

THE BANNER

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ALLIED ORDER'S UNITE

ON THE ROAD WITH THE CINC



THE BANNER

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SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

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

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KUDOS: To those Brothers who wear their member badge when representing the Order

On The Cover: left to right, Cher Petrovic, National President, Woman's Relief Corp., Rosemary Martin, National President, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Kevin Martin, Commander-in-Chief, Erin Mongelli, National President, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and Norma Fiedler, National President, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865.



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DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS



Illinois



Indiana



Kentucky



Michigan



North Carolina



- OBITUARY -

Marcia Kay Butgereit 1954 – 2025

Marcia was born on October 27, 1954, to Fred and Mary (Hoitinga) Bruin of Grand Rapids, MI. She attended Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music 1972-1973. Marcia earned both her Associate in Science (Business Management) and her Bachelor of Business Administration (Management) from Davenport College in 1989. In 1994, Marcia received her Master of Business Association from Grand Valley State University.

Marcia took great personal pride as a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. (WRC). She became a member of the Colegrove Corps No. 232 in Marshall, MI in 2000. In that same year, and at her first national convention, Marcia was elected to serve on the National Executive Board. In November of 2000, Marcia transferred to the Champlin Corps No. 41 of Grand Rapids and was elected President of that Corps.

Of the several offices she held in the Champlin Corps, the Department (state) and National organization, serving as the National Chaplain was her most fulfilling. As National President (2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010), she felt it a high honor to place a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery on each Memorial Day. She also enjoyed presenting deserving cadets at West Point Military Academy and midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy awards from the WRC.

LONDON - CAMP AT LARGE



The Ensign John Davis Camp No. 10, at Large, London, England, held its annual commemoration of Memorial Day by laying a specially-commissioned wreath at the splendid statue of Abraham Lincoln in Parliament Square, London, given by the people of the United States to the people of the United Kingdom in 1920. Our Patriotic Instructor gave a stirring talk on the relevance of the Civil War to both countries, and referring to the fact that at least 1,200 Union veterans are buried here. See the full text on our website suvcw.org.uk.

The event generated great interest among the many tourist from across the world passing the statue on their way between the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, both close by. A couple from Uruguay took the photographs shown here, and a family from Texas were intrigued to come

across a Civil War-related ceremony so far from home; talking with both groups underscored the fact that there is widespread public interest well beyond the United States in the subject of the Civil War and its era.

Our Camp has also published the latest in our series of Civil War-related articles in *The American* magazine, published for US citizens living and working in the UK. It related the story of five British women who saw service in the war: four who served as nurses, two even receiving Federal War Pensions, and the astonishing take of one who was actually a coal heaver on a ship supplying the blockading fleet with coal!



WANTED A FEW GOOD MEN

GENERAL GRANT IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN
TO JOIN HIM AS A MEMBER OF MOLLUS

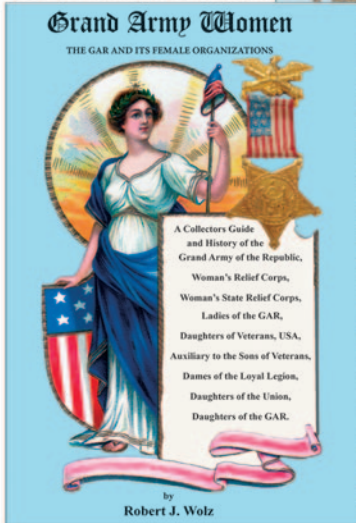
The Military Order Of The Loyal Legion Of The United States (MOLLUS) is the first and continuous Civil War Organization since 1865. If you have an ancestor who was an officer serving in the Union Army, Navy or Marine Corps you may be eligible to join as a Hereditary Companion. Associate membership is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

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



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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

Tad D. Campbell - National Patriotic Instructor

Juneteenth, celebrated annually on June 19th, is also called Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, and it is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, having been first observed in 1866. It was made a national holiday in 2021. The date was selected because of the following order issued 160 years ago by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger:

Head Quarters District of Texas, Galveston, Texas, June 19, 1865 - General Orders, No. 3

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

Here are some thoughts of common Union soldiers about the issue of slavery:

“As long as we ignore the fact (practically) that Slavery is the basis of this struggle so long are we simply [cutting] down a vigorously growing plant that will continually spring up and give new trouble at very short intervals. We must emancipate.”

QM Sgt. Thomas Low, 23rd New York Artillery, diary entry, March 29, 1862.

“I am getting to be more and more of an abolitionist. I believe that this accursed institution must go down. We can never have a permanent peace as long ... as this curse stains our otherwise fair insignia. The ruler of nations can never prosper these United States until it blots slavery from existence. He can no longer wink at such atrocities. This must be the grand, the final issue. I hope the powers that be will soon see it and act accordingly. It may be that we have not suffered enough yet, that the bones of a few more thousands of soldiers must bleach in the dismal swamps of the south, that a few more homes must be desolated, that suffering and desolation be more widely sown throughout the land, but come it must, postpone it as we may. Thank God a few bright spots are luring up in the distant horizon, small it is true. But they will expand and grow brighter. We are to guard rebel property no more, and fugitives are no longer to be returned when they come within our lines. Thank God the American Soldier is no longer to be used as a slave catcher, no longer to drive helpless women around at the point of the bayonet, and be obliged to obey orders that makes him almost ashamed of being an American Soldier.”

Letter from John P. Jones, unit unidentified, to his wife, August 24, 1862.

“As sure as God is God and right is right, so sure may we look for the war to end... in the accomplishment of its glorious object, ... the liberation of this oppressed and down trodden race... I would prefer ten years war yet and no more slavery, than Peace tomorrow, with slavery. Such is my abhorrence of that Barbarous institution.”

Sgt. James W. Jesse, 8th Illinois Infantry, diary entry, December 31, 1863.

While not all of them had such ardent feelings about emancipation, we can be justly proud of the part our Union ancestors played in gaining the freedom of those in bondage!

HUZZAH! HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
National Patriotic Instructor
Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
patrioticinstructor@suvvw.org

FINAL MUSTER

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brothers. We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints. Amen.

*Rev Douglas Jones
National Chaplain*

Henry Robinson

Edward Wallace Camp #21 (Georgia & South Carolina)
1/3/2025

Jack Conrad Meadows Jr

Charles Devens Jr Camp #10 (Georgia)
12/26/2024

Jared Daniel Richhart, PCC

BG Thomas L Kane Camp 15 (Colorado & Wyoming)
4/25/2025

Robert Dean Boyd Jr, PDC

Humboldt Camp #9 (Kansas)
4/26/2025

Philip Louis Beckerich III

Pvt John Davis Camp #10 (Colorado & Wyoming)
3/10/2025

Peter Anthony Braell

Sgt Judson A Hicks Camp #112 (New York)
4/19/2025

John Thomas Dietz

Nelson Garfield Camp #3 (Kentucky)
12/6/2024

Lew Michael Thomas

Orlando A Somers Camp #1 (Indiana)
6/3/2024

Donald Darrel Gilliland

Old Abe Camp #16 (Kansas)
4/28/2025

John Allen Boyer, PCC

Capt Edger M Ruhl Camp #33 (New York)
5/2/2025

Roger A. Wheeler, Sr, PDC

Life Member 259
Greenville M Dodge Camp #75 (Iowa)
5/16/2025

Ambrose Gary Simon

Gibbon Burke Camp #2 (North Carolina)
9/12/2024

Richard G. Hutchins

Gilluly Kingsley Camp #120 (Michigan)
5/9/2025

Jay Robert Simmons

Picacho Peak Camp #1 (Southwest)
4/12/2025

Ernest Bacon

Fort Donelson Camp #52 (Tennessee)
1/20/2025

Edwin Barnhardt Leaf Jr

Garfield Camp #4 (New Jersey)
6/20/2024

Runkel Rea Nolan, Jr, PCC

Garfield Camp #4 (New Jersey)
3/5/2025

Frederick Walcott Miller

Philip H Sheridan Camp #2 (Illinois)
12/22/2024

Frederick W Otto

Sgt Hiram W Pursell Camp #102 (New Jersey)
8/22/2024

Thomas A Corcoran, PCC

Life Member 636
Col Louis R Francine Camp #7 (New Jersey)
3/28/2025

William Russell Shackleford, PCC

Missionary Ridge Camp #63 (Tennessee)
8/10/2024

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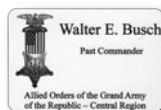
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website: www.nobg.org



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

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Civil War Chaplains

“I have very little method,” Charles Humphreys, chaplain of the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry, wrote to a fellow minister in April 1864, “but from necessity more than from choice.” Very little method aptly summed up the state of the chaplaincy, and the attitude of the two warring governments towards it, throughout the Civil War. Both the Union and Confederate governments were slow to make provisions for the appointment of chaplains to minister to the spiritual needs of their soldiers, and the role remained poorly defined and even more poorly paid on both sides.

Questions persisted: were chaplains civilians, or combatants? Could they bear arms as well as Bibles? Should they be given an officer’s rank? Did governmental interference in the appointment of chaplains violate the separation of church and state? And what, precisely, were the duties of the chaplain? Few of these questions were satisfactorily answered during the war.

2,398 men served as chaplains for the Union, and 938 served the Confederacy. Many Christian denominations were represented, although the Methodists dominated in both sections. Initially, General Order no. 15, which established the position in the Union army, stipulated that the chaplain must represent a Christian denomination. This was revised in

1862 to allow rabbis to represent Jewish soldiers. Fourteen African American men served as chaplains among the United States Colored Troops (USCT), where they faced much of the same discrimination and prejudice encountered by black soldiers.

Chaplains also found themselves taking on far more mundane, practical duties beyond their official spiritual remit. They were frequently engaged in letter-writing for those too ill to hold a pen, and often acted as postmaster for the hospital, collecting and distributing mail. Some acted as unofficial librarians, handing out literature to bored convalescents. Usually this was of a religious or moral tenor, but some chaplains were happy to hand out novels and newspapers.

Sometimes the work was physical, and exhausting. Chaplains, in the short-staffed and overcrowded hospitals, were frequently enlisted to help lift patients, carry supplies, and erect temporary structures. Some performed basic medical procedures like dressing wounds. Just like their counterparts on the battlefield, hospital chaplains had to be fit and healthy – and in the hospital they too were exposed to contagion and disease on a daily basis.

Chaplain William Corby and other members of the Irish Brigade. Harrison’s Landing, Va. Sitting from left to right: Captain Clooney, Eighty-eighth New York, Father Dillon, Chaplain of the Sixty-third New York, and Father Corby, Chaplain of the Eighty-eighth New York. Standing from left to right: Visiting priest and Colonel Patrick Kelly, Eighty-eighth New York. Courtesy of the Library Of Congress

A chaplain’s work was harrowing, improvised, and all too often underappreciated. Charles Humphreys spoke frankly of his coping strategy for dealing with the unpredictability and tribulations of the job. “If there is any single rule that runs through all my work,” he concluded to his friend Edward Hall, “it is this: to be kind to all...I think my work will be surer if I do not assume any premature dignity or unwarranted authority, but trust to the pervasive influence of charity and love.”

Edited from an article by Dr. Rachel Williams and reprinted with permission. The complete article is available on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine’s website. Dr. Williams is Lecturer in American History at the University of Hull, UK.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Rev Douglas Jones
 National Chaplain



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
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KEVIN L. MARTIN

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Frederick, Maryland 21702-9499
cinc@suvcw.org
(SERIES 2024-2025)

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

GENERAL ORDER #16

Shining a Brighter Light on Memorial Day - Encouraging message concerning how to honor our ancestors.

GENERAL ORDER #17

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will apply to participate as an eligible charity in the 2026 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This is a government program that allows federal employees to donate directly to their favorite charities through the government pay system. Unfortunately, attempts to join CFC in the past have failed. To get accepted in 2026, we need to establish we are an educational service organization that conducts services throughout the USA.

