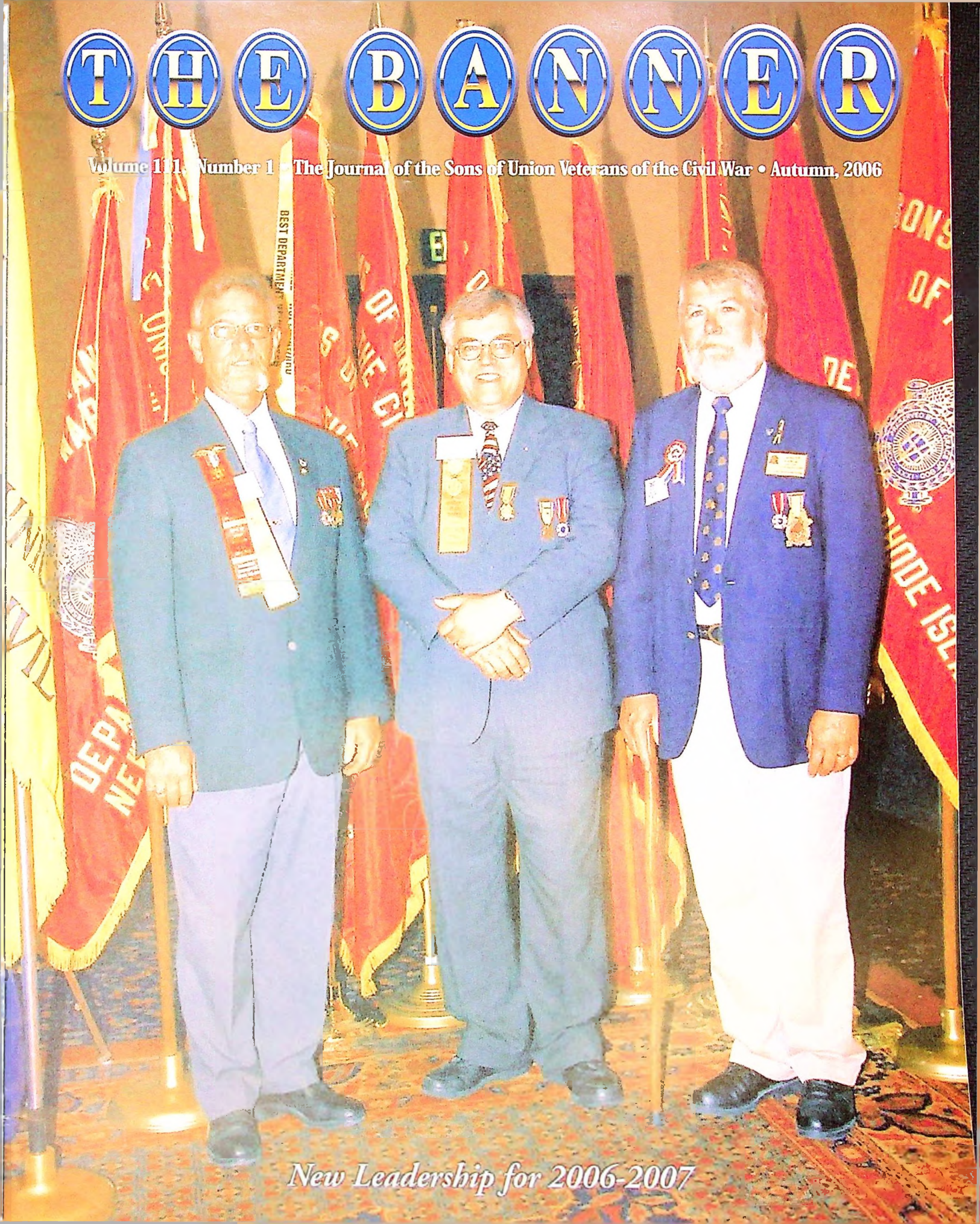


THE BANNER

Volume 111, Number 1 • The Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • Autumn, 2006



New Leadership for 2006-2007



PCC Keith MacGregor delivers keynote address at Woolson Monument rededication.

Encampment Moments



Helds of the Allied Orders gather to begin Joint Memorial Service.



From left: Eric Fricke, IN Camp 17, Real Son Harold Becker, John Logan Camp 1 (MI), IN DSVC Jack Shaw; and IN DC Bruce R. Kolb. Becker's father, Conrad Becker served in the 128th IN Inf.

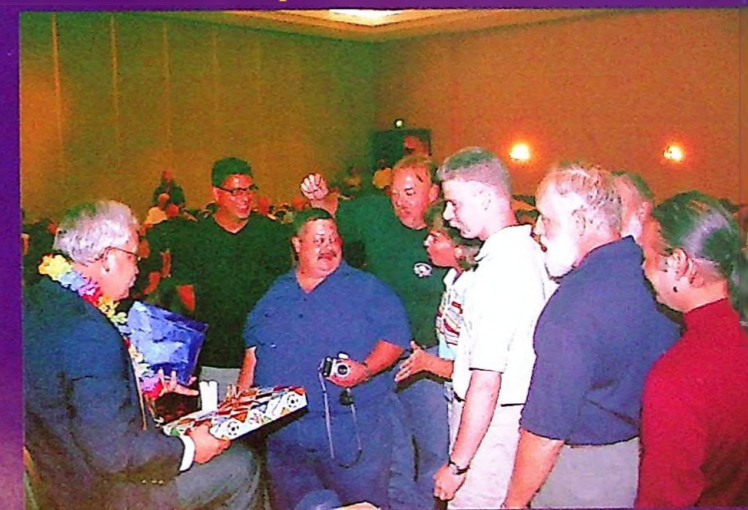


The New Dawn Singers perform at Friday's Campfire.

2006
 NATIONAL
 ENCAMPMENT
 OF THE
 ALLIED ORDERS
 OF THE
 GRAND ARMY
 OF THE
 REPUBLIC
 AUGUST 10-13, 2006
 HARRISBURG, PA



Officers and appointed officials take their oath of office during the National Encampment in Harrisburg.



Rhode Islanders joke with CinC Darby during courtesy hour Friday night, left, while Sons share stories after banquet Saturday, below.



CinC Pahl is pinned by wife Carol as Installing Officer Keith Harrison looks on.



New Presidents Elected



National President Lois Didier
Woman's Relief Corps

We offer every good wish for an outstanding, successful year, with personal regards to each of the newly elected Presidents. This year, in our efforts to strengthen our own Order in membership and accomplishments, let us not forget the work and help of these fine organizations of devoted women.



National President Phyllis Houston
Ladies of the GAR

National President Patricia Mullenix
Daughters of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
(Photo not available)



National President Barbara Mayberry
Auxiliary to the SUVCW



PHOTO AT LEFT - This junior obviously had had enough of policy and procedure debate at the National Encampment in Harrisburg.

ON THE COVER - Newly installed Commander-in-Chief James B. Pahl, center, is joined by incoming Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert, left, and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., right.

Inside The Banner



Commander Pahl's General Orders	Page 4
Commander Darby's General Orders	Pages 6
Commander Pahl elected in Harrisburg	Page 7
Council of Administration Minutes	Page 8
Sister Barbara Mayberry Lucky 13	Page 9
Marking Woolson's death 50 years ago	Page 11
New national elected officers	Page 12
National Award Recipients	Page 13
Department News	Page 13
Final Muster	Page 16
Auxiliary News	Page 17
SVR Guideon	Page 18
Collecting the Sons	Page 21

THE BANNER

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SUVCW Commander-in-Chief
James B. Pahl

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In 2006, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has 6,029 brothers in Good Standing. This total represents 5,092 Members; 18 Real Sons; 352 Life Members; 3 Honorary Members; 121 Juniors; and 453 Associates. The total reflects an increase in membership of 18 from 2005 for a 1% gain. Membership is spread throughout 240 Camps in 26 Departments, 8 Camps-at-Large, and a National Membership-at-Large (NMAL). (The NMAL is composed of Brothers, who live in a state that is not currently administered by a Department.)

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Winter
Deadline - Oct. 15
Spring
Deadline - Jan. 15
Summer
Deadline - April 15
Autumn
Deadline - Aug. 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

General Orders Series 2006-2007

James B. Pahl, Commander-in-Chief

Post Office Box 86, Mason, MI 48854

Phone (517) 676-8403 • cinc@suvcw.org

GENERAL ORDER 1

I am humbled, honored and appreciative in the vote of confidence placed in my meager abilities by my brothers. Having been elected and installed as Commander-in-Chief of this great Order by the delegates assembled at the 125th annual National Encampment, held at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on the 12th day of August 2006, command is hereby assumed. On June 18, 1861, Ulysses S. Grant issued an Order to his new command, the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

As my initial communication to our Order, please allow me to paraphrase the General: In accepting this command, your Commander will require the cooperation of all the elected and appointed officers of this Order. He hopes to receive the hearty support of every brother. (From Cigars, Whiskey & Winning - Leadership Lessons from General Ulysses S. Grant).

National Headquarters is established at the National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. All correspondence requiring the attention of the Commander-in-Chief shall be sent to Post Office Box 86, Mason, Michigan 48854. To receive the quickest possible response, I urge my brothers to use electronic communication whenever possible.

I am so thankful for the hard work of the Department of Pennsylvania for hosting the Encampment, the Credentials Committee for another outstanding job, and the National Site Committee for all their hard work this year. My thanks also extend to the brothers of the Department of Michigan.

As we look forward to the coming year, we must remember our legacy and commission from the Grand Army of the Republic, to keep green their sacrifices made to preserve our great Union. It is left to us, their descendants, to carry on - lest we forget. The theme of this administration will be for each of us to focus upon doing the work of the Order, rather than what we do all too often, trying to make the Order work. By doing the work of the Order, other descendants will be drawn to and join us. Each Camp is called upon to examine their capabilities and then develop a plan on how they can contribute. We can all do something.

On behalf of the brothers of this Order, it is my privilege to extend congratulations to the newly elected National Presidents of the Allied Orders of the GAR: the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW); the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR); the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 (DUVCW); and the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC). I look forward to working with the sisters

of all the Allied Orders, to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

I cannot say the following any better than Past Commander-in-Chief Edward Krieser from his General Order #1; Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty are not only the principles of our Order, they are the means by which our Order exists and will continue. We owe no less to our ancestors. At all levels, Camps, Departments and National must always work in the direction of the good of the Order.

The predominant document that guides this Order is our Constitution and Regulations. All officers and brothers are strongly encouraged to become familiar with the CAR.

The Digest of the Order expands upon this document, with rulings of past Commanders-in-Chief. Both can be found on the Resource CD of the Order and on our web site.

Our Rituals and Ceremonies are our connection to the traditions of those who have gone before us. The use of our Rituals and Ceremonies helps provide a bridge to the experiences of the Grand Army of the Republic. The use of the Ritual is to be encouraged by all Camps and Departments of our Order.

Our membership badge helps identify us and to promote the brotherhood of the Order. All brothers are called upon to proudly wear their membership badge at all official functions of the Order.

The first official act of my administration was to approve and sign the charter application for the proposed William A. Kent Camp #83, Department of Michigan. This is the first of several Camp applications I hope to sign.

Several brothers of our Order have devoted themselves well above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties, yet word of these efforts never reaches the National Organization. All Department Commanders are urged to forward reports of notable events and the names of worthy Brothers within their Department, so that the Commander-in-Chief can properly recognize their efforts.

Should any brother of this Order have in their possession any records or materials of the National Organization, please forward these items to our National Headquarters.

Should any such materials come into your possession, please immediately notify the Commander-in-Chief. Any requests for original records of the National Organization must be in writing and approved by the Council of Administration. Should any brother of this Order have in

(Please turn to Page 5)

his possession any records or materials of a Department or Camp, please notify the appropriate Commander.

The National Graves Registration Committee and the National Civil War Memorials Committee are well established and working toward the completion of their goals. All brothers of the Order are called upon to assist in these great efforts.

Our National Charter, being the command of the Congress of the United States of America, gives us this charge: "to assist in every practicable way in preserving, and making available for research, documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members." The G.A.R. Post Records Committee is called upon to design a model for Departments to follow in locating, inventorying, copying where possible, and recording all the various GAR Post Records, at their various locations. This model must also address how we can assist the custodian of these various records, to preserve and protect them. All Departments are directed to appoint a GAR Post Records committee and using this model, work toward fulfilling this mandate.

The National Committee on Americanization and Education is called upon to reestablish the Sons Memorial University. As their first task, the committee is to develop a program for our Juniors, to earn appropriate awards for their studies into our heritage, history, patriotism and service. The committee is also called upon to establish a plan to expand upon the offerings, so that all brothers of

the Order and others may someday benefit - even to earning post-secondary degrees.

Our National Chaplain is charged with developing a publication to assist our Department and Camp Chaplain's in their work. Past National Chaplain William B. McAfee is requested to assist in this work.

Brothers are reminded to support the tax-deductible funds of our Order, the National Patriotic Instructor's Fund, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief's Fund, National Headquarters; Fund and Permanent Fund. Contributions to our Departments and Camps are also fully tax deductible.

The Commander-in-Chief's calendar will be planned to best serve the Order. Please extend your invitations as early as possible to assist me in making up my itinerary. For those functions I am invited to but cannot attend, I will do everything I can to assure that an elected National Officer of the Order will be present to represent me. The National Chief of Staff shall coordinate this activity.

All Departments and Camps are encouraged to report their activities for publication in the Banner. All Brothers are encouraged to submit appropriate articles for publication in the Banner to the Editor.

All business correspondence shall be addressed to National Executive Director, Lee Walters, P.O. Box 1865, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1865, telephone (717) 232-7000, email to execdir@suvcw.org.

All Camps are instructed to forward upon proper form, all reports and per capita to their Department Headquarters - on time. All Departments are instructed to forward upon proper form, all reports and per capita to National Headquarters - on time. It may be necessary to drop members and suspend Camps to complete this obligation. Our Camps and Departments must be firm in their obligations.

The National Council of Administration, in their meeting of August 13, 2006, directs every Camp in this Order shall file Form 22 with their Department no later than February 15th of each year. Each Department of the Order shall forward copies of Form 22 for every Camp within their Department by February 28th of each year.

All brothers, Camps, Departments and the National Organization shall use the latest edition of each form in the fulfillment of their various duties. Ideas to improve upon those forms are to be forwarded to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

All National Officers and Committees shall file reports of their activities for the coming year, one in time for the November Council of Administration meeting, one for review by the Commander in Chief by February 1, 2007, one in time for the Spring Council of Administration meeting and a final report for the 126th National Encampment. All Department Commanders shall file a report of activities occurring within their respective Departments upon the same schedule.

All supply requisitions upon proper form with payment, shall be sent to National Quartermaster Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC, 501 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850-3554,

(Please turn to Page 6)

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All bills, requests for payment and donations shall be sent to National Treasurer Max L. Newman, 4995 E. Wilkinson Road, Owosso, MI 48867-9616, telephone: (989) 743-3525, email to treasurer@suvchw.org.

All requests for Eagle Scout Certificates shall be sent to Robert M. Petrovic, Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator, 6519 Cherokee Lane, Cedar Hill, MO 63016-2527, telephone (636) 274-4567, email to eaglescouts@suvchw.org.

All Civil War Memorials grant requests shall be sent to the senior elected member of our National Council of Administration.

All purchase requests for the SUVCW ROTC award shall be sent upon proper form, with payment, to the National Quartermaster, Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC, 501 Willow Avenue, Ithica, NY, 14850-3554, telephone (607) 272-7314, email to dwheel2@twcny.rr.com. Please note the change in price, \$5.00 including shipping and handling.

The deaths of Brothers are to be reported to our National Chaplain, Jerry W. Kowalski, 206 E. Grantley, Elmhurst, IL 60126 (PapTom@msn.com). Please include the departed Brother's full name; date of his passing; name of his Camp and Department; name, rank and unit in which his ancestor served.

All commanders of Departments through which the GAR Highway passes are asked to assure that the Department GAR Highway Officer communicates with the National GAR Highway Officer, providing copies of information concerning the Highway and its condition. The GAR Highway is a National Monument, which needs our constant oversight to assure that it continues to

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

General Orders Series 2005-2006

Commander-in-Chief Donald E. Darby

1382 Western Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601-1107
Phone (740) 772-6018 • darby@horizonview.net

General Order 15 2005-2006

1. The Military Affairs Committee has recommended that BG David V. Medert be re-appointed as Commanding General of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

2. I find this recommendation to be well taken and approve the re-appointment of BG David V. Medert as Commanding General of the Sons of Veterans Reserve for a period ending 28 July 2009 or until properly relieved.

Sworn this 19th day of July 2006

Donald E. Darby
Commander-in-Chief
SUVCW

Attested:
Michael Bennett
Secretary
SUVCW

be adequately marked.

A roster of all elected and appointed National Officers and Committee members for the 2006-2007 administrative year will be completed shortly and will be found on the National Website: www.suvchw.org

Remembrance Day ceremonies will take place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 18th, with services at the GAR monument of Albert Woolson at 11:00 am, followed by the parade, beginning at 1:00 pm. All members of the National Council of Administration are advised that we will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 19, 2006 in the Eisenhower Inn, just south of Gettysburg.

Camps and Departments shall ensure that appropriate activities are carried out in accordance with the wishes of the Grand Army of the Republic. Let us be sure that their actions and sacrifices are "kept ever green in our memory."


Start making plans to attend the 126th National Encampment in St. Louis, Missouri.

To all the elected and appointed officers, committees and brothers at all levels within our Order, I extend my best wishes for a productive year. With the assistance and guidance of the Divine Providence, we will succeed.

Ordered this 12th day of August 2006

By Order of
James B. Pahl
Commander-in-Chief

Attested:
Michael Bennett
National Secretary



"Before Manassas, there was Mexico"

Many Civil War leaders and troops got their start in the war with Mexico. Leaders like Grant, Sherman, McClellan, and many of the 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 just an interest in the Mexican War of 1846-1848.

Please visit www.dmwv.org for membership information and an application, or send a request with SASE to DMWV, Membership Dept., Box 830482, Richardson, Texas, 75083-0482

Descendants of Mexican War Veterans



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Lunch & Dinner
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Gettysburg, PA
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Pahl Elected Commander-in-Chief



Commander-in-Chief James B. Pahl talks with Department Commanders during a break in proceedings at the National Encampment in Harrisburg.

James B. Pahl of Mason, Michigan was elected Commander-in-Chief at the 125th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on August 12, 2006. He is the sixth from Michigan to serve as Commander-in-Chief. CinC Pahl's membership is based upon the service of his great-great grandfather, Pvt. John Boyer, Co. A, 29th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, who was wounded at Chickamauga.

James was born in Jackson, Michigan, the son of Lawrence J. Pahl and Norma Faust Pahl. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Marshall, Michigan, where James was raised, graduating from high school in 1971. Marshall was the residence of escaped slave Adam Crosswhite. After his arrest by Kentucky deputy sheriffs, he was rescued by a group of citizens and spirited off to Canada, while the Kentucky deputies cooled their heels in the Calhoun County Jail. The very active Marshall Historical Society, the prominent Marshall GAR Hall, and the several companies of troops Marshall contributed to the war effort, first interested James in the Civil War.

He continued his education at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek. After receiving an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, he studied at Ferris State College in Big Rapids, Michigan, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement in 1975. A few years later, he returned to school, earning a Juris Doctor degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing in 1981. He's attended several courses at the National Judicial College, on the University of Nevada-Reno campus.

He began a 20-year career in public law enforcement while at Kellogg Community College, retiring as the Village of Sunfield's Chief of Police in 1992. This included sworn service with the police departments in Ypsilanti, Dewitt, and Vermontville.

James was a partner in the law firm of Pahl and Hengesbach, practicing in probate, small closely held corporations, construction lien claims and real estate law. His long time law partner, Kathleen Hengesbach, is active in the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865.

Since March 1992, he's served as Magistrate of the 55th District Court and is a training magistrate for the Michigan Judicial Institute, the educational arm of the Supreme Court. He teaches motor carrier law at each new magistrate school and is the vice-president of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates.

He is a member of Lansing Central Free Methodist Church, where he is currently the elected delegate to the East Michigan Annual Conference and has also been elected as a delegate of the Conference to the denomination's 2007 General Conference.

James is a member of the Ingham South Camp of The Gideon's International. He is active in Civil War reenacting, serving as the commanding officer of Co. B., 102nd U.S. Colored Troops (a.k.a. the 1st Michigan Colored Troops). He is also a member of the Michigan Living History Association, recreating the 16th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. As such, he volunteers in uniform one weekend each September at Fort Mackinaw State Park. Brother Pahl is adjunct faculty at Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing, teaching courses in government.

Brother Pahl became a member of the Curtenius Guard Camp 17, Department of Michigan, on April 24, 1982. He served as Camp Counselor and Camp Secretary before a year as Junior Vice Commander and then, Senior Vice Commander, after which he was elected Camp Commander. He was instrumental in the fund-raising project to obtain a state historical marker for the GAR Hall where his Camp meets. He was awarded the Samuel W. Grinnell Award for outstanding service to the Camp.

Brother Pahl was introduced to Department office first as Guard. After several other offices, he was elected Dept. Commander and installed by then C-in-C Lowell Hammer. James re-instituted the *Michigan Messenger*, the Dept. newsletter, which had been dormant for decades and he began midwinter encampments to train new officers. He was privileged to preside over the installation of three new Camps. He was awarded the Department's Abraham Lincoln Award for outstanding service.

Nationally, brother Pahl served as National Counselor for some 10 years, first appointed to this position by Keith Harrison. He served as National Treasurer for four years. He was also appointed to the National Constitution and Regulations Committee, eventually becoming chairman. As chairman of the Special Committee on Digest, brother Pahl was instrumental in publishing a Digest of the Order, setting down rulings of Past Commander's-in-Chief and opinions of National Counselors for all the Order's published proceedings. During this project, he read almost every past Proceeding of the Order. He is the recipient of the Cornelius Whitehouse Brother of the Year award and the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star. He was elected Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2004 and Senior Vice Commander in Chief in 2005. Brother Pahl has served as the SVR's Judge Advocate General since May 2002, a position from which he has taken a one year leave of absence.

He and his bride of 32 years, Carol, have three children.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Council of Administration Minutes - Pre Encampment

The meeting, held August 10, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA, was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Darby at 8:05 PM. Additional Council members answering the roll-call were Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief James Pahl, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Charles Kuhn, National Treasurer Max Newman, Nat. Secretary Michael Bennett, Nat. Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, Council Members Dan Murray, Leo Kennedy, David Stephen, D. Brad Schall and James Hanby, Nat. Counselor Robert Grim, and Immediate Past Commander-in-Chief Stephen Michaels. Other PCinCs present were Charles Corfman, Elmer F. "Bud" Atkinson, Keith Harrison, Alan Loomis, Richard Orr, Ed Krieser, and George Powell. Guests of the Council included Executive Director Lee Walters, Nat. Webmaster Ken Freshley, Nat. Chaplain Jerome Kowalski, Nat. Chief of Staff Henry Shaw, *Banner* Publisher John Hart, and Foundation Directors Robert Petrovic and Ron Gill.

CinC Darby thanked the Council for its hard work during his administration and noted that, in addition to good work, "we had fun doing it." Nat. Chaplain Kowalski offered an inspirational opening prayer.

Br. Hart discussed the *Banner*, during which he reiterated his suggestion that a *Banner* Editor be appointed to add longer-term continuity in the publication of the *Banner*. More comprehensive content and less detailed COA Meeting Minutes were discussed and recommended.

National Webmaster Freshley presented a proposal, changing the current web hosting service, resulting in a huge increase in web space and services and a significant decrease in cost. It was moved by JVCinC Kuhn and seconded by Br. Schall that Br. Freshley's recommendation be followed. Passed unanimously.

Br. Schall proposed that Sheridan Camp 4, Dept. of CA & Pac., be licensed to use the SUVCW name and logos on a patch. JVCinC Kuhn moved, and SVCinC Pahl seconded, that the license be granted for the duration of the 125th Nat. Encampment, to be reconsidered with other licenses at the Post Encampment COA Meeting. Unanimously approved.

CinC Darby complimented the Host Committee for their printed guide to the National Encampment. With minor modifications, such a guide should be made available to our membership.

A lengthy discussion and examination of Nat. Treas. Newman's proposed budget was held. Br. Stephen moved and Br. Murray seconded that the *Banner* Editor's travel allowance be included as proposed. Further discussion included the Order's need for accounting services. CinC Darby proposed that a committee of three be formed to find a CPA to take over the auditing needs of the Order. Br. Stephen made this a motion which was seconded and passed unanimously. Br. Wheeler moved that we try to find members of the Order to assist with specific short-term accounting needs. This motion was seconded by Br. Hanby and passed unanimously. Br. Newman also noted that he would be rolling over three maturing CDs in September. SVCinC Pahl moved that the proposed budget receive the approval of the COA. This was seconded by Br. Kennedy and passed unanimously.

Nat. Sec. Bennett noted that a new supply of blank Charters and National ribbon was needed in order to complete Charters for new Camps. Br has a supply of both and will provide them. Brother Bennett also reported on his attempt to locate and catalogue National SUVCW records previously placed at the Carlisle War College.

Br. Stephen invited all to attend the Central Regional Association's meeting on October 8, 2006, and further noted that the Civil War sesquicentennial is approaching and that a Nat. Committee has already been formed. He encouraged our Departments to become involved with State Committees that are, or will be, forming as well.

Br. Hanby reported that the patent documents and other items recently re-acquired for the Sons will be presented to the Encampment along with a recommendation for their disposition. He then described the Congressional Resolution he had obtained for the Order.

JVCinC Kuhn noted that he would like to bring a staff member of the hotel into the meeting room in order to express our Order's appreciation for her hard work. The Council was agreeable to this.

SVCinC Pahl announced that many Nat. records had been located, and were now being brought to our Nat. Headquarters, so that they can be preserved, and made available for research and the use of our Order.

The subject of the Order's ROTC medal was raised by Br. Wheeler, and following much discussion, he moved that the Nat. Quartermaster coordinate distribution of the ROTC medal. Seconded by SVCinC Pahl. It was also moved by Br. Wheeler that a different supplier for the medal be used, and that the cost of the medal with ribbon and certificate be lowered to \$5, including shipping. Br. Pahl accepted the amendment, which resulted in Br. Wheeler's amended motion reflecting this price. The motion passed with Br. Stephen in opposition, and Br. Wheeler abstaining. JVCinC Kuhn moved and Br. Wheeler seconded, that the medal be made available, at the same price, directly to ROTC units that request it. The motion passed without opposition.

Br. Newman moved that the expense reports used to obtain reimbursement for expenses of the Order be provided on the internet. Seconded by Br. Kennedy and passed unanimously.

PCinC Krieser inquired about our Order's mailing list. PCinC Orr noted that the list can not be used outside of the Order without the approval of the National Encampment.

PCinC Michaels, noting that some National Officers would have terms ending next year, suggested that a Talent Search Committee be created, or expanded from the Accountant/Auditor Search Committee.

Br. Stephen expressed gratitude and said it had been an honor and pleasure to work with those assembled.

JVCinC Kuhn offered a closing prayer, and CinC Darby adjourned the meeting at 10:36 PM

Submitted in F, C, and L,
PDC Michael S. Bennett, National Secretary, SUVCW



Sister Barbara Mayberry is Lucky 13

Barbara Mayberry was elected National President at the 123rd ASUVCW National Encampment, held in Harrisburg on August 10-13, the 13th from the Department of Massachusetts. She is a member of the L.A. Tift Auxiliary 10 in Springfield, Mass. She served as Auxiliary 10 Treasurer for three years before being elected President for two years. She has also served as the Massachusetts Dept. President. Currently, she is serving as the Dept. Secretary/Treasurer. At the National level, Sister Mayberry has served on the Council, as Chief of Staff and as Vice President.

Sister Barbara bases her membership in the Auxiliary on the record of her great grandfather, Patrick Bradley, who enlisted in Co. E, 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. He was discharged due to injury, but after recovering sufficiently, re-enlisted in Co. H, 2nd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. On April 20, 1864, he was captured at Plymouth, N.C. and was imprisoned at Andersonville. While in prison, he served as the prosecuting attorney at the trial of the Raiders. When the war ended, he was called to Washington to testify at the trial of Camp Commandant Henry Wirz, who was found guilty of all charges and hanged. After the trial, the former prisoners elected Patrick Bradley the first president of the Andersonville Survivors Association. "The Soldier's Story" by Warren Lee Goss contains a letter written by Bradley, as president of the society.

Sister Barbara is retired from a New England company, where she worked as general sales manager. She has been a



Barbara Mayberry, at left, with fellow Auxiliary members at National Encampment in Harrisburg.

member of the VFW Auxiliary for over 30 years and has completed over 1500 hours of volunteer work at the Northhampton Veterans Administration hospital. She is a trustee of the GAR Hall in Springfield, Mass.

She is the mother of three children: Kenneth Mayberry of Silver Spring, Maryland, Linda Del Negro of Windsor, Conn., and Richard Mayberry of Springfield, Mass. She also has four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

History, reading, gardening, and time spent with family and friends are Sister Barbara's special interests.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Council of Administration Minutes - Post Encampment

The meeting held August 13, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA, was called to order by Commander-in-Chief James Pahl at 8:06 AM. Other Council Members answering the roll-call were Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Charles Kuhn, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief David Medert, Nat. Treasurer Max Newman, Nat. Secretary Michael Bennett, Nat. Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, PCinC, Council Members James Hanby, Leo Kennedy, Dan Murray, D. Brad Schall and Eric Schmincke, Immediate PCinC Don Darby, Nat. Counselor Donald Shaw, and Washington D.C. Representative Andrew Johnson, PCinC. Other PCinCs present were Charles Corfman, Elmer F. "Bud" Atkinson, George Powell, Robert Grim, and Stephen Michaels. Guests of the Council included Executive Director Lee Walters, Nat. Chaplain Jerome

Life Members

The Executive Director reports the following new Life Members:

PDC Willard F. Hinkley #670
Centennial Camp 100 (CO/WY)

Scott B. Miller #671
Ellis Camp 124 (NY)

Kowalski, Nat. Chief of Staff Donald Palmer, Foundation Director Robert Petrovic, and Nat. Graves Registration Officer Robert Lowe. Brother Tim Graham, Garfield Camp 142, Dept. of OH, was also present.

Meeting opened with a prayer by Chaplain Kowalski and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PCinC Pahl welcomed new Council members. Info on email communication and *Electronic Boardroom* use was provided.

Motion made by SVCinC Kuhn that PCinC Michaels serve as Editor of the *Banner* for a 3-year term. Seconded by PCinC Darby. Passed unanimously.

Motion that Br. Alan Russ be reappointed as National Member-at-Large Coordinator made by SVCinC Kuhn, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Motion by PCinC Darby, seconded by Br. Schall, that Nat. MAL dues remain \$31 per year, pro-rated by the half year, with a \$10 application fee. Passed unanimously.

The \$250 *Love Token* presented to PCinC Darby was turned over to Nat. Treas. Newman.

PCinC Darby moved that the proclamation received from PA Governor Edward Rendell be transcribed and include in

(Please turn to Page 10)



Post Encampment COA Minutes

(Continued from Page 9))

the printed proceedings of the Encampment. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion made by PCinC Darby, seconded by Br. Kennedy, to grant merchandising license to James A. Garfield Camp 142, Dept. of OH, to produce and sell a *mourning badge*. Motion defeated.

PCinC Darby moved that all Camps, Departments, and the Foundation renewing their merchandising licenses receive the approval of the CofA. Motion seconded by Br. Kennedy and passed unanimously. Dept. of PA was authorized to continue selling items from 125th Nat. Encampment until remaining supply exhausted.

PCinC Darby moved that property of the Nat. Order belongs at the Nat. Headquarters and that any items belonging to the Nat. Order that are not currently at the Nat. HQ should be forwarded there immediately. Further, any requests to remove property from the Nat. HQ, or requests to retain Nat. property elsewhere, must be made in writing and are to be granted only by the CofA. Seconded by Br. Wheeler and passed unanimously.

CinC Pahl noted that Annual Election & Installation of Officer Report Forms 22 and 49 are essential to the functioning of our Order, and that all Camps and Departments that have not submitted them could be deemed to be *not in good standing*.

It was directed that Camp and Dept. Histories received by the Nat. Sec. should be forwarded to Nat. Historian Bob Wolz for archiving.

CinC Pahl announced that Dept. of MD Sec/Treas. Eugene Mortorff will be serving as Assist. Nat. Treas. this year.

PCinC Darby moved that the *Banner* be published on the Nat. website ASAP, and that the 1st class copy to COA members be discontinued. CinC Pahl offered a friendly amendment to continue 1st class mailings to those PCinCs who do not have e-mail access and that the Council is to be notified by e-mail when each issue of the *Banner* is posted to the website. The amendment was accepted, a second offered, and the motion passed unanimously.

Exec. Dir. Walters noted that the late filing of Camp Status Reports is costing the Order money. The *Banner* is often being sent to people who should no longer be receiving it and is not being sent to those who should be receiving it by 3rd class mail, necessitating a later 1st class mailing.

Br. Hanby asked that the Dept. of MD be notified when the GAR Museum will be able to accept the reacquired patent documents and related materials on loan, as was the desire of the Nat. Encampment. He also asked that the text of the Congressional proclamation received by the SUVCW be published in the *Banner* or on the Nat. website. Both are to be done.

PCinC Darby moved that Forms 27 and 35, Camp and Dept. Annual Reports, recently revised by the Programs &

Policy Committee, be approved for the Order's use. Seconded by Br. Schall and passed unanimously.

SVCinC Kuhn moved that Form 22s be submitted by Camps to their Departments no later than each February 15th, and that Departments must submit copies of these reports to National by each February 28th, with exceptions approved by the CofA. Seconded by Br. Wheeler and passed unanimously.

CinC Pahl noted that the Memorials Grant Committee consists of the Council's three senior members: Brothers Kennedy (chair), Schall, and Murray.

Br. Wheeler reported that nearly \$3500 in sales was done during the weekend.

SVCinC Kuhn moved that the current reimbursement rate for the Pre-1996 Life Member program rate be maintained at \$6. Seconded and passed unanimously.

PCinC Powell was named Chairman of a Special Committee to examine Encampment registration, and authorized to select Brothers to serve with him.

PCinC Darby moved, and Br. Schall seconded, that Nat. GRO Lowe be authorized to work with the Nat. Webmaster to make corrections to the information included on Nat. Graves Registration instructions and Form (Form GR). Passed unanimously.

PCinC Darby moved that the new Graves Registration brochure be approved. Seconded by Br. Kennedy, and passed unanimously.

PCinC Darby moved that Br. Schmincke and PCinC Powell be authorized to explore alternate database/software options for use with the Graves Registration program. Seconded and passed unanimously.

SVCinC Kuhn then moved that

Br. Wheeler be permitted to dispose of the remaining copies of the old, outdated brochure. Seconded by PCinC Darby, and passed unanimously.

CinC Pahl introduced Chief of Staff Don Palmer, and noted that four reports would be requested this year: 1- Remembrance Day Weekend in Gettysburg 2-1st of February 3-Spring COA Meeting 4-Pre-Encampment meeting in August. Copies of the reports received will be distributed to the COA via e-mail. Dept. Commanders will also be asked to submit reports.

Nat. Chaplain Kowalski noted that a printed Handbook for Chaplains will soon be made available.

It was suggested that the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic be offered assistance in updating their website

CinC Pahl announced that the next CofA meeting would be held at the Eisenhower Inn, Gettysburg, PA, on November 19, 2006 at 8 am. All are encouraged to attend the breakfast at the Gettysburg GAR Hall.

Chap. Kowalski offered a closing prayer, after which CinC Pahl closed the meeting at 10:20 am.

Submitted in F, C, and L,
PDC Michael S. Bennett,
National Secretary, SUVCW



When the Last Leaf Fell – Remembering Comrade Albert Woolson

Fifty years ago, on August 2nd, 1956, our nation saw the end of an era when Albert Woolson, 109, sole surviving Union veteran of the Civil War, died. His city, his state and his nation looked to him as a symbol of the glorious past and of the spirit that made it glorious. Mr. Woolson carried that load ably and graciously. When his health permitted—for many happy years—he traveled, appeared at public functions, served as an honorary grandfather for a nation becoming fascinated with its own past.

Comrade Woolson was born in the New York farm hamlet of Antwerp, 22 miles northeast of Watertown, on February 11, 1847. Willard Woolson, his father, was a carpenter in Watertown and apprenticed his son to this trade. The senior Woolson was also a musician and, when President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers in 1861, he and his fellow musicians enlisted in a body. When his family did not hear from him for more than a year, they traced him through Army records to a hospital in Minnesota, suffering from a leg wound received at the Battle of Shiloh. Shortly after the family was reunited, his leg had to be amputated and he died.

In 1863, the Union needed heavy artillery and Col. Wm. Colville organized a Minnesota heavy artillery regiment of 1,800 men. Albert Woolson got his mother's consent and was accepted into Co. C, 1st Minnesota Vol. Heavy Artillery. He enlisted October 10, 1864, as a rifleman, but was eventually assigned as a drummer and bugler. Late in 1864, the regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland in Tennessee.

Woolson recalled one incident while stationed at Chattanooga as rumors spread about a possible attack by rebel forces. "One day," Woolson said, "the colonel handed me the end of a long rope. He said 'When I yell, you stand on your toes, open your mouth and pull.'" The rope was a lanyard. "First time the cannon went off, I was scared to death," Woolson added.

The first Minnesota sat out the spring and early summer of 1865 in the shadow of Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, and in August, the regiment was ordered home. Comrade Woolson received his discharge on September 7, 1865 and returned to his parents home at Mankato, Minn..

"I was a jack of all trades after the war," Woolson said. "I worked in a furniture factory, in a traveling minstrel band, in mills and in logging camps. Then, when I was about 85, I retired to take life easy." He moved to Duluth in 1905.

Woolson married Sarah Jane Sloper in 1868. She died in 1901. Three years later, he married Anna Haugen, who died in 1949. They moved to Duluth in 1905 and reared 14 children.

A strong advocate of thrift, Woolson would frequently drop in unannounced at elementary school classrooms and talk to the youngsters about the merits of saving money. Before he left, he would give each child a penny.

He read newspapers daily and was never at a loss for answers to questions printed for him on cards by visitors.

The old veteran's birthdays became civic celebrations. Hundreds gathered in front of his home in below zero weather on the night of his 107th birthday to sing "Happy Birthday." He shoveled snow from his sidewalk when he was 106 "so the postman won't have any trouble getting in" with birthday mail.



Albert Woolson, b. Feb. 11, 1847 d. Aug. 2, 1956.
Private, Company C, 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery
Served from October 10, 1864 to September 25, 1865.
Last surviving Union veteran and last survivor of
the G.A.R.

Woolson smoked about eight cigars a day, filling in between times with his pipe. His recipe for a long life was brief: "Moderation in all things."

Survivors included six daughters: Mrs. John Kobus, Mrs. Arthur Johnson and Mrs. Robert Campbell, all of Duluth; Mrs. Adelaide Wellcome, Mrs. F. W. Rye and Mrs. J.C. Barrett, all of Seattle; and two sons, Dr. A.H. Woolson of Spokane, Wash., and R.C. Woolson of Dayton, Wash.

