Confederacy Plaque at New City Hall Here Is Dedicated

By Tom Normand
Town Talk Staff Writer

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A plaque honoring Confederate soldiers, placed on the corner of City Hall by the city council was dedicated in Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies Wednesday by the Thomas Overton Moore chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The plaque is at the same spot that was occupied by the large Confederate statue before it was moved to the courthouse in order to make way for construction of the sprawling new city hall.

With the help of Eagle Scout David Coker, Mrs. Daisy Staples, oldest member of the UDC chapter, placed a wreath near the plaque.

Pierson Speaks

Attorney R. Hunter Pierson, guest speaker, said the plaque occupies a historic spot, because "from this location the regiment of soldiers from Rapides parish, the Moore Guards, were mustered into service of the Confederate Army in 1861."

"It is certainly appropriate and fitting that this fine tablet dedicated on Confederate Memorial Day and on the birthday of Jefferson Davis."

He said it was on April 25, 1861, that the Moore Guards, a part of the Ninth Louisiana Infantry, under then Col. Richard Taylor:

"We are told this regiment arrived at Manassas Junction at dusk on the day the first battle of Bull Run was fought and won. The Ninth received its first baptism of fire at Front Royal and fought in nearly every great battle of Lee and Jackson to Gettysburg, where it charged up the shell-swept slopes of Cemetery Ridge," he said.

Pierson thanked the city council and Joe R. Dellmon, plant superintendent for The Town Talk, for their efforts in securing and placing the plaque.

Mrs. Louise Averitt, president of the UDC chapter, presided over the ceremonies.

Other parts of the program included: invocation, Rev. Foster Chambers; reading of "Answer to the Concord Banner," Mrs. Albert Lanier; leading the singing of "Dixie," Mrs. Arthur Avey; and remarks by Mayor W. George Bowdon Jr.

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