

**JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON: AN ADDRESS  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
ASSOCIATION OF EX-CONFEDERATE  
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 12, 1891**

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Joseph E. Johnston: An Address Delivered Before the Association of Ex-Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of Washington, D.C. May 12, 1891 by Leigh Robinson

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**LEIGH ROBINSON**

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JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND  
SAILORS OF WASHINGTON, D. C.,

—BY—

LEIGH ROBINSON,

MAY 12, 1891,

AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN

MT. VERNON M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH,

AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCCASION.

Published by the Association.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:  
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## INTRODUCTORY.

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The Association of ex-Confederate soldiers and sailors of Washington, D. C., met in Mount Vernon Place M. E. Church on May 12th, 1891, at 8 p. m. A large number of the friends of the association and citizens of Washington and Alexandria were present. GEN. EPPA HUNTON presided. The proceedings were opened with prayer by REV. J. F. WIGHTMAN, D. D.

### PRAYER.

“O Lord, thou wast our father’s God, and thou art our God. We invoke thy presence and thy benediction. Thou art the righteous disposer of human affairs, and we meekly bow to thy sovereign will. Thy finger has marked the boundary of all lands, and we receive our land from Thee; a land flowing with milk and honey. We give Thee humble thanks for the endurance of our civil and religious liberties, for our laws, our homes, our institutions of benevolence, our schools of learning, and for all the benefits of the means of grace. We give thanks to Thee for the gift of good and great men who have directed the affairs of our people, alike in times of peace and amid the troubles of war. We are unworthy, O Lord, of these manifold blessings, and we beseech Thee pardon the transgressions of our people for the sake of thy Son. Thou hast most graciously promised to honor the people that honor Thee; be pleased in thy tender mercy to look upon thy servant, the President of these United States, and upon all

who are empowered to make our laws and to uphold the majesty of government, that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness. We beseech Thee grant to our people remunerative labor, screen them from the disasters of life, protect their morals, quiet all civil dissensions, suppress all evils, bless our children, and grant to our homes peace and prosperity, that this great commonwealth may glorify that name in the virtues and valor of good citizens. Would it please Thee to unite all sections of this country in brotherly concord, that Ephraim may no longer envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim. Hasten the day when from the North to the South, and from the East to the West, our mountains shall nod in homage to Thee, and our cities shall clasp their hands in praising the name of the Lord. Overrule for good, we meekly beseech Thee, all national trouble, the sickness of our people, and the calamities of war, that the discipline of thy providence may make us wiser and better. Grant, we pray Thee, that the heroic deeds and noble virtues of our great soldiers may only inspire us to cherish the liberty and defend the land that Thou hast given us. We render thanks to Thee for the honored name of the Christian soldier whose worth we commemorate on this memorial evening. Be Thou the Father of his family, and the Guardian of all his comrades in arms. Hasten the day, O Lord, when all officers in the field, and all our armies, both upon the land and the sea, shall fight the good fight of faith, and make a holy surrender to the great Captain of our salvation. Would it please Thee to inspire Thy servant who shall speak to us on this memorial occasion, and so touch his lips with the generous coal of Thy grace, that he may set forth for Thy glory those virtues of the fallen hero, that may incite in us true patriotism and fidelity to the God of our fathers. Thou hast said, 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.' The Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers. Let him not leave

us nor forsake us. Grant this, we beseech Thee, through the name and mediation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen."

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The Chant, "Abide with Me," was then rendered by a quartet of the Church Choir.

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The following verses of a Union Soldier, were, by request, read by Father W. R. COWARDIN, of St. Aloysius Church, who prefaced the reading with these words of explanation :

MR. CHAIRMAN, Ladies and Gentlemen, Confederate Veterans; coming, as they do, from one who fought in the Union Army against him, whose memory we are here to honor, the verses, I am about to read, seem to be an answer to the prayer, just offered, for peace and union in this dear land. They are written by Mr. C. E. MORRISON, a soldier of the Mexican War, who served there under General JOHNSTON, by whom he was promoted, on the field of battle at Chapultepec, for gallantry. He sends the verses with the request that they be read here to-night, as a tribute to the memory of one he held in high esteem. The sentiment of the verses is beautiful, and in paying just tribute to three illustrious heroes of the Confederacy, JOHNSTON, Jackson and Lee—he rises above all sectional hatred and shows a magnanimity of soul becoming a great man.



## JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

We mourn not gallant JOHNSTON dead,  
 For lives like his well spent, well sped,  
 Are not fit themes for grief ;  
 He leaves a record proud and high ;  
 As he did heroes live and die,  
 Be life prolonged, or brief.

His star arose that far-off day,  
 When, bleeding, almost dead, he lay  
 Where Cerro Gordo frowns,  
 Where his reconnaissance preserved  
 So many lives, that it deserved  
 The mural crown of crowns.

And he was foremost in the fray  
 At Casa Mata's Mills—"del Rey"—  
 Where we fought one to four,  
 Where higher than at Waterloo,  
 For ninety minutes carnage flew,  
 Red-robed in Aztec gore.

At Montezuma's ancient keep—  
 Chapultepec—his accents deep  
 Cheered the che'k stormers on ;  
 Still leading, animating all,  
 Until we forced the city wall,  
 And Mexico was won.

Though I lament the choice he made  
 When yielding his still stainless blade  
 In anti Union strife,  
 I know he deemed it duty done,  
 Dire duty, as Virginia's son  
 Owed her both fame and life.

Earth smiling at the praise or blame  
 Of South or North, asserts her claim.  
 To JOHNSTON, Jackson, Lee ;  
 Fame shrines them in her place of pride,  
 And justly;—no such soldiers died  
 At thee, Thermopylae !

GENERAL HUNTON then said :

*Gentlemen of the Association of ex-Confederate  
Soldiers and Sailors of Washington City.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is a great privilege to meet together as Confederates in this association, the object of which is to help the needy, to cheer the disheartened, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep, and especially to eulogize the virtues of the good and great who go before us.

I have greatly rejoiced at the formation of this society, and hope it will last as long as Washington city holds any survivors of the dear lost cause.

We cannot meet to celebrate the success of that cause, but we can and do meet to recount the hardships we endured, the sacrifices we made, the victories we won, the defeats we suffered while battling for that cause, which we believed to be as just and sacred as ever animated a patriotic people.

I feel greatly honored in presiding over your deliberations on any occasion—but especially honored to preside over a meeting called to honor the memory of one of the greatest and best of our leaders—General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

(He was the last but one of the six Confederate Generals who led our armies to victory, or in defeat inspired them to greater deeds of valor.)

I enjoyed the privilege of knowing General JOHNSTON from an early period of the war; was his colleague in the Congress of the United States, and from the time he entered Congress till his death, I was honored with his confidence, respect and friendship.

(Whether at the head of a victorious or vanquished army, he was always the brave, skilful and trusted leader.

In the councils of this nation he was the watchful guardian of his peoples' interest.

In private life he was the patriotic and honored

citizen, and the warm and sympathetic friend. In the domestic circle he was the devoted and affectionate husband and tender relative. If I had to name the virtue which shone most conspicuously in his bright character, I would say it was the love of his State—his own beloved Virginia. For her and in obedience to her call he sacrificed a high position and a brilliant future in the Federal army to do battle in her defence. To the last moment of his life he looked to her as the child to a beloved mother, and at any time was willing to sacrifice all—even life itself—for her. It is meet and proper that we his followers and survivors, should cherish and honor his memory and emulate his virtues.

I congratulate the Association on the selection of the orator who will in glowing and eloquent language, tell of the virtues and fame of our departed leader and friend. The Confederacy had no braver, truer or better soldier than our orator for this evening. His career in the army was not so brilliant as that of General JOHNSTON, but his life was as pure, his patriotism was as great, and his courage was as high and noble as of any soldier who followed the "Stars and Bars" through four years of bloody war.

I introduce my friend Mr. LEIGH ROBINSON, of Washington City, who will now address you: