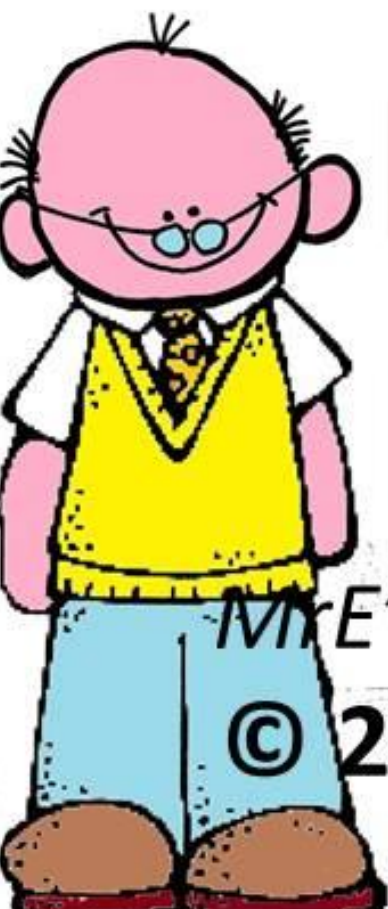
# *Louisiana* Confederate

## History Month

*and*

## *Louisiana* Confederate

## Memorial Day



*MrE's Louisiana History Classroom*

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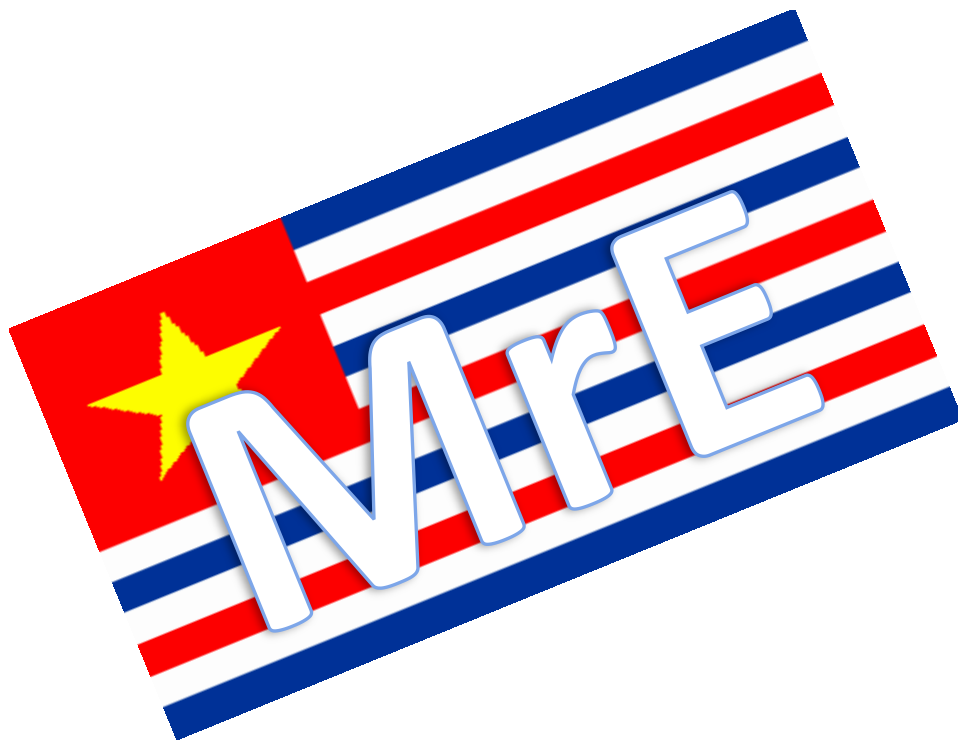
## Teachers Notes:

I know that this will not become your class favorites but as history teachers we have to cover everything, like or dislike it. But as history teachers we do cover Women's history month, Black history month, Jazz history month, Music in Our Schools, etc. With all the turmoil to remove Confederate monuments around the state, the hauling down Confederate flags, it just seems time that we, as teachers, should straighten out time about the soldiers who fought and died for our beloved southern soil.