My Brothers, we need your help. Every Camp and Department Patriotic Instructor will be completing

reports of service activities for the calendar year ended December 31, 2024 (due April 30 for camps and June 30 for departments). We ask that each member of the Sons report his activity to their appropriate Camp or Department Patriotic Instructor. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in Memorial/Decoration Day events, Remembrance Day Events, Lincoln Death Day Events, Scholarships, Memorial University, Patriotic Instruction, Adopt-a-School Programs, Flag Disposal Ceremonies, ROTC and Boy Scout events, Flag Facts Flyer, Lesson Plans for Teachers, Graves Registration, Last Union Veterans Project, GAR Records Maintenance, grave markers for Civil War Veterans, Monument maintenance and construction, and educational events. Remember to also include your Sons Veterans Reserve activities.

We ask that each Patriotic Instructor list some events (at least three to five) the camp or department have held with specific information as to how you provided the service, who benefited from the service, what the service was, where the service occurred (city, state), and when the service occurred. To accomplish this, use the narrative sections of the Form 40 and Form 41. Brothers, it was a lack of specificity that resulted in our last CFC application rejection. Direct questions to the National Patriotic Instructor or the National Treasurer.

GENERAL ORDER #18

Getting to Juneteenth – Challenges Then and Challenges Now.

LIFE MEMBERS

Since Winter Banner Vol 129, No 3

New Life Members

1231 Lafferty, Roy Allen	Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 Kansas
1232 Rannels, James Elwood	Lincoln-Cushing Washington DC Camp 2 Chesapeake
1233 Stocks, Stephen R	V P Twombly 2 Iowa
1234 Conaway, Kenneth Michael	Gen John W Sprague Camp 4 Columbia
1235 Huffman, Donald J	Gen. Wm. Passmore Carlin Camp at Reno 25 California
1236 Peterson, Clifford Byron	Fort Walla Walla Camp [Wash] 3 Columbia
1237 Girton, Daniel Thomas	Army of Tennessee Camp 64 Tennessee
1238 Newman, Max L	Gov Henry Crapo Camp 145 Michigan
1239 Long Sr, Scott William	OH Member at Large 0 Ohio
1240 LeMaster, Travis John	Orlando A Somers Camp 1 Indiana

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**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF
ADMINISTRATION MEETING
April 12, 2025
Springfield, Illinois**

(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.

Minutes of Email Motions 6 through 11 approved.

A new license be granted for use of SUVCW name on a polo shirt by Cribbs Camp 276, Department of Pennsylvania.

Discussed membership dues covered by health insurance through Grouper for certain brothers. Approval granted to add SUVCW to list of organizations covered by Grouper and information table to be set up at next National Encampment.

Sister Cher Petrovic reported on the Lincoln Tomb ceremony.

Several recommendations of the National Treasurer forwarded to P&P or C&R committees.

Recommendation by CofA member Fraser forwarded to National Treasurer for review.

PCinC Paquette provided an update on the ASUVCW contracts for the upcoming National Encampment. The audio-visual portion will be pulled out of contract until actual numbers are available.

The Order will not pursue presidential designation of GAR/SUVCW month.

The US Grand Cup and Linder/Davis Awards to be corrected.

Question as to the filing of the 2023 NE Proceedings. Massachusetts will present an appropriate motion to the National Encampment.

CofA has no objection to the WRC using the ribbon from the Juior badge for their Logal Brigade.

Quesiton concerning form 80 referred to P&P.

Noted lack of Life Member rates for those between 14 and 19 years of age. Department of Columbia will present appropriate motion to the National Encampment.

CinC to form committee to study idea of suspended members receiving the Banner.

CinC will not take any action as to return of the Confederate monument to Arlington.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.



GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

Brothers: As you consider your charitable giving, please keep in mind the good work of the Order. As National now has 501(c)(3) status, gifts to the National Organization are tax deductible. Your donations can be used in two areas. The first is our Monuments and Memorials fund, where National can give grants to Departments and Camps. Your donations would allow for more grants to be awarded. The second area would be our scholarship fund. Currently, we are limited to two scholarships of \$2,500. Your gifts can make additional scholarships available to our college bound brothers and sisters.

