

THE *BANNER*

Volume 130, Number 1 • The Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • Autumn, 2025



***CINC KEVIN P. TUCKER ELECTED
2025-2026***

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT 2025



THE BANNER

The Banner is published quarterly and copyrighted by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1 Lincoln Circle Suite 240, Harrisburg, Pa 17105-1865. Fourth class postage paid at Milwaukee, Wis.

Membership dues (including the Banner) \$23 per year. Subscription rate \$12 for four consecutive issues. Single copies \$3 with checks payable to "National Organization SUVCW" mailed to the HQ in Harrisburg.

Products and services advertised do not carry Nat. SUVCW endorsement. The Nat. Organization reserves the right to reject content of any copy. Send all news matter to the Editor; send the following to SUVCW Headquarters: address changes, election of officers, new members, member deaths.

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Further Information:
<http://suvchw.org/bannerhome.htm>

SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

Winter Deadline-December 15
Spring Deadline-March 15
Summer Deadline-May 31
Autumn Deadline-August 31

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CORRECTION TO SUMMER 2025 BANNER. The photo at the bottom of page 4 - Department Encampments is incorrectly labeled as North Carolina. The photo is actually of the Department of Georgia and South Carolina. My apologies.

On The Cover: Newly elected CinC Kevin P. Tucker. Photo by Ed Norris, PCinC.



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KEVIN P. TUCKER - CINC SUVCW

2025-2026



Commander-in-Chief Kevin P. Tucker was elected at the 144th Annual National Encampment held Aug. 7–9 in Houston, Texas, hosted by the Department of Texas.

Kevin Tucker was born in Malden Massachusetts on January 18, 1960. He is the youngest son of Frank J. Tucker and Elsie “Pauline” (Bulman) Tucker. His family has a long history of service to our country, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the state of New Hampshire, to US Veterans and to this Order.

He traces his lineage to his great-great-grandfather, Sergeant Charles E. Elwell, who served in Company H, 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, organized in Dorchester, Massachusetts in the spring of 1861. Sergeant Elwell was discharged due to disability after suffering serious wounds during the Mine Run Campaign in Virginia in the fall of 1863.

Kevin enlisted in the United States Air Force at just 17 years old. From 1977 to 1981, he served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist (Crew Chief) on the F-4D Phantom II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft. Assigned to the 430th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 474th Tactical Fighter Wing, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, he achieved the rank of Sergeant by the end of his enlistment.

Kevin Tucker is a Life Member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and has proudly served the Order for nearly 30 years. Kevin has built a distinguished record of service and leadership at every level of the Order, including Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, two-term Member of the National Council of Administration, Massachusetts Department Commander, Secretary and Treasurer, and Camp Commander.

In recognition of his service to the Department of Massachusetts, he has been honored three times with the Roger L. Olsen Award as the Department’s Outstanding Brother of the Year. Over the past two decades, Kevin Tucker has served as National Civil War Memorials Officer, Chairman of the National Committee on Promotions and Marketing, Chairman of the National Committee on Program & Policy, Chairman and member of the National Encampment Site Committee, Chairman of the National Committee on Membership, Chairman of the National Committee on Civil War Memorials., Chairman of the 2008 Massachusetts National Encampment Host Committee, Member of the 2018 Massachusetts National Encampment Host Committee, and Member of the 2023 National Encampment Host Committee for the Department of New Hampshire. He also served as Commander of the New England Regional Association of the SUVCW on three occasions.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), commissioned Kevin as a Major and he served as District Commander of the First Military District, commanding the SVR units in the Departments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Professionally, Kevin Tucker has worked in the field of Information Technology for over twenty-five years, including positions with two international Real Estate Investment Trust firms, and managing the computer systems for Boston’s landmark John Hancock Building. For the past nine years, he has served as Information Technology Director for a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing programs for adults with mental disabilities.

PNP DANIELLE MICHAELS - NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASUVCW

PNP Danielle Michaels was once again elected as National President Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Houston Texas, in August. She previously served as National President 2003-2004.

Sister Danielle is an identical twin to PNP Denise Oman, and the eldest of four daughters to Donald and Bernadine Schreiber. She bases her membership on the service of her paternal great-great grandfather Joseph Friedl, who entered the Union Army on Feb. 9, 1864. He enlisted in Company H, 35th Infantry from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Friedl fought at Simmsport, Louisiana and at the Siege of Spanish Fort. While going out as a scout, he encountered fire and was wounded. Due to his injuries the lower arm was amputated, and he was discharged Dec. 9, 1865. He was known as a master woodcarver and musician. He later served as commander of Milwaukee's Rank and File GAR Post #240 for 5 terms.

In remembrance of her civil war ancestor and for the many others that had answered President Lincoln's call to save the Union, she served the ASUVCW to continue the works of the Order and carry out the Principles handed down by the GAR.

PNP Danielle graduated from Marquette University with a degree in Foreign Language and subsequently returned to college for certification in special education- behavioral/emotional disabilities. She retired from teaching at the High School level in Waukesha.

In her spare time, she enjoys public speaking on the Civil War presenting to schools and community groups, recruits, and explains her exhibit of artifacts. She is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF Auxiliary-Civil Air Patrol where she serves as an instructor for both the Cadet and Adult Leadership Courses.

President Danielle married PCinC Stephen Michaels in 1982. They have 4 children: Andrea, Allison, Andrew and Anne and three grandchildren. Past National President Allison Pollitt and PDP Anne Michaels are Auxiliary members.



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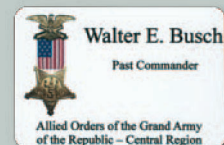
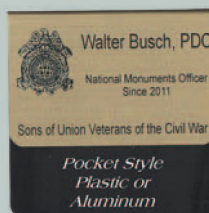
Check to: **"GAR – Central Region Association"**

Send to: **Walt Busch**

1240 Konert Valley Dr,

Fenton, MO 63026

Questions: wbusch@suvcwmo.org





ALL OF THESE MEN WERE MOLLUS MEMBERS AND YOU COULD BE A MEMBER TOO!

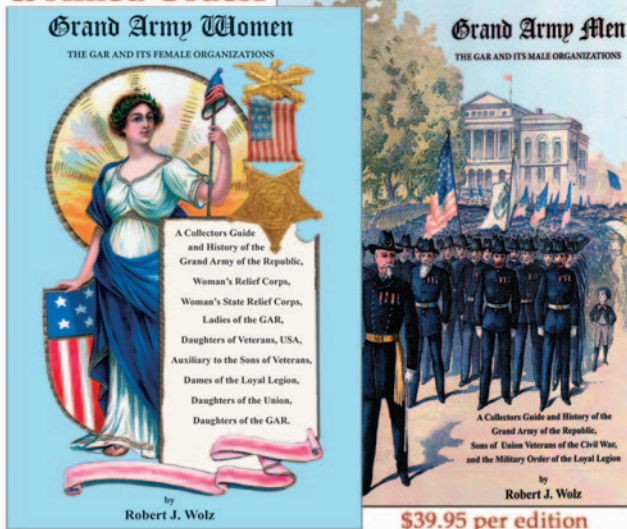
The Military Order Of The Loyal Legion Of The United States (MOLLUS) began in 1865 and is the first and continuous Civil War organization. If you have an ancestor who was an officer serving in the Union Army, Navy or Marine Corps you may be eligible to join as a Hereditary Companion. Associate membership is also available.

For more information on how to become a member visit our website at: LoyalLegion.org
or Contact Jeff Lilly at jeffdilly@gmail.com



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SUVCW POLO & SWEATSHIRTS



Navy blue short-sleeved polo and long-sleeved sweat shirts with embroidered SUVCW logo and "SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR" around the logo. Embroidery is gold thread on left chest. \$40 ea for all sizes + \$10 for shipping and handling. Contact and ordering information:

Quartermaster - Doug Gilchrist

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 - Dept. of Michigan
10449 Oakland Dr., Apt 2, Portage, MI 49024
dbgilx@gmail.com

VOICES OF PATRIOTISM

Jeffrey French, PDC - National Patriotic Instructor

Our organization, as many others, is experiencing recruitment and retention issues. The Recruitment Guide on our website is a good starting point, however it's a guide not a plan. All levels of our order need to develop a plan/policy on recruitment and retention.

How do we accomplish this? First, we must truly believe and embrace our motto of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. When we exemplify these words into action, the new recruits and current members will feel welcomed and a part of an organization that does and not talk. For example, when you have an individual say they have an ancestor and are interested, show them you're willing to help them join and explain some about us. Provide them with the Application and provide assistance, find out where they live and if they are not in your area help them get in contact with someone who is. Make them feel welcome; this is part of Fraternity.

Once in your camp, let them become involved with a project, listen to their suggestions, and make your meetings interesting and not just a boring business session. Letting them plan, coordinate, and execute a project will go a long way towards retention. Have projects lined up that the camp would like to do and where members can contribute. The goal is for each member to feel they have something to contribute and be a part of. Utilize their knowledge and skills to enhance your Camp, Department, and National projects and goals. This exemplifies Fraternity and Loyalty.

Camps should target recruiting members within an half hour radius. Departments should target new Camp Formations an hour from an existing Camp. This prevents competing for the same pool for new members. National should have a targeted plan for 50 Departments in the United States and a plan for Departments in foreign countries like Canada and United Kingdom.

Recruitment and retention showing brotherhood in word and deed by three simple words; Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. Use events such as headstone dedications, statue restoration, parades, and living history as a vehicle for public involvement. Use social media to tell your story and keep active. Prospective members look at how active you are.

When a brother falls on hard times or a member of the family passes away, show sincere compassion and provide help if within the camp capabilities. This is charity and it goes a long way.

This is just the beginning to developing a plan to recruit and retain. Each level of our Order should brainstorm what works and what doesn't and share with others in our Order. If we do this the SUVCW will once again have 145,000 members. Let's all pull our bootstraps up and get to work on this so we can preserve the memories of the Boys in Blue who sacrificed so much for our country.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty
Jeffrey French, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor
patrioticinstructor@suvchw.org

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS



Daryl Verstrete, Jr - New Quartermaster



Gary Gibson - New CofA



Jim Crane - New National Secretary



Robert Amsler - New CofA



Robert Payne - New JCinC



National Officers 2025-2026

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Questions? MLance387@gmail.com

BROTHERS

Keep your finger on the daily pulse of SUVCW National by following / liking us on social media. Have photos from your Department/Camp/SVR District or Unit activities to share on social media?

Send them to SignalsCorps@suv.org for posting on National's social media, which reaches an audience of 11,000+.

Every vidclip, post or tweet helps honor the Boys in Blue and recruit new members. Huzzah!"

Scan QR code below for more info.



- OBITUARY -

**PASSING OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
DONALD BRADEN “BRAD” SCHALL
1939 - 2025**

It is our sad duty to report Past Commander-in-Chief Donald Braden “Brad” Schall recently passed away at age 85.

PCinC Schall was elected Commander-in-Chief on August 14, 2010 at the 129th annual Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Overland Park, Kansas. Brother Schall served the Order at the Camp, Department and National levels in a multitude of progressively vital positions with particular distinction. At the time of his election Brother Schall was the fifth Californian to be elected Commander-in-Chief.

Born in Hutchinson, Kansas, Brother Brad was introduced to his family’s Civil War history and the Joseph Hooker GAR Post 17 by his “Nana Schall.” As a child, his family participated in Memorial Day services with descendants of members of the Hooker Post, of which his great-grandfather had been a member.

After a notable career in the food industry, in 2002 Brother Brad retired to Lincoln, California. Having joined the Phil Sheridan Camp 4 in San José in the mid-1990s, over the years he held nearly every position in the several Camps to which he belonged. Brother Brad was the organizer of the Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 in 1999 and elected Commander of the Department of California and Pacific in 2002 and 2003.





GETTYSBURG, PA



69th Annual Remembrance Day Parade

Saturday November 15, 2025

Gettysburg, PA

Sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the Military Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War A Parade briefing will be held on November 15 at 12:00 Noon at the Unity Park Monument on Lefever Street.

All units are required to send one representative

Units form up at Noon on Lefever Street Parade will step off at 1:00 PM

For further information please contact: Lt.Colonel David Hann, Provost Marshal SVR

E-mail: majorsvrprovost@gmail.com Cell: 609-816-2012

Join us for the entire day!