You do not have to put your total heart into this mini-lesson but please do allow your students to get a little better understanding of the men and boys and a few girls who died to protect our beloved state.

We as teachers seem to be 'forced' in covering everything else from history to music to ethics to speech to food to culture to government to politics to.... you get the picture, so why not cover everything. We already don't have enough time to get it all in around holidays, Testing, job skills, discipline, etc.

Instead of making this a full multi-day lesson, let's just turn it into a one/two day lesson at most. Our veteran's would ask for nothing less.



# *Confederate History Month*

**Confederate History Month** is a month annually designated by six state governments in the Southern United States for the purpose of recognizing and honoring the history of the Confederate States of America and its soldiers. April has traditionally been chosen, as Confederate Memorial Day falls during that month in many of these states.

Confederate History Month and related celebrations have been controversial due to the contentious place of slavery in the history of the United States. When Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell issued a proclamation resurrecting Confederate History Month in 2010, controversy arose due to the proclamation's omission of slavery. McDonnell later announced, "The proclamation issued by this Office designating April as Confederate History Month contained a major omission. The failure to include any reference to slavery was a mistake, and for that I apologize to any fellow Virginian who has been offended or disappointed. The abomination of slavery divided our nation, deprived people of their God-given inalienable rights, and led to the Civil War. Slavery was an evil, vicious and inhumane practice which degraded human beings to property, and it has left a stain on the soul of this state and nation.". McDonnell has indicated that he will not issue a proclamation in future years. In 2007, the Virginia General Assembly approved a formal statement of "profound regret" for the Commonwealth's history of slavery.

On April 11, 2010, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour defended McDonnell on CNN's *State of the Union*, calling the controversy raised by McDonnell's proclamation "just a nit". "It's trying to make a big deal out of something that doesn't matter for diddly," said. Unlike the Virginia proclamation, the 2010 Alabama proclamation noted, "our recognition of Confederate history also recognizes that slavery was one of the causes of the war, an issue in the war, was ended by the war and slavery is hereby condemned."

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Another great debate: <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/4441/>

# Confederate Memorial Day

*By Nate Smith April 23, 2013*

"Monday was Confederate Memorial Day in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Six other states (Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas) celebrate the holiday as well on other days." It predates the Union version, which came to be the one now celebrated by the whole country. (By some accounts, the national holiday was actually inspired by the Confederate version).

Yet, like most celebrations and symbols of the Confederacy, it is not without controversy. Some think the holiday is outdated, and should no longer be reason to cancel legislative sessions, while others find it downright offensive: "I think it's unfortunate; it's not a day I would celebrate knowing the history of the Confederacy," said state Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta). Is it still important to celebrate the history of the Confederate soldiers separately from that of all soldiers, as we do on the national Memorial Day?

Southerners certainly enjoy celebrating their heritage. In general, it's hard to fault someone for that. The problem, though, is the obvious one: the celebration of something like Confederate Memorial day is inevitably interpreted by some to mean celebrations of slavery. After all, this is what the Civil War was fought over – it's why there even was a thing called the Confederate States of America. Sure, it's fair to say that other aspects of Southern culture are rightly celebrated, just as is the case with anyone's culture. But it's possible to do so without specifically recalling secession and the Civil War. It is this distinction that many people — African Americans as well as many whites — implicitly draw when they take issue with things like Confederate Memorial day.

This is certainly not to say that we should forget the Civil War, or that we should celebrate Union soldiers while vilifying Confederate soldiers. Indeed, no Memorial Day service I have ever attended has done such a thing. But let's not forget that slavery was a shameful, morally abhorrent and exploitative practice, and we emphatically should celebrate its end. To turn around and also celebrate the movement that sought to perpetuate it implies either a profound cognitive dissonance, or a disagreement between many Southerners and the rest of the country.

Since most Southerners I've spoken with emphatically disavow any support for the institution of slavery, we need some way to recognize those who gave their lives in the Civil war uniformly, without implicitly defending the institution of slavery. I think Memorial Day works just fine.