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“Before Manassas, there was Mexico”
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:
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Descendants of Mexican War Veterans
Several Mexican War service records are available on-line.

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@suvcw.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.





Chapter V, Article XIII, Section 3. The Camp seals shall consist of the Crest of the Coat of Arms, surrounded by thirteen stars, and under the roll shall appear in Roman numerals the year of the organization of the Order (1881). The whole shall be surrounded by the words, "_____. Camp No. _____. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" and the location, town or city and State shall be added to the same.

Original Seal used as a template

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8x8 Brick



Stephenson Memorial Plaza Grand Army of the Republic
Rose Hill Cemetery Petersburg, Illinois August 2012

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OUTSTANDING CAMP

8x16 Brick



16x16 Brick

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SUVCW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

BROTHERS:

THE EDITOR NOTES THE FOUNDATION STORE IS STILL CLOSED. IT IS OUR HOPE THIS IS TEMPORARILY AND THE STORE WILL BE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN SHORTLY.



QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO FOUNDATION SECRETARY/TREASURER:

SHAWN A. COX

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WASHINGTON C.H., OH 43160

SECRETARY@SUVCW-CF.ORG



REMAINS FINALLY PUT TO REST

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. The remains were determined to be “archeological,” and experts were called in to conduct salvage, excavation and examination.

The site was in a location occupied by both Union and Confederate soldiers during the winter of 1862 to 1863, and field hospitals operated in houses all along Sofia Street during that period. Forensic examinations determined that the remains showed no evidence of having been surgically removed, as would be common in a “limb pit.”

Archeologists believe they were in an original resting place for the remains of three Union soldiers - after, as was common during that period - the larger, more “prominent” portion of their remains, such as the skulls and long bones, were removed to the military cemetery in town. The remains left behind were primarily composed of small bones, fingers, toes, etc. The “burial deposit” 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, such as brass uniform “Eagle buttons” (associated as most like coming from the 14th Connecticut), a packet of straight pins, a small medicine bottle (the contents of which were analyzed and found to be similar to a medicine used for treating syphilis), a lead round ball, a pocket watch key, a small horsehair brush, and a small pocket-knife, all of which was x-rayed, thoroughly examined, and period-dated.

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.

Past Camp Commander, Brother Andrew Johnson of the Irish Brigade Camp, #4, Fredericksburg, immediately upon learning of the discovery and its importance to the SUCVW, 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.

Finally, in 2025, following extensive research and archeological testing of the cemetery grounds, permission was granted for an “exception,” allowing the burial to take place. After much discussion as to the conduct of a reburial ceremony, within the limited guidelines of the Park Service, Brother Johnson was able to convince all parties involved that, as the successors to the G.A.R. the SUCVW would conduct the internment ceremony, and all parties agreed. A child-sized casket was obtained, and a local funeral home assisted.

On May 2, 2025, under a sunny morning sky, the SUCVW conducted a processional into the National Cemetery led by an SVR color guard, and an internment ceremony, including a bugler from Bugles Across America, and a bagpiper from the local pipe band.

Also in attendance were the Mayor of Fredericksburg, the Superintendent of the National Park Service and his staff of Cultural Resource Specialists and the Chief Ranger, the City of Fredericksburg Community and Planning Director, the city Historic Resources and Planning representative, members of the Dovetail Cultural Resources archeological team, a representative from the Missing in America Project (MIAP) group, and two soldiers from the Virginia National Guard. Appropriate period readings, taken in part from the SUCVW Ritual and Ceremonies book were conducted. Following the readings, soldiers from the Virginia National Guard (29th Infantry Division) conducted the folding of the period correct, 34-star flag which had draped the casket, taps was played by the bugler, and the flag was presented it to the Commander-in-Chief, designated as the representative of the GAR, and Chief Mourner.