Website: suvchw.org/remembrance-day

Please follow Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade on Facebook

Face Book Page QR Code

Remembrance Day Site QR Code





ANNUAL LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY

All are invited to participate in the 69th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 159th Anniversary of President Lincoln’s death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

- **Headquarters Hotel:** Ramada by Wyndam Springfield North, 3281 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. The room rate is \$109.00. This includes complimentary breakfast and free parking. Call 217-523-4000 for reservations and mention “**Sons of Union Veterans**”. **Reserve your room by March 22, 2026.** After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released.

- **Wreaths** may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 11th.

- **Luncheon** VFW Hall, 2349 Stockyard Rd. Meal is a box lunch (6” sub, chips & cookie) for \$16.00 per person.

For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvchw.org) or contact Nick Kaup at: nick.kaup@gmail.com or 847-910-0164.

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION

(PLEASE print clearly)

Organization name in full: _____

Name & title of wreath bearer: _____

e-mail address: _____

if no e-mail, home address: _____

City, State, & Zip code: _____

To insure being recognized in the program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown below.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON

Please accept ___ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door. **PLEASE PRINT.**

___ Club (smoked ham, oven-roasted turkey, thick-cut smoked bacon, swiss, lettuce, roma tomatoes, mayo or mustard)

___ Turkey & Provalone (oven roasted turkey, provolone, lettuce, roma tomatoes, mayo or mustard)

___ Vegetarian (assorted veggies, mayo)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Include remittance of \$16.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to **National Organization SUVCW.**

Reservations must be made by April 5th and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund. There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance to:

SEND TO:

CHER PETROVIC

6519 Cherokee Lane, Cedar Hill, MO 63016

P# 636-274-4567

For Military Parade Information, please contact:

Thomas Brown, Commander 4th Military Dist. SVR

5025 N. 105th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53225

P# 414-429-8979

Email: tjbcarver@sbcglobal.net



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Many Civil War leaders like Grant, Sherman, McClellan and soldiers they commanded saw action in the Mexican War.

The Descendants of Mexican War Veterans is an organization of men and women who have an ancestor or interest in the Mexican War of 1846-1848.

Visit www.dmwv.org or send request SASE to:
D.M.W.V. National Office, P.O. Box 461941, Garland, TX, 75046-1941

Descendants of Mexican War Veterans
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OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
KEVIN P. TUCKER**

58 Forest Street,
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cinc@suvcw.org
(SERIES 2025-2026)

(This notice provides a brief synopsis of the General Orders. Please consult the published General Orders for complete substantive information.)

GENERAL ORDER #1

Having been duly elected and formally installed as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. It is a profound honor—one that I do not take lightly. I accept this responsibility with humility and with a steadfast commitment to uphold the high standards of this office. I pledge to carry out the duties entrusted to me with dignity, with unwavering dedication, and with reverence for the sacred charge we have inherited.

In every decision and in every action, I will seek to honor the memory of our forefathers—the brave men of the Grand Army of the Republic—whose sacrifices preserved the Union and shaped the nation we cherish today.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let us move forward with unity of purpose, bound by our founding principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. May our shared mission continue to inspire us, strengthen our Order, and preserve the legacy we are sworn to protect.

Section I – Commendations

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Brothers of the Department of Texas with Louisiana, whose warm hospitality, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment played a central role in the success of this year's National Encampment. I also wish to commend the Department of Texas National Encampment Host Committee and the National Encampment Site Committee for their exceptional efforts in planning, organizing, and executing an event that was both meaningful and memorable for all who attended. Your hard work reflects great credit upon the Order and exemplifies the spirit of service that sustains us.

I also offer my sincere appreciation and highest praise to our immediate Past Commander-in-Chief, Brother Kevin Martin. Throughout his term, Brother Martin provided steady, principled leadership and gave selflessly of his time and energy for the good of the Order. His dedication, character, and love for the mission of the Sons

of Union Veterans of the Civil War have left an enduring mark. May his example continue to inspire all Brothers in their own service, and may he enjoy continued good health and success in the years ahead.

I further extend heartfelt congratulations to our Allied Orders, including the newly elected National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Danielle Michaels; National President of the Woman's Relief Corps, Cher Petrovic; National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Erin Mongelli; and National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, Norma Fiedler. Your positions represent the trust and confidence of your members, and I look forward to working closely with each of you. May the coming year be one of strong collaboration and shared purpose as we continue our collective efforts to honor the legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Section II – Headquarters and Contact Information

Effective immediately, the Commander-in-Chief's Headquarters is established at:

58 Forest Street, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Primary communication via email: cinc@suvcw.org

Emergency contact via text/phone: (617) 678-6003.

Section III – Contact Information for key National Officers

National Treasurer: Brother D. Michael Beard, PDC;
eMail: treasurer@suvcw.org

National Secretary: Brother James T. Crane, PDC;
eMail: secretary@suvcw.org

National Chief of Staff: Brother Roderick J. Fraser, Jr.,
eMail: chiefofstaff@suvcw.org

Section IV – Reports

All National Officers, National Committee Chairmen and Department Commanders shall submit reports as follows:

In support of the November 16, 2025 Council of Administration Meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Deadline for submitting reports is October 17, 2025.

In support of the April 12, 2026 Council of Administration Meeting in Springfield, Illinois. Deadline for submitting reports is March 13, 2026.

Final report for the 144th National Encampment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Deadline for submitting reports is June 25, 2026.



Section V – Chaplain’s Office

All deaths of Brothers shall be reported via email to:

National Chaplain Dexter Bishop, PDC

eMail: genord9@comcast.net.

Report shall include:

Full name and date of passing

Camp and Department

Union ancestor’s name, rank, and regiment

Family contact info (for condolence card)

Camp Secretaries are reminded that all deaths must also be reported to their Department Secretaries using two copies of Form 30, one of which the Department Secretary will forward on to the Executive Director.

