

WHITESMOKE SUN / COURIER

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Southern Hospitality

Last month when I was in Louisiana, I experienced something rarely seen in California...Southern charm and hospitality. I work in L.A. on the 31st floor of a high-rise. I ride the elevator every day; even several times a day. Rarely does any one in the elevator make eye contact let alone speak to one another. In fact, our office elevator has a T.V. in it so that all eyes can be focused on the T.V and no one will have to interact! Well, as I stepped into the hotel elevator in Baton Rouge with four or five other people I was shocked when the doors closed and people actually turned to me and asked how I was, where I was from, and how my day was going. What's more, they actually seemed interested in finding out the answers to their questions, not simply making polite small talk! I went to Louisiana to do a deposition. After it was over the deponent offered to show me around LSU! "Follow me, and I'll show you how to get to a great restaurant," they said! They even wanted to have lunch with me...and I was the enemy! History is full of stories of Civil War soldiers and civilians exhibiting Southern Hospitality to others, particularly in dire times. Confederate soldiers loved the South and thought it was a place worth dying for. This band of brothers had a deep bond with each other and genuinely cared for the well being of others. It was this bond that kept them fighting with such zeal 'till the bitter end. As Civil War reenactors, we should try to exemplify these qualities to event patrons so that they

too can experience that good 'ole Southern hospitality!