ALABAMA



On Thursday May 8th, 16 Mobile County, AL JROTC Superior Cadets were awarded SUVCW awards and certificates, along with certificates, ribbons, and medals from another 19 organizations.

CALIFORNIA / PACIFIC



Six members of Gen. George Stoneman Jr. Camp No. 18 attended the Lincoln Shrine event in Redlands, CA. We set-up a booth with civil war artifacts and weapons, and two members of General Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 joined us. We accomplished weapons drills/weapons loading steps and answered public queries about our display items, our camp, SUVCW and the service of our own Civil War ancestors.



On Saturday, March 25th, Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held their Annual Medal of Honor Day Ceremony at the gravesite of Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. William Pittenger.

CHESAPEAKE



Members of Antietam Camp #3, gathered Sunday, March 23rd at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore MD to honor two recipients of the Medal of Honor, Michael Aheam and Joachim Pease. Pease was the first person of color to receive the medal. Both served on the USS Kearsarge. Following the memorial service at the church, the group boarded the USS Constellation in the harbor where the men were honored with a cannon salute.



Brothers from James A. Garfield Camp 1 were out in force over Memorial Day weekend in honor of America's fallen service members. Sunday morning drew the camp to the Lansdowne Christian Church in Baltimore County where Brothers along with CinC Kevin L. Martin and ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin participated in the Memorial Day service.

COLORADO / WYOMING



On May 13 2025, the Department awarded Cadet PFC Tiffany Guevara the SUVCW JROTC medal during Awards Night at Natrona High School in Casper Wyoming. Cadet PFC Guevara was chosen for this award as a Freshman with high academic achievement.



May 29 saw Brothers of Camps in the Chicago area cleaning headstones with four work party sessions. They also planted flowers around monuments in both Union Ridge Cemetery and Rosehill Cemetery. Units from Scouting, American Legion, VFW and community members participated and supported our efforts.



Brothers of the Pvt. John Davis Camp 10 set up a display table at the Cañon City, Colorado Spring Event Blossom weekend. Many people were interested in our display and a few possibly interested in joining our camp.



FLORIDA



Brothers of the Major General Thomas J. McKean Camp 3 presented the Colors at MLB Spring Training game, Washington Nationals vs St. Louis Cardinals.

INDIANA

A Ceremony of Remembrance was held on the campus of Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana on March 29 to honor Mother Angela Gillespie, CSC and the Civil War Nurses of the Holy Cross for their service during the Civil War. The event, organized by John Auten Camp #8 and the Sisters of the Holy Cross, recognized the contributions of these women who left Saint Mary's to care for wounded soldiers.

ILLINOIS

The E.F. Dutton Camp #49 out of Sycamore. This past March and April we attended four schools and 12 classes. These classes range from 2nd grade, 5th grade and high school. The presentations included the sharing of Civil War artifacts and old fashioned story telling. The topics included both Civil War camp life and artillery used in the war. The students at each presentation were well prepared and participated with genuine interest.



The ceremony included wreath-layings by John Auten Camp #8, Orlando Somers Camp #1, the Department of Indiana, the National LGAR, and Arsinoe Martin Circle

#78, LGAR, as well as music from a bagpiper. The Department's commemorative Civil War Nurses medallion was presented to Sister Sharlet Ann Wagner on behalf of the SUVCW in recognition of the Sisters' service.



Brother's of the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 conducted its 2025 Memorial Day Service at Flat Rock Cemetery in Flat Rock. They were joined in the effort by members of Flat Rock Christian Church, the Flat Rock Cemetery Board, the general public and by a Past National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

IOWA



On May 15, 2025, brothers of the Grenville M. Dodge Camp #75 completed the installation of 15 veteran gravestones for Civil War veterans buried in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines that had been unmarked for over 100 years.

The event was covered by local radio and five TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and Iowa PBS) as well as a video being prepared by an individual with over 1 million followers.



The Grenville M. Dodge Camp #75 in Des Moines presented a talk and slide show, "Remembering the Boys in Blue, one at a time" to 42 members of the Des Moines Civil War Roundtable on March 19, 2025 at the Machine Shed Restaurant.