**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**House of Representatives**

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, on January 26, 1861, the State of Louisiana declared itself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865; and*

*WHEREAS, the Louisianans who served on both sides of the American Civil War are memorialized in almost every parish of the state; and*

*WHEREAS, all Louisianans should study the War Between the States, as we study all wars so that we may understand the events which led to the war and from our better understanding, continue to learn from the past and live together peaceably and avoid future conflicts; and*

*WHEREAS, we can learn from the lessons of history and thereby be in a better position to preserve these ideals for posterity;*

*THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, do hereby proclaim April 2012 as*

**CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH**

*and we urge our citizens to engage and understand the events of those years of 1861 to 1865 and their historical significance as well as the entire history of this great country so that we may have a full appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices that made our basic rights possible.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State of Louisiana to be affixed.*

*Dorothy Sue Hill*

*Dorothy Sue Hill, State Representative, District 32*





UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
State of Louisiana  
Governor  
Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 26, 1861, the State of Louisiana declared itself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana contributed many soldiers and sailors to the service of the Confederate States; and

WHEREAS, the Louisianans who served on both sides of the American Civil War are memorialized in almost every parish in the state; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of the State of Louisiana should study the War Between the States, as we study all wars, so that we may understand the historical events which compelled the war and, from that understanding, continue to learn to live together and seek to avoid future conflicts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April, 2007 as

CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

in the State of Louisiana



Attest By  
The Governor

Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 16th day of March  
A.D., 2007

Governor of Louisiana

# Confederate Memorial Day in Louisiana

Confederate Memorial Day in Louisiana is observed on June 3, Jefferson Davis' Birthday, each year. Several of the SCV camps in the state have memorial services on various dates throughout the month in observance of Confederate Memorial Day. During the week leading up to the **June 3 , 2009**, observance, members of the Henry Watkins Allen Camp placed Confederate flags on the graves of Confederate veterans in several cemeteries in Pointe Coupee Parish. These included over 40 flags at the Chenal Cemetery, in Chenal, LA, as well as flags at the Cottonwood Cemetery near Lottie, LA, the Bordelon Family Cemetery in Legonier, LA, the St. Mary's Episcopal Cemetery in Morganza, LA, and the St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery, also in Morganza.

While we are pleased to see heightened media attention to Confederate History Month resulting from the proclamation we are dismayed to see political implications or political correction zeal placed on it. We applaud Governor McDonnell for his courage to do the right thing, as well as all the other officials across the country who have done likewise."

"These observances have been going on for more than a hundred years so it should be no surprise to anyone they continue to grow in scope with each passing year. "Several states by state law observe a holiday for Confederate Memorial Day. Others have state laws establishing Confederate History and Heritage Month. Still others set forth Confederate History Month by proclamation."

"The SCV has set a goal of over one thousand instances of observance of Confederate history in states, counties, parishes, cities and towns throughout America. In some cases beyond the boundaries of the original Confederacy. These events include proclamations at all levels of government, parades, banquets, balls, re-enactments, school living histories, radio and television interviews, newspaper articles and a series of historical minutes for the media which include each day of Confederate History and Heritage Month. There are observances at cemeteries where Confederate soldiers graves are decorated. Many of our local camps participate in securing proclamations in several communities in their individual areas.



New Orleans monuments the city wants to remove.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Confederate Holidays

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as best you can from the opening six pages of information.

1. Why does Louisiana want a Confederate History month anyway? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Even in these times of tensions who do we have to honor these veterans? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was April chosen to honor the Confederates? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which came first Confederate Memorial Day or Memorial Day? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is there such controversy about this "day" on the calendar? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the differences between to two proclamations issued by the State of Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Should we celebrate Union soldiers while vilifying Confederate soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_

What should we do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Define political correctness in this celebration. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. If you were sitting of the board of New Orleans City Council, which **ONE** monument would you vote to remove? \_\_\_\_\_ Beauregard \_\_\_\_\_ Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Lee and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. If you were sitting of the board of New Orleans City Council, which **ONE** monument would you vote to leave in place and left alone? \_\_\_\_\_ Beauregard \_\_\_\_\_ Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Lee and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Louisiana History Teacher

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