

HISTORY OF BAYOU WARS

On May 21, 1993, the very first Bayou Wars historical miniatures wargaming convention took place at the Quality Hotel & Conference Center in Metairie (New Orleans), Louisiana. Bayou Wars was the brain child of a number of local New Orleans' wargamers but owes its existence primarily to the tireless efforts of Joseph (Joey) Lacour. It grew out of the effort to hold the 1993 National United States Pike & Shot Federation Renaissance Championships in New Orleans. Joey believed that a few extra historical miniatures gaming events could be hosted to compliment this National Tournament. Due to the lack of historical gaming conventions in the Deep South at that time, the response was overwhelming and the Bayou Wars Organizers elected to expand the convention from 2 days to its current format of 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

Thus, Bayou Wars was created. Joey used to say that Bayou Wars was needed because so few local gamers had the time and wherewithal to travel to the major historical wargaming conventions in Pennsylvania, New York or even Nashville. Contemporaneously with the creation of Bayou Wars and to further promote the convention and garnish national support, the organizers of Bayou Wars were also instrumental in establishing the Gulf South Chapter of the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society, HMGS (Gulf South). Since its inception, HMGS (Gulf South) has been a consistent partner and sponsor of all Bayou Wars' Events. Over the first few years, attendance at Bayou Wars slowly increased from 100 to over 250 participants.

Then, in September 1998, Bayou Wars' founding father, Joey Lacour, passed away after a courageous but losing battle to leukemia. In his honor and memory, the Board renamed the Convention: "The Joseph G. Lacour Memorial Bayou Wars Convention". Joey was also named the Chairman of the Board and Spiritual Advisor in Perpetuity. Although Joey is no longer here in body, the present Board of Bayou Wars continuously feels his spirit guide the convention through good and bad. Although Katrina's winds destroyed any possibility of holding the Convention in New Orleans in 2006, it was "Joey-kazi" that inspired the Board and our friends in Jackson to relocate the Convention to the Battlefield Inn in Vicksburg where, with the generous help and contributions of John Switzer, Larry Reeves and others with the Jackson Mississippi Wargaming Group, Bayou Wars was able to continue its 14 year tradition of providing a venue for historical miniature gaming.

In 2007, Bayou Wars will celebrate its 15th year. It is back at its old location at the Quality Hotel in Metairie. Bayou Wars did not achieve its 15 years without the support of many, many individuals...sponsors, volunteers, game-masters, table movers, "Augie" sculptors, participants, their wives, children, and significant others. To all of you, we say: Thank You!"

The Board of Bayou Wars