KANSAS



SUVCW "Old Abe Camp #16" Topeka Kansas Memorial Day Ceremony at the Topeka Cemetery. Over 1300 Civil War Veterans resting here.



PCC Lane Smith, Franklin Camp #5, performed his one-man play "The Trial of Jefferson Davis", portraying Robert E. Lee acting as defense counsel for Jefferson Davis in a "what if?" scenario of bringing Davis to trial on charges of "treason by reason of secession." Sponsored by the Miami County Historical Society.

KENTUCKY



May 26th Lexington Cemetery, National Cemetery Section, Sgt. Elijah P. Marrs Camp 5, in cooperation with Man-O-War Post 8 of the American Legion, held its

annual Memorial Day Ceremony. For years, Camp 5 and Post 8 have shared a Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery where primarily Union Soldiers are interred. Many members of Post 8 are members of Camp 5. Afterwards, brothers attended the Sons of Confederate Veterans service at the Confederate Section of Lexington Cemetery, along with the representative of several SCV camps from across the state.

MICHIGAN



A gravesite ceremony by the Gilluly-Kingley Camp #120 was conducted on 16 May, 2025, for a longtime member: Richard G. Hutchins, age 95. The ceremony was held at Greenwood Cemetery, of Fowlerville, MI. Brother Richard, along with his wife Mary, authored 5 books: Livingston County goes to War: North, South, East & West. And a complete inventory of all the Civil War Cannons extant in Michigan amongst the cemeteries, courthouse lawns and other locations.



Brother's of Curtenius Guard Camp #17, joined by brothers of the Austin Blair Camp #7, conducted Memorial Day ceremonies at the G.A.R. plot of the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lansing. The ceremony featured the address by Lansing's mayor. Taps provided by a bugler of the Owosso VFW Post 9455, also part of the Bugles Across America program. The brothers then attended the services held by the Lansing Fire Department at the tomb of the unknown fireman nearby and then drove to the Little Arlington section of the Evergreen Cemetery for services there.

NEBRASKA



On Saturday May 3, 2025 brothers of the Victor Vifquain Camp #1, Shiloh Camp #2 and Welstead Camp #3 and Nebraska Rangers SVR honored the Last Union Veteran of Dawson County Nebraska in the Sumner Nebraska Cemetery Charles Musser.

NEW JERSEY



Brothers of the Sgt. Hiram Pursell Camp #104 gathered at the grave of it's namesake, MOH Sgt. Hiram Pursell in Laurel Cemetery, White Haven, PA on April 11.



Brothers of Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp #7 placed over 850 flags on the graves of Veterans on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

NORTH CAROLINA

Brothers of the Major General Judson Kilpatrick Camp No. 7, Cary, NC, participated in the 160th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Morrisville Station in Morrisville, NC. Although the Town of Morrisville had

not planned on holding a commemoration, the Kilpatrick Camp asked the town staff to consider holding a 160th remembrance and the request was granted. The last time an anniversary commemoration was held was April 18, 2015, for the 150th anniversary.



Davis * Camp held its annual memorial service on May 17, 2025, at the SUVCW founder Major Augustus P. Davis Mausoleum, Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA. Those participating along with Davis * were Madaleine Gilbert Tent 23, Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp 8, John T. Crawford Camp 43, Capt. George A. Cribbs Camp 276, and Issac Eaton Camp 504.

OHIO



Eight of the 16 Department of Ohio Camps participated in the rededication of a restored 3-inch Ordnance Rifle in Newark, Ohio's Cedar Hill Cemetery on 12 April 2025. While hosting the 1909 Department of Ohio, Grand Army of the Republic State Encampment, the City of Newark, presented this cannon to the GAR, who placed in the GAR section of the cemetery and held a dedication during their Encampment.

PENNSYLVANIA



The 2025 Appomattox Luncheon was held on April 12, 2025 with 45 people attending from five different Western Pennsylvania Sons Camps and representatives from the Pa Ladies Auxiliary, and LGAR. Speaker and author Lori T Meeker on the Field Hospitals on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

RHODE ISLAND



On March 25th, in recognition of the National Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) Day, Governor Elisha Dyer Camp 7 held their first MOH Day ceremony at Pocasset Cemetery in Cranston, RI, at the grave of US Civil War Union sailor John Edwards, the only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient in the cemetery.

SOUTHWEST



Camp U S Grant #3 fell in for the Memorial Day Procession at Citizens' Cemetery of Prescott. Those allowed to participate must be either the original group which partook at the first Memorial Day of 1909 or representing such veterans who partook at that day.

TENNESSEE



Brothers of Missionary Ridge Camp #63 replaced the worn and faded markers of Reuben Warren, Gilbreath's Scouts and Guides and Christopher Myers, Company E 4th Tennessee Cavalry at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Jasper, TN.

TEXAS



Brothers of the General Edward O. C. Ord Camp #3 joined many other heritage societies including DAR, SAR, SRT and DRT presented a floral expression of gratitude to the Alamo defenders on Monday, April 28, 2025 on the solemn silent procession from the Viet Nam Memorial Plaza to the grounds of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. The Pilgrimage has been a San Antonio tradition for 107 years. Legacy of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.



Brothers of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1, at rainy Oakwood Cemetery in Ft Worth on Memorial Day.

VERMONT



Brothers of the General George J. Stannard Camp #2 presented a Civil War history program at the Alburgh, Vermont Public Library in October 2024.



Brothers of the Department of Vermont recently gathered for their annual Department Encampment at the American Legion Hall - Post 91 in Colchester, Vermont.

WISCONSIN

The Boscobel GAR Hall located in Boscobel, Wisconsin and operated by the Women's Relief Corp and is the meeting place of the L.G. Armstrong Camp #49.

In the early 20th Century a pass-through window was installed between the then kitchen and dining room on the first floor of the Hall. The Sons and Women's Relief Corps used these spaces when holding fundraising events and socials, particularly for oyster dinners and crawfish boils. When the window was added insufficient support was installed which has led to cracking in the plaster around the opening in both rooms. This year's project is to install the proper support header for the window and then repair the plaster that will necessarily be disturbed in opening up the walls around the window.

OUR HERITAGE

BY GARY GIBSON, PDC - NATIONAL HISTORIAN

THE G.A.R. AND THE FIGHT OVER MEMORIAL DAY

Even within the Grand Army of the Republic, there was concern in its own ranks about the rules of the observance of Memorial Day. It was unanimous that the individual posts would make every effort to discourage sporting events and encourage the populace to honor a day of mourning.

In several states, Memorial Day was designated a legal holiday, and the public saw it just that way. Even by the 1880's the G.A.R. was contending with baseball games, horse races, picnics, etc. There was a definite disconnect of the younger generation that had not lived through the Civil War. The war did not happen in their lifetime, so it did not have the same level of meaning as it did for their parents. There was also the fact that a six-day work week was common for many Americans, so the opportunity for an extra day off was welcomed as a day to do what they wanted to do.

One internal struggle of Memorial Day was what day to observe it, if May 30th fell on a Sunday, the Sabbath. It is recorded in the proceedings of the 1886 National Encampment of the G.A.R. that debate took place over what day to observe, either the Saturday before, or the Monday after. One comrade stated that veterans who were business owners had difficulty closing their business on Saturday, as well as being closed on Sunday. It was even suggested that Memorial Day be observed every year on the last Sunday of May. Commander Thomas W. Bennett of the Department of Indiana plainly stated,

"I think Memorial Day should come every year on the 30th day of May – let that be whatever day of the week that may be. It will only come on Sunday every few years, and just as certain as you undertake to fix another day, one half of the Posts will have it on Sunday, if Sunday is the 30th. Why not have it on the 30th of May and prevent all this confusion? I offer that.....we fix the 30th Day of May as Memorial Day, and let every Monday and Sunday take care of itself."

The Encampment agreed.

As we, the Sons of Union Veterans, have accepted the duty of Memorial Day from our "fathers", the G.A.R., let us carry on their desire of observing May 30th.



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

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