He was active in his local GAR Post and the Dept. of Minnesota, serving as Dept. Commander from 1943 until the Department closed in 1947. He was Nat. Patriotic Instructor in 1946, Chief of Staff in 1948, and appointed Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief to fill vacancies caused by the death of the officers.

Comrade Woolson participated in the last GAR National Encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949, and was the last surviving member of that Organization. He was made an Honorary Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the National Encampment of that Organization in 1953.

From the Associated Press and the SUVCW

David V. Medert Elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

David V. Medert was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 125th National Encampment. His involvement with the Civil War began in 1957 when he watched his father, SUVCW PCinC David R. Medert, build his first of six cannons. From that day on, he was hooked. He participated in many reenactments during the late 50's and early 60's.

He joined Gov. William Dennison 125. Department of Ohio, SUVCW, in June 1988. He served as Camp Secretary/Treasurer in 1996 and formed Sgt. Richard Enderlin Camp 73 in Chillicothe, where he served as Camp Commander. He has also served as Ohio Department Commander from 1999 to 2000, and for two years on the National Legislation Committee. He has helped form two SUVCW camps in Ohio and five new SVR units throughout the U.S.

Brother Medert retired from the U.S. Navy in 1993 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer with over 23 years service in Naval

Intelligence and Cryptology. His assignments included various surface combatants, aircraft, submarines, state side, and overseas commands. His last command was at Naval Headquarters in Washington D.C., where he served as a community manger for over 4,000 sailors.

He joined the SVR in 1993 as a member of Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery (OLA). Later that year, he was appointed Battery Commander and in 1997, was re-elected to serve another three years. He served as 3rd Military District Public Information Officer, National Public Information Officer, Assistant to the Adjutant General, and Adjutant General.

On July 29, 1997, David V. Medert was appointed Commanding Officer, SVR, with the rank of Brigadier General, a position he has held ever since.

Brother Medert and his wife, Dianna, have two sons, Allan Johnson and D. Matthew, and two grandsons, Alex and Adam Johnson.

Hanby, Schmincke join Council of Administration

PDC James R. Hanby, Sr. bases his membership on the service of John Wesley Hanby, Co. 1, 4th Delaware Inf. And Cpt. Edward Larkin, 30th Penn. Inf. James has served four terms as Commander of Appomattox Camp 2, in Wilmington, Delaware. This year, he completed two terms as Maryland Department Commander and now serves as Dept. Historian.



Prior to his election at this year's National Encampment, he was elected to complete a one year unexpired term on the National Council of Administration. He served on last year's Nat. Encampment Resolutions Committee and is the newest member of the SUVCW Charitable Foundation Board of Directors.

Lt. Hanby is the Adjutant of the Co. C, Col. Henry A. DuPont Guard, SVR, and serves as the 2nd Military District's Public Information Officer.

In addition to the SUVCW, Br. Hanby has served in various community leadership roles, including those in the American Legion, Masons, and several historical societies. He is chairman of the Finance Committee of Siloam, U.M.C. and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lombardy Foundation. He holds the Junior Achievement's 2nd highest

award for his long term service to H.O.P.E., raising funds through employee/community partnership.

He and his wife, Shelly, have two children, J.R. and Hannah.

PDC Eric J. Schmincke joined Philadelphia's Anna M. Ross Camp 1 in 1994. In 2001, he helped Bangor's struggling Joel Searfoss Camp 273 by becoming an active dual member and served as the Camp's Commander the following year. He has also served on both Camp's Councils.



After two years as Dept. Patriotic Instructor, he served on the Camp Revitalization Committee, and as Dept. Junior and Senior Vice Commander. He is serving his second year as Pennsylvania Dept. Commander.

Br. Eric has also served on the National eBay Surveillance Committee, the Remembrance Day Committee, the Technology Committee, the National Encampment Credentials and Host Committees.

Brother Eric is an active member of the SVR and has served as treasurer of Co. C, 28th PVI and as Deputy Provost Marshall during the last six annual Remembrance Day parades.

He's served on the Board of Directors for the GAR Civil War Museum and Library in Philadelphia during the last nine years. He was vice president for eight years before being elected president this year.

Department News

CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC

More than 20 members from Camps 2, 17 and 21 helped inventory records of the GAR and Allied Orders at Los Angeles' Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. Since its construction in 1925, the hall has served as a meeting place and depository for veterans organizations. It's about to close its doors for a lengthy renovation. Since March, Camp 17's Commander, Glen Roosevelt, has led efforts to separate GAR and Allied Orders articles from other veterans organizations and house them in a single, designated room. Most of the records and artifacts have not been accessed for several decades and needed to be unpacked, cleaned, sorted, inventoried and repacked.

On July 3rd, members of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17, the ASUVCW and DUVCW gathered at GAR Hill, in San Diego's Mt. Hope Cemetery. The Allied Orders dedicated a new flagpole and monument to the Grand Army of the Republic. This was the culmination of an 18-month project. The 30-foot flagpole replaced an older one, damaged and removed in 2005. Funds came from Camp 21 fund raisers and the National Special Projects Fund. The monument was made from local granite and plaques, and placed by Camp 21 members. July 4th was the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the GAR Monument at the cemetery, placed by the Woman's Relief Corp in 1956.

MICHIGAN

Grant Camp 101, along with the DUVCW local tent and Department, filed a claim of interest with the Register of Deeds, concerning the GAR Hall in Detroit. This was based upon a Michigan statute concerning GAR halls built with government money and some deed restrictions on the property itself. The City of Detroit filed action in Wayne County Circuit Court, asking the court to remove those deed restrictions and declare the statute to be void. The Sons response was to ask the Federal District Court to assume jurisdiction. It did. Detroit filed an objection