

# LOCAL & STATE

## Funeral for Caddo DA Scott is 1 p.m. today

From Staff reports

The funeral for Caddo Parish District Attorney Charles Rex Scott II will be today at 1 p.m. at Broadmoor Baptist Church, 4116 Youree Drive, Shreveport. Services will be in the church's Worship Center North.

Scott, 68, was found dead in his hotel room early Wednesday in Baton Rouge, where he was attending meetings and events related to the current legislative session. Preliminary autopsy reports indicate he died of undiagnosed heart disease.



Charles Rex Scott II

He was elected district attorney in late 2008, following more than 40 years as a Shreveport city attorney, Shreveport city court judge and finally as a Caddo District Court judge. Prior to that, the Northwestern State University and LSU School of Law graduate was an attorney in private practice.

A native of Natchitoches, he was married and the father of two grown children, and the grandfather of seven.

Chuck Pourciau, Tom Harrison and Larry Williams will officiate at the funeral, which The Times will cover. There will be a private burial.

## TO DO | WEEK OF APRIL 27, 2015

From Staff reports

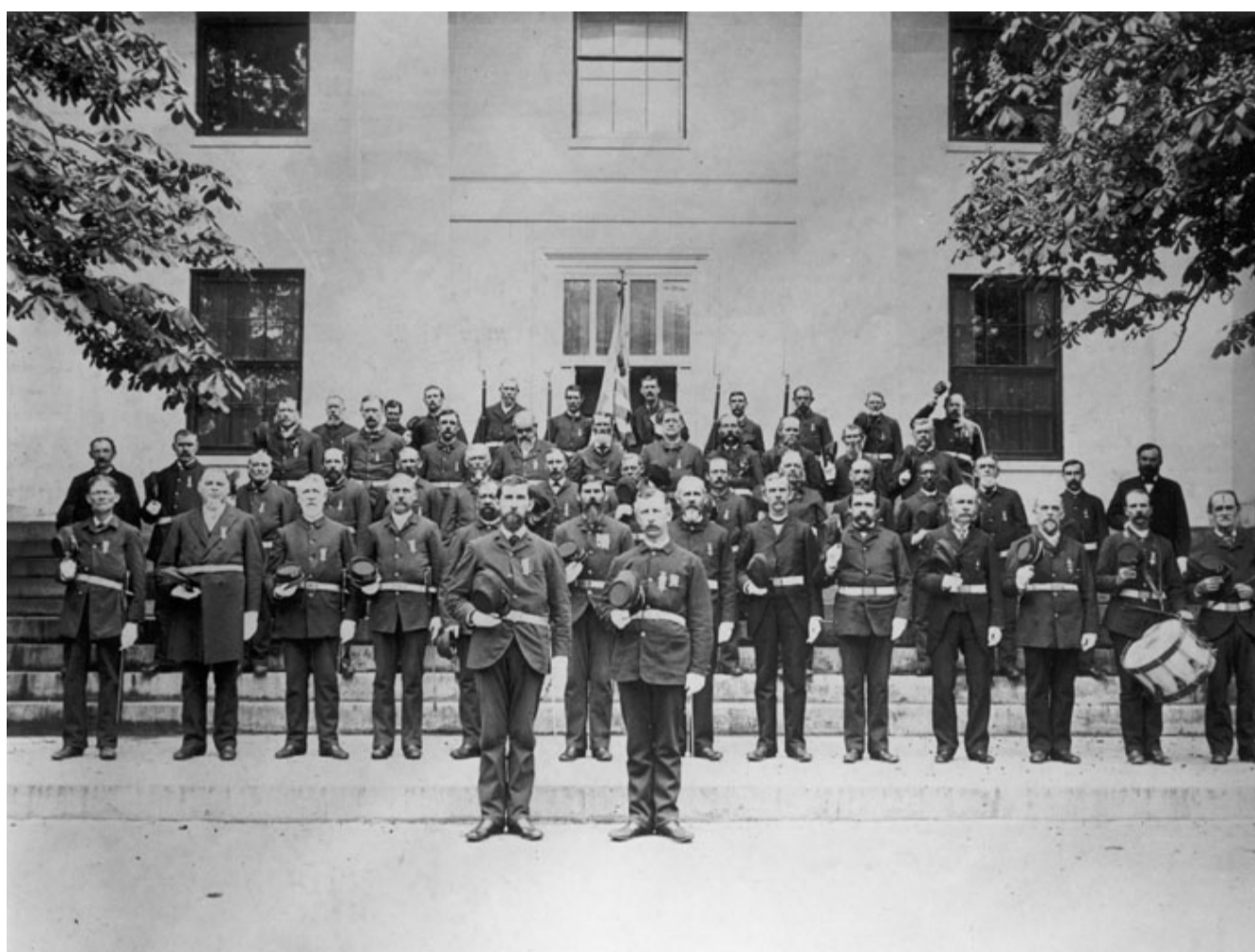
**SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY NAVY WEEK 2015** steals the spotlight this week, with a full slate of activities in the community and in local schools through the weekend.