Section VI – Grants and Awards

Civil War Memorials Grant Applications (Form 62) should be submitted by mail to:

Chairman Shane Milburn, PDC, National Committee on Civil War Memorial Grant Fund, 846 Buckskin Trail, Xenia, OH 45385

eMail: CofA2@suvchw.org

ROTC Award Applications (Form 7) should be submitted by mail to:

National ROTC Coordinator Ken Jacobsen, 252 East 1500, Lehi, UT 84043

eMail: rotc@suvchw.org

Eagle Scout Commendation Applications (Form 14) should be submitted via eMail to;

Michael Spaulding, National Eagle Scout Coordinator.
eMail: eaglescouts@suvchw.org

Section VII – The Banner – News and Submissions

All submissions of articles and photographs for The Banner shall be sent to:

James P. Pahl, PCinC, 445 W. Maple Street, Mason, MI 48854-1519

eMail: banner@suvchw.org

Section VIII – National Special Committees

The following National Special Committees shall remain in effect:

National Special Committee on the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the SUVCW (2031)

National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning (2030)

National Special Committee on Social Media Management (2030)

National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the U.S. (2028)

National Special Committee on Memorial University (2027)

National Special Committee on Fundraising (2027)

National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA (2026)

National Special Committee on Grant Writing Materials (2026)

National Special Committee on Chaplain Affairs (Commander-in-Chief Appointed) (2026)

Section IX – Call to Service

The true strength of our Order has always rested in the commitment and character of its members. Time and again—whether in moments of adversity or in times of great opportunity—Brothers have been willing to rise to the occasion, to serve with integrity, and to give freely of their time and talents for the good of the whole. Let no Brother ever doubt his value or hesitate to step forward—whether to take up the mantle of leadership or to contribute through steady, unseen labor. Every act of service matters. Every effort, large or small, moves us forward. Together, guided by our founding principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, we remain united. And as we stand shoulder to shoulder in common purpose, our Order will continue to grow stronger—not only in number, but in spirit.

By order of:

Kevin P. Tucker

Commander-in-Chief

GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

Brothers: As you consider your charitable giving, please keep in mind the good works of the Order. As National now has 501(c)(3) status, gifts to the National Organization are tax deductible as allowed by law. Your donations can be used in many areas. Please check out the link at suvchw.org/give for more information and the giving form. Always consult with your own tax professional.

12 DAYS: THE SEARCH FOR JOHN WILKES BOOTH

Exciting News!!!! Col. Jacob M. Campbell Camp #14 SUVCW of Johnstown, PA is proud to present our original play written by Brother Gregory Zaboroski, "12 Days: The Search For John Wilkes Booth". Showing will be on November 15th at 5pm at the Barn Resort in Gettysburg, PA. It will be performed in-between the Remembrance Day Parade and The Civil War Ball that take place later in the evening. Period Clothing is welcome and encouraged to help give it a more authentic feel. Please see our poster for further information. Tickets can be purchased at <https://tinyurl.com/4uxv79ca> or by scanning the QR Code on our poster. If you have any further questions, please contact:

Rob Koenigsberg P.C.C. 814-244-0899

Rkoenigsberg3@gmail.com

**12 DAYS:
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Col. Jacob M. Campbell Camp #14

EXPANSION OF NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM APPROVED

The Department of New York raised \$36,000 to help conserve New York's Civil War Battle Flags that are deteriorating. The Department Fundraising Committee found a grant for up to \$750,000 to conserve the battle flags. Without hesitation, the committee quickly contacted the curator of the New York Military Museum to start the application process. It was, at that point, we were informed not to apply for the grant due to not having the additional 10,000 square feet of storage space required. Our fundraising efforts came to a screeching halt.

Two brothers as private citizens sprang into action by contacting their State Representatives to acquire the additional 10,000 square feet of storage required to conserve the battle flags. For eight months the brothers stayed in contact with their Representatives.

The newly passed New York State budget includes \$15,000,000 for an expansion of the Museum which will permit a two-story addition of 7,500 square feet per floor for a total of about 15,000 square feet on land already part of the museum's property and immediately to the east of the building. One story will be below grade and the library will move here thus freeing up the existing library for additional storage for the museum's collection including its battle flags, the great majority of which are from the Civil War. The above ground level will hold an expanded conference center which now occupies part of the drill floor thus freeing that space for exhibits primarily covering the conflicts in the mid-east.

This great news should encourage all brothers in the Department of New York to continue their efforts to raise money and apply for the \$750,000 grant to fund the battle flags conservation effort in conjunction with our partner in this, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, like us, a 501 (c) 3 organization.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain Alonzo Hall Quint, 2nd Mass Inf. - date unknown "The Sabbath service is held at half-past four o'clock, P.M. under the lengthening shadows. The drum and fife play 'church call;' the companies are formed as for parade. Each marches to the sound of music, to its place, till the regiment formed three sides of a square, leaving, perhaps, fifteen feet each side of the preacher. Just within the square are the field and staff officers, and the band, which plays a voluntary. At a word of command, the singers leave the ranks and stand near the band. In the service, the men stand until the time for the sermon, when, at the word, 'Rest,' all are seated but still in order. The sermon closing, all instantly rise, uncovered, for prayer and benediction. These ended, 'Attention! Company A, left face, march!' and to the music of the band, the men march to their tents. There is no lack of attention, and never a disrespectful look Sabbath evening, at half-past seven o'clock, it is our prayer meeting, lately establish. It is held, now, in an open space, near the tents if our band. Each time, it has been a dark evening.

A few candles cast a dim light. The flame of near or distant camp-fires shines fitfully on the browned faces of hardy men, bringing into deeper shadow the somber blue of their uniform. They stand closely - a hundred of them. A familiar revival hymn, perhaps 'Behold, behold the Lamb of God,' or "We're going home, to die no more," attracts others, for music is a great charm in camp. A prayer, a reading of Scripture, a short address from the chaplain, singing, and then all are invited to speak, or pray, or sing. One comes forward quietly into a little vacant space, and in a low voice testifies to the grace of God. The another; and one prays, or singing breaks forth; or one, in whose heart the springs have long been choked up, bears witness that the fountain is once more gushing, and mourns over his sins. Here and there are visible tears rolling down some rough cheek; 'it seems so like home,' or 'it makes us feel human,' or "it reminds one of a praying father.' The hour passes. Tired? No; though no cushioned seats have rested them - they have all been standing the whole period. But they have rested upon the grace of God; and they look forward with yearning hearts to the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting."

From: Horatio B. Hackett, Christian Memorials of the War (Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1864), 126-28.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Deacon Dexter A. Bishop, PDC.
National Chaplain

Dexter is a Deacon and member of the First Baptist Church of Lynn Massachusetts. As a Deacon his duties include preaching, teaching, leading Sunday service and prayer among other things.

FINAL MUSTER

John 11: 25 -26

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life.....

Lord we come to You this day and celebrate the lives of our departed Brothers. We pray that your Holy Spirit will comfort those who mourn the loss of their loved ones. May the knowledge that their departed Brothers are with You bring piece, comfort and strength as they deal with their loss. In Jesus name we ask these things. Amen!

