

Opening of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library at Beauvoir, Biloxi, Mississippi

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The Sons of Confederate Veterans held its 2013 Sesquicentennial Heritage Rally on Saturday, March 16, 2013, in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the opening of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum on the grounds of Beauvoir, the last home of President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis in the years following the War Between the States. Beauvoir was the site of his retirement and the place where he wrote his two-volume memoir, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. Following his death, the home was sold to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with two stipulations: first, the property was to be used as a Confederate Veterans Home for the veterans and their widows at no charge to them. This stipulation was fulfilled from 1903-1957. When the last three widows went to a private nursing home, the second stipulation was fulfilled as the property then became a memorial to President Davis and the Confederate soldiers, where it continues to be used in this fashion to this present day. During the time of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many of the structures on the Beauvoir estate were severely damaged or completely destroyed. The home has been beautifully renovated and restored as closely as possible to its original condition. The lovely new library and museum will house many volumes of Confederate literature and artifacts from the Davis family, along with other Confederate items of interest. Following a parade from the nearby marina, many Sons of Confederate Veterans General Executive Committee officers, members, families, and reenactors assembled on the grounds of Beauvoir to hear greetings from General Officers of the SCV and a keynote address by Mr. Bertram Hayes-Davis, the great-great grandson of Jefferson Davis, who serves as the Executive Director of Beauvoir. Following his address, the assembly sang "Dixie" and the cannons and muskets gave a grand salute to the opening of the Presidential Library and Museum. A trip to Beauvoir would be a worthwhile and enjoyable historical trip for those who wish to learn more of the true history of the South.