

This Day in History... June 10, 1889

United Confederate Veterans

On June 10, 1889, the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) was founded in New Orleans.

In the years after the Civil War ended, both Northern and Southern veterans began establishing their own local organizations to stay in contact with each other and provide aid to those veterans in need. In the North, Union veterans founded the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866.

In the South, federal law prohibited “rebel” societies until 1878. However, several small Confederate veterans groups still organized during this time. On June 10, 1889, their representatives assembled in New Orleans and formed the United Confederate Veterans. The group wanted to help old soldiers and their families. Some of these families were poor and needed food, money, or medicine. Its constitution declared the organization’s purpose as “strictly social, literary, historical, and benevolent.” The organization provided financial support for disabled Southern soldiers and Confederate widows and orphans. It also preserved mementos and records of service for its members.



Stamp issued for the UCV's final reunion in 1951.



With a similar design, this stamp was issued for the final reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1949.

The UCV also published a magazine called *The Confederate Veteran*. It had stories from soldiers, updates on reunions, poems, and more. This helped veterans stay in touch and let others read their memories, while promoting the “Lost Cause of the Confederacy.”

The UCV wanted to remember the Confederates who died in the war. They built statues and held parades. Every year, they had a big reunion. At these reunions, veterans shared stories, marched in old uniforms, and remembered the past. Thousands of people would come to see them.

The first reunion of the United Confederate Veterans was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on June 3-5, 1890. Invitations were extended to veterans of both the Confederate and Union armies as well as the general public. The annual reunions were very popular. During their peak years in the early 1900s, membership reached 160,000 veterans organized into 1,885 local camps. They produced a popular magazine that detailed events from the war and offered a section that helped veterans get in touch with each other.



1861 Confederate Postmasters' Provisional



This stamp was part of the 1998 Celebrate the Century: 1920s sheet.

In 1901 and 1906, the UCV supported Congressional acts that called for the inclusion of over 30,000 Confederate graves in the federal cemetery system. Membership peaked in the early 1900s and began to decline as eligible veterans passed away. The last reunion was held in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1951. Three of the last 12 surviving Confederate veterans were in attendance. The reunion’s events included a reenactment of the battle of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*.

Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy were formed in later years and both groups are still active today.

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