*Dexter A. Bishop
National Chaplain*

Dale J Brazsser

Col. Henry Hamden Camp #2 (Wisconsin)
1/13/2025

Theodore A. Spiegel

Oliver Tilden Camp # 26 (New York)
4/30/2025

Kenneth W Bailey, PCC

Westport Camp #64 (Missouri)
5/18/2025

Robert P Fullerton

Centennial Camp #100 (Colorado/Wyoming)
5/25/2025

James Hugh Johnston, PCC

Robert Mitchell Camp #206 (Iowa)
6/4/2025

Frاند Alfred Patten

MG James H Wilson Camp #1 (Alabama)
2/18/2023

Douglas E. McGovern, PDC

Col Patrick Coyne Camp #1 (Kansas)
7/21/2025

Leland Luewelin Burlison

Old Abe Camp #8 (Wisconsin)
7/15/2025

Thomas William Granger, Jr

MG John T Croxton Camp #17 (Alabama)
7/22/2025

Lanny Leroy Witter

Col William Colvill Camp #56 (Wisconsin)
7/12/2025

William H. Underhill

Col George I Willard Camp #154 (New York)
6/2/2025

Russell H Gordon, PCC

March to the Sea Camp #135 (Michigan)
Dual Col. Henry B Carrington Camp 3
(Colorado/Wyoming)
8/1/2025

Rolf Cole Maris, PCC

North Carolina Union Volunteers Camp #5
(North Carolina)
7/24/2025

Bernard Isaac Lewis

Life Member 775
Phineas Catlin Camp #341 (New York)
8/1/2025

Aylmer M Gifford

Life Member 33
Old Glory Camp #6165 (Illinois)
8/4/2025

Glenn V Leeper, Jr

Gen Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 (Michigan)
12/30/2023

David Lee Conklin

Gen Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 (Michigan)
8/2/2025

HONOR ROLL OF FINANCIAL DONORS TO THE ORDER

Clay T Hoffman
Michael A Paquette
Wayne Wehrheim
Mark Day
Alan L Russ
Timothy McCoy
Dave Demmy
Glenn Martin
Bruce Frail

Linn Malazink
Robert Amsler
Sumner Honeywell
Loring Shultz Living Trust
Quality Inn Gettysburg Battlefield
Lancaster County Living History Association
Annabel Sheron
David Bailey



- OBITUARY -

MARGARET ATKINSON
1928 - 2025

Margaret Atkinson passed away peacefully on July 10, 2025, at the age of 97. She was the beloved wife of the late Bud Atkinson, with whom she shared 68 years of marriage.

Born and raised in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, Margaret devoted her life to her family and community. She was a dedicated homemaker and also worked as a bookkeeper at Mayo Nursing Home. She was a lifelong member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder, Sunday School teacher, and choir member.

She was a member of over 75 years and past National President of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, serving for two years, 1994 to 1996. She was a member of the GAR Museum in Philadelphia. She also served her community as a Judge of Elections in Northeast Philadelphia. For the last nine years of her life, Margaret was a resident of Paul's Run, where she continued her legacy of leadership and service as President of the Resident Committee.

LIFE MEMBERS

Since Summer Banner Vol 129, No 4

New Life Members

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1241 Powers, Paul Josphe | Ulysses S Grant Camp 68 Missouri |
| 1242 Wilhelm, Robert John | Gen Nathaniel Lyon Camp 10 New Jersey |
| 1243 Golladay, Walter D | Gen William Lytle Camp 10 Ohio |
| 1244 Scanlan, Dennis Paul | Gen R H G Minty Camp SW 2 Southwest |
| 1245 Harriman, Chris Lee | Gen. William T. Sherman MAL Camp 25 Florida |
| 1246 Davis, Daniel Yeo | Gen William Lytle Camp 10 Ohio |
| 1247 VanOver, Kash | William Baumgartner Camp 33 Indiana |
| 1248 Price, Joshua Daniel | Col William Colvill Camp 56 Wisconsin |
| 1249 McGraw Jr, Donald Charles | Gen William Lytle Camp 10 Ohio |
| 1250 Bogino, Charles Hoover | Lincoln-Cushing Washington DC Camp 2 Chesapeake |
| 1251 Lewis, Mark W | Bay State Camp 61 Massachusetts |
| 1252 Corey, Steven John | Fort Donelson Camp 62 Tennessee |
| 1253 Hall, Frederick George | Sgt William Pittenger Camp 21 California |

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF
ADMINISTRATION MEETING**

**August 7, 2025
Houston, Texas**

(Note from the Editor) This is a synopsis of the minutes as edited by the Banner Editor. The full minutes, when approved, will be posted on the Order's website and is the official version)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Commander-in-Chief Kevin L. Martin. Chaplain Jones gave the invocation, followed by the attendees reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. From the Springfield COA Meeting, April 12, 2025.

a. Recommendation to modify forms 10 and 11. Completed

b. A committee headed by the National Treasurer formed to help any remaining Camps get all of the correct paperwork submitted and accepted by the IRS. This has been done.

c. The future of the GAR Highway Signs referred to the incoming CinC.

d. The National Washington DC Representative as been issued a US flag w/pole and cover and 2 baldrics/flag carrier harnesses to support SUV CW events in the Washington DC area.

e. Email Motions 12 through 20 approved.

2. Recommendations from Encampment Reports.

Recommendation to change the PCinC badge to vermeil/gilded silver (a heavy gold plating on a base of silver) failed.

Incoming CinC to consider special committee for the 150th Anniversary of the Order.

National Treasurer to explore current insurance coverage as to cyber issues and obtain quotes if additional coverage may be necessary/desired.

Several changes in forms and procedures by the National Patriotic Instructor referred to the incoming National Patriotic Instructor.

Incoming CinC will consider using facsimile signature on cadet award certificates.

ROTC Coordinator is to prepare proposed instruction sheet to accompany form and submit to P&P.

The incoming CinC will reconsider changes on the ROTC section of website after P&P addresses recommendation

Recommendation that Departments and Camps have a Cadet Recognition Coordinator. No action, as the Departments and Camps already have that authority.

Recommendations to revise Form 12: Sent to P&P.

Several proposed changes to the 250th Birthday events will be considered by the incoming CinC.

Recommendations for changes in the Banner for charitable giving, referred to Banner Editor.

CofA will explore the possibility of using a commemorative Henry Rifle made to raise funds. The company has a special fund-raising program.

Recommended continued participation in the RootsTech Conference. Tabled.

Recommendations the charitable foundation be dissolved. Ruled out of Order by the CinC.

Resolution Supporting Rescinding General Order #4 (Series 2024-2025) to Encampment

Recommendation for changes to The Cadet Award Form 7. Referred to P&P.

The CofA went into Executive Session for ten minutes. Council returned from executive session. No action was taken while in executive session.

Motion to award Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star, failed

Brother Pierson, PCniC given authorization to proceed with exploring to purchase PCinC flags for sale to PCinCs through QM Store.

Alan L. Russ, PDC
National Secretary



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF
ADMINISTRATION MEETING
August 10, 2025
Houston, Texas**

(Note from the Editor) This is a synopsis of the minutes as edited by the Banner Editor. The full minutes, when approved, will be posted on the Order's website and is the official version)

A regular meeting of the National Council of Administration was held at Houston, Texas on August 10, 2025 for the purpose of discussing and acting upon the business to come before it.

The meeting was called to Order at 8:00AM by Commander in Chief Kevin Tucker. Chaplain Bishop gave the Invocation, followed by the attendee's reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. The CinC will be forming a committee to start planning for the 150th anniversary of our Order. .
3. National Special Committee on 250th Celebration will receive funding of 6,000.00
4. Dept pf Colo/Wyoming request for continued sponsorship of Roots Tech referred to promotions and Marketing Committee
5. 2025-2026 budget approved
6. Registration fees for National Encampments will increase to \$20 with in person registration to be \$25.00
7. NMAL dues will remain at the same amount.
8. Application fee will remain at \$10.00.

James Crane, PDC
National Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL QUARTERMASTER

It is with great enthusiasm that I begin my term as National Quartermaster. I am deeply honored by this opportunity and mindful of the big shoes I have to fill. Brother Bobbi Welch has served with distinction, and I commend him for his outstanding work.

A bit of background about me: I have been an active member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for many years, dedicated to honoring the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union. This role carries personal meaning for me, as I proudly trace my lineage to my third great-grandfather, **James Martin Wolf**, a Union soldier whose service inspires my continued commitment. Like many of you, I believe it is our sacred duty to carry forward the legacy of the **Grand Army of the Republic**—an organization built by those who gave so much for our country.

As we move forward into the new year, I am filled with gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose—not only for the role I now undertake, but also for the opportunity to serve an organization built on sacrifice, unity, and remembrance.

The **Grand Army of the Republic** laid the foundation for our Order, and we proudly represent the **Boys in Blue**—those who gave their all to preserve the Union. As **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**, let us embrace the year ahead with enthusiasm and continue to uphold the sacred legacy entrusted to us.

Let us move forward in the spirit of **Faith, Charity, and Loyalty**, knowing that we are strongest when all branches of our Order work together.

As National Quartermaster, I am committed to building on the momentum established by Brother Welch and the Council of Administration. I kindly ask for your patience as we transfer merchandise and open the store at its new location.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION.
LET'S MAKE THIS A FANTASTIC YEAR.**

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Daryl VerStrete, Jr., PDC
National Quartermaster



144TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT AWARDS

Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award:

ASUVCW PNP Ramona Greenwalt, Department of Ohio

Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award (Best camp):

General Orlando Poe Camp 444, Department of Michigan

Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award (Brother of the Year):

Brother W. Faron Taylor, PDC, James A. Garfield Camp 1, Department of the Chesapeake

Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star:

Brother Michael S. Emmett, General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18, Department of California and Pacific

Meritorious Service Award:

Brother John Decker, PDC, Col. Henry Hamden Camp 2, Department of Wisconsin.

Brother Tad Campbell, PCinC, Phil Sheridan Camp 4, Department of California and Pacific

Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award:

Brother George Shadman, David C. Caywood Camp 146, Department of New York

David R. Medert Award (Most new members recruited in the past year):

Brother Brandon Villardi, Department of California and Pacific

National Aide Award (Recruit five or more new members in the past year):

Brothers Brandon Villardi, Department of California and Pacific;

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin;

Timothy O'Neal, Department of the Columbia

Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award (Department with greatest number of new members):

Department of Pennsylvania

U.S. Grant Cup (Department with greatest percentage increase):

Department of Oklahoma

Under Forty Award (Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty):

Department of Pennsylvania

Marshall Hope Award (Best newsletter):

Camp: General Orlando Poe Camp 444, Department of Michigan

Department: Department of Ohio

Horace Greeley Award (Best website):

Camp: General Orlando Poe Camp 444, Department of Michigan

ALABAMA



As they have every May 30th since 1997, members and guests of the Major General James H. Wilson Camp #1 joined together at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial in Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery, Alabama. In a ceremony that remains virtually unchanged through the years, the GAR Memorial was rededicated, the names of those buried were read, and flags were placed on the graves of 17 known and 19 unknown soldiers of the Union who lay in the cemetery. The flags remain in place throughout the year until the next Memorial Day. The Camp has been supported each year by Phillip Taunton, sexton of Oakwood Cemetery, who ensures the Memorial area is maintained and the flag is positioned at half-mast before the ceremony.

ARKANSAS



After years of planning, the 30th Department of Missouri Encampment on 7 June 2025 unanimously approved a request for the Arkansas-based camps to withdrawal from Department of Missouri to form a new Department of Arkansas:

- General James B. McPherson #1 (Springdale)
- Isaac Murph Camp #2 (Little Rock)
- John Talkington Camp #3 (Van Buren)
- Captain G. N. Spradling Camp #72 (Fort Smith)

The organizing meeting was held on 21 June 2025 at the Drennen-Scott Historic Site in Van Buren, Arkansas with twenty one attending. Bylaws were approved and elections were held, with the new officers installed per the Order's Ritual. The Department made their debut appearance at the 144th National Encampment in Houston, Texas.

CALIFORNIA / PACIFIC



The Drum Barracks is the premier Civil War museum in Southern California. On June 28, 2025, the Drum Barracks hosted a Civil War Technology Fair. Among the exhibits was a pair of camels. On hand was a Dromedary and Bactrian camel. Both breeds were used in the 1857 trails. Members of Rosecrans Camp No. 2, took a break from their own display for a meet and greet with these "ships of the desert".