**PUBLIC EVENTS KICK OFF TUESDAY.**

A morning event will be Navy Day at Bossier Parish Community College, 6220 East Texas S., at 9:15 a.m. Rear Admiral Keith Jones, a Louisiana native, will meet with local military veterans in the Chancellor's conference room. Event is open to all area military veterans – no formal invitation required. Jones, the veterans and students then will watch the Leapfrogs, a precision parachute team made up of Navy SEALs, jump into the field in front of the college at 10:15 a.m. Following the jump, students and veterans will have an opportunity to interact with the Leapfrogs. At 7 p.m. in Airline High School Stadium, on Viking Drive just west of Airline Drive and south of I-220. The free event will include a drop by the Navy's elite Leap Frogs parachute demonstration team, remarks by Rear Admiral Keith Jones, Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler and Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker, a mass new-recruit swearing-in ceremony and a full concert by the Navy Band Southwest. Guest of honor will be 91-year-old Mary Burns Nelson, a local World War II Navy WAVES veteran.

Other public events include:

**THE NAVY LEAP FROGS PARACHUTE DEMONSTRATION TEAM** will make a number of jumps at high schools in Caddo and Bossier parishes through the week after



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO/GAR/SUVCW

This is a group photo of the Grand Army of the Republic's Charles W. Carroll Post 144 in Dedham, Massachusetts, in September 1886. William B. Gould, a black sailor in the Union Navy, was a member and later commander of this post and can be seen standing just behind the officer in the front left.



ONE OF 41 UNION POSTS IN LOUISIANA, MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE JAMES A. GARFIELD POST 19 TODAY

# BLACK GAR POST ONCE HERE

While most people in Shreveport know there is an active group called the Sons of Confederate Veterans, successor to the United Confederate Veterans, similar associations existed – and still do – for the Union boys in blue as well. And once there was such a post in Shreveport.

But it isn't what you think it was. And yes, mystery surrounds it.

It was the James A. Garfield Post 19 of the Grand Army of the Republic, the political-social organization of former Union veterans founded in 1866, represented today by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, or SUVCW. The GAR disbanded in 1956 with the death of the last Union soldier, Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota. At its peak in 1890, it had just under 500,000 members.

Garfield Post 19 was unusual in that it was a north Louisiana post that consisted of mostly black veterans. It was one of 41 GAR posts in Louisiana, 28 of which were black in membership. Posts were mainly in such south Louisiana communities as New Orleans (13 posts), Hammond, Baton Rouge, Algiers, Alexandria and Lafayette.

Joe Slattery, historian and librarian at Shreve Memorial Library's Broadmoor Branch, approached this column and fellow historian Gary Joiner seeking information on the post.

"I know that some records exist of Louisiana Post No. 1, the Joseph A. Mower Post out of New Orleans," Slattery wrote. "Those are at the Tulane University library. It



John Andrew Prime  
Columnist

OUR HISTORY

would be great to find the names of the Garfield Post members, but may be tough to find the records of that post."

The Times sent a query to the SUVCW's GAR project, which is trying to assemble and catalog the scattered records of the GAR.

"I'm still looking for records and history of many of the GAR posts from the Department of Louisiana and Mississippi," answered Dean Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer for the SUVCW.

"They're hard to find. Your suggestion that records may be in someone's attic or footlocker is probably not far from the truth. Records could also be in the back room of a local library, museum, or American Legion or VFW Post. When it comes to post records, they could be almost anywhere." The history of Post 19

speaks loudly about the past, and prejudice.

"James A. Garfield Post No. 19, based in Shreveport, was an African-American GAR post," Enderlin said. "It probably organized in late 1892. Records from this post have not been located, and I have very little information about it."

An index of Times stories from 1872 to 1899 does not have any entries for GAR posts, black or white, though it does have dozens of entries for the UCV and affiliated Confederate veterans groups.

Enderlin said Post 19 would have organized just after a period of high tension in the GAR's Louisiana and Mississippi Department.

"In 1891-1892, the department leadership was polarized over the question of allowing African-American GAR Posts to organize," he wrote. "Posts 9 through 17 had recently been organized (two of them in Mississippi), and all of them were African-American. The

department commander at the time wanted to declare them invalid, and proposed to disband the GAR in Louisiana and Mississippi if his desires weren't recognized. The (national) commander-in-chief of the GAR refused to accept the department's decision to disband, and kicked out the problematic leadership, replacing them with new leaders who held a neutral view on integration. GAR activities in Louisiana returned to normal after the Department was reorganized in June 1892."

Enderlin noted this illustrates how the GAR worked to combat racism through recognition of the membership of any honorably discharged Union veteran, regardless of race. The GAR was one of the first racially integrated social/fraternal organizations in the United States.

This is important to Shreveport in light of racial migrations after the