William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 of Northern Nevada setup at the De Goyler Horse and Bull Bash on June 28th in Fallon NV to meet the public and introduce them to the Civil War. We drew them in with a collection of original Civil War rifles, revolvers, and swords. The adults, and especially the children, marveled at the old arms, and what it took to use them in battle.



General George Stoneman Jr., Camp 18, conducted our annual Memorial Day ceremony on 24 May at Evergreen Memorial Park in Riverside, CA. Camp 18 presented the Colors during the National Anthem, provided the honor guard detail for the wreath presentation to the GAR monument; provided escorts for the wreath presenters to the six military service flags and POW/MIA flag and accomplished the musket firing detail in conjunction with TAPs.

CHESAPEAKE

In 2015, the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia began work on the new Riverside Park along Sofia Street, on the banks of the Rappahannock River. During the excavation of the land, human remains were inadvertently discovered. Archeologists believe they were in an original

resting place for the remains of three Union soldiers. The resting place also included a bundle of textiles and artifacts which appeared to be “uniform material” of the deceased soldiers, as it contained the remains of a Union uniform coat(s) and pants, as well as objects in the pockets.



After the discovery of the remains in 2015, the City of Fredericksburg, the National Park Service (USNPS), and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources collaborated to coordinate the respectful reburial of the remains in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. Because the remains were found on City property, certain procedural requirements had to be met before reburial could occur.

The Irish Brigade Camp, #4, Fredericksburg contacted the Park Service, and joined in the effort to have the remains interred in the national cemetery. This began a ten-year process of coordination, meetings, permitting, DNA testing, records research, discussions, demands, and negotiations, to accomplish the mission, as the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg had been officially “closed to all new burials,” since the 1940’s.

On May 2, 2025, The Irish Brigade Camp #4 conducted a processional into the National Cemetery led by an SVR color guard, and an internment ceremony conducted. The Camp provided a five-man color guard, three pallbearers along with one from American Legion Post 55, Fredericksburg, a bugler from Bugles Across America, and a bagpiper from the local pipe band. Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard (29th Infantry Division) conducted the folding of the period correct, 34-star flag which had draped the casket and taps was played by the bugler.

COLORADO / WYOMING

Department of Colorado-Wyoming participated in two events at Fort Laramie Colorado commemorating two events that occurred during the Summer of 1865 on August 7 – August 10, 2025.

Company K, 3rd U.S Volunteer Infantry (Galvanized Yankees, former Confederate POWs) surrendered to Union forces in December 1864 and were held by the United States as deserters, but were saved from prosecution by being enlisted in the 5th and 6th U.S.

Volunteers. These Volunteers were marched from Fort Leavenworth Kansas to Fort Laramie along with Company H, 15th Cavalry.



The second was the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, which illustrates the complexities of U.S.- Native American relations and the struggles over land rights.

ILLINOIS



The George A. Custer Camp #1 and the Old Glory Camp #6165 joined together to honor Flag Day at Rosehill Cemetery. They were joined by units from the Chicago Police and Fire Departments. Additional units included our SVR artillery, Battery “L” and Chicago Light Artillery Regiment reenactment unit.



On Tuesday evening, July 15th George A. Custer Camp #1 recognized Eagle Scout Zayn Ali. He was recognized for his leadership and project accomplishments. Included in his project were the cleaning, resetting, veteran research, identification and cataloging a large number of neglected and poorly maintained military markers. Through his planning and execution, he directed a group of fellow scouts to its successful.

INDIANA



The John W. Foster Camp #2 participated in the Memorial Day event at the Gibson County Courthouse in front of the 58th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry monument. The event included several local Veterans groups and U.S. Congressman Mark Messmer.



On August 7, 2025, members of Company D, 27th Indiana SVR Color Guard took part in a Naturalization Ceremony at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Serving as the Color Guard Detail for the National Park Service, the 27th opened the event by posting the colors. The Honorable Matthew P. Brookman from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, assisted by Immigration Services Officer Susan Bales, presided over the ceremony that welcomed about 50 individuals from 10 counties as new U.S. citizens. Following the event, members of the 27th Indiana SVR greeted the new citizens, celebrating their significant achievement.



Brothers of the Gen Harrison Camp #356 participated in the remembrance of President Ben Harrison's birthday; a Presidential Wreath laying ceremony took place at Crown

Hill Cemetery on Saturday. Our 23rd President Ben Harrison was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic having served in the 70th Indiana during the Civil War.

IOWA



On May 22, 2025, Robert Mitchell Camp #206, with the assistance of American Legion Post #6, both based in Dubuque, Iowa, dedicated three new grave markers in the Civil War section of Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque.

KANSAS

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp #4, held a cemetery work day on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at Maple Grove Cemetery on the northeastern edge of Lawrence, KS. The group spent this work day in the African-American section of the cemetery. They raised and straightened a number of headstones and cleaned around 20 stones.



At a recent meeting of the Franklin Camp #5, the brothers welcomed Mr. Steve Woelk to the gathering where he provided the evening's presentation. Mr. Woelk is a survivor of the January 1968 capture of the U.S. Navy Vessel USS Pueblo by North Korea. Mr. Woelk and his shipmates were held captive and tortured for 11 months. He spoke about what the crew endured during captivity and their treatment upon returning home.





Brothers of the Franklin Camp #5 presented a Quilt-of-Valor to Kansas House Representative Mike Thompson (U.S. Army Lt. Colonel, retired) The camp, along with the Quilt of Valor Foundation honored six United States Veterans with a comforting quilt during the ceremony.

KENTUCKY



On July 12, 2025 Members of Ft. Duffield Camp No. 1 conducted a ceremony in London, KY dedicating a headstone honoring Corporal Preston C. Goforth, Company F, 24th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. Previously unmarked, the ceremony was attended by 26 descendants.

MICHIGAN



Michigan has been busy with Eagle Scout Ceremonies. Eagle Scout Luke Bako, Troop 1722 Wyandotte and Eagle Scout Gavin Payne Troop 1139 Fremont.

Brothers of the Nash-Hodges Camp #43 organized and held a military marker dedication May 18th for Private Aaron Bromley, at the Woodland Cemetery in Monroe,



Michigan. This was Brother Austin Ingalls (age 16) 2025 American Battlefield Trust Youth Leadership Team local history project. He is the first high school student picked for this honor in Michigan. Austin spent months working with the City of Monroe and numerous other organizations, researching Private Bromley, Monroe County African American soldiers and the 102nd U.S.C.T. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony. The Camp was joined by members of the 14th Michigan, SVR. A beautiful replica regimental 1st Michigan Colored Infantry flag was brought from Lansing by Chairman/Curator of Save the Flags, Matt VanAcker for the ceremony.

MISSOURI



A School of the Piece, a muzzle-loading artillery safety qualification program was held June 28, 2025, on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort. The program was presented by the National Civil War Artillery Association and the Sons of Veterans Reserve of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Thirty-eight-cannoneers, including brothers from Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, were instructed by seven NCWAA instructors.



Four of Missouri's Past Department Commanders of the Gen. Thomas C Fletcher Camp #47 walked in the DeSoto, MO 4th of July Parade.

NEBRASKA



On Sunday July 6, 2025 members of the Victor Vifquain Camp No. 1, Shiloh Camp No. 2 and James C. Welstead Camp No 3. and Nebraska Rangers SVR posted the colors for the first Lincoln Municipal Band Concert at the Antelope Park band shell in Lincoln Nebraska.



On May 29th, ADM Farragut Camp No. 5 awarded 16 Mobile County School's cadets the JROTC award and certificate for 2025.

NEW JERSEY



George Armstrong Custer Camp #17 and General Phillip Kearny Camp #20 at the Battle of Monmouth reenactment with a recruitment table.

NEW YORK



June 14th, 2025 saw brothers of the Walter H French Camp #17, Lowville Post 6912, VFW, and the Marine Corps League #754 gathered to conduct a headstone Dedication Ceremony for Nicholas Guepe and Charles Lamphere at Lowville Rural Cemetery, attended by descendants of Nicolas Guepe.



Brothers of the Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544 met with Mr. Gus Tsiorvas of the Embassy Diner, Bethpage, NY and presented him with a Certificate to recognize the Patriotic Flag display.

PENNSYLVANIA



Brothers of Isaac Eaton Camp No 504 took part in the Re dedication of the Civil War Monument at the Mercer County Court House after being damaged from a storm, it had been repaired and replaced.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

TENNESSEE

Missionary Ridge Camp #63 replaced the worn and faded marker of John Richards, Battery B 1st Battalion Tennessee Light Artillery at Rockville Cemetery in Sweetwater, TN.



Day. William Scott was a member of the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Black Infantry Regiment and is buried in Rutland, Vermont's West Street Cemetery.

WISCONSIN



Brothers of the William Colvill, Camp 56, in partnership with Friends of the Boy in Blue Civil War Veterans Memorial of Mankato, Minnesota, have been very busy with "Decoration Day" ceremonies this past Memorial Day at the "Boy in Blue" memorial. The original memorial was dedicated in 1893, but by 1927, in disrepair, was dismantled. A group formed in 2010 and raised over \$190,000, re-building the "Boy in Blue", where ceremonies have taken place since the re-dedication in 2015.

TEXAS



On Monday April 28, 2025 brothers of the newly established San Antonio's General Edward O.C. Ord Camp #3 were able to participate in the annual Pilgrimage to the Alamo as part of the annual Fiesta Celebrations. They rendered honors to the Alamo Defenders and offered a floral offering.



VERMONT



Through efforts of brothers of the Col. Hans Heg Camp #15, the post office building in Muskego was dedicated as the Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office on June 30. Heg, of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry, was from the nearby Town of Norway and killed at Chickamauga. Camp 15 worked for years to get this honor for its namesake. It took an act of Congress, and two congressmen spoke at the event. Two Heg descendants also spoke.

A brother of the Ripley Camp #4 places a new flag on Civil War veteran William Scott's grave for Memorial

OUR HERITAGE

BY GARY GIBSON, PDC - NATIONAL HISTORIAN

THE HONOR OF ALL HONORS

In the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, there is one honor rarely bestowed on a Brother of the Order. So rarely, in fact, that in 144 years it has only been given five times. Each time but one, the Past Commander-in-Chief badge was presented.

At our recent National Encampment in Houston, Brother Robert J. Wolz, PDC, Department of Ohio, was presented with a Past Commander-in-Chief's badge. In 2023, with the endorsement of several Past Commanders-in-Chief, the Encampment voted to honor Bob for not only his 60 years of membership and dedicated service, but the fact that he served two years as Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, and both times was prevented from being elected Commander-in-Chief. He was told, as a 30-year-old, he was too young to be Commander-in-Chief, regardless of the outstanding work he accomplished in several offices. He was also promised that he would be elected Commander-in-Chief at a later date. Despite that injustice (over forty years ago) Bob has continued to work tirelessly and selflessly for the good of the Order. Among many later accomplishments, he served as editor of *The Banner* in the 1980's and 20 years as Historian. Bob researched, authored and published the definitive history of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, *Grand Army Men*. His dedication to the SUVCW never wavered.

The first recipient was our founder, Major Augustus Plummer Davis, known by the Brothers then as "Father Davis". Major Davis even went as far as to neglect his insurance business while working to develop the structure of the Sons. He wrote the first Constitution, Rules and Regulations. He created the rituals that we still use today. He, in working with the Philadelphia jeweler Baily, Banks & Biddle, designed our badges, and paid for the dies and the first production run. He also designed our coat of arms. Major Davis was voted a Past Commander-in-Chief in 1883.

The second was Colonel Richard M.J. Reed, of Philadelphia, PA, at the 8th National Encampment held at Patterson, NJ. He was instrumental in the consolidation between the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans and our organization in 1885, bringing in over 6,000 members and several Camps in one instance. Brother Reed was bestowed with the rank of Past Commander-in-Chief in 1899.

Third was Horace H. Hammer. Brother Hammer served as National Secretary for 36 consecutive years. (with several years as National Secretary-Treasurer) At that time, there was no Executive Director – Brother Hammer did it all out of a rented office in Reading, PA. Brother Hammer was given the honor by the National Encampment in 1939. He remained in office until 1949.

Comrade and Brother Albert Woolson, the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, was voted the honor of Past Commander-in-Chief at the 1953 National Encampment held in Buffalo, New York. Brother Woolson executed the Deed of Conveyance and was responsible for the SUVCW being named the legal heir and official representative of the Grand Army of the Republic. He received a cash gift in lieu of the badge.

These Brothers all provided outstanding, crucial service for our Order, and deserve the thanks and appreciation of the entire organization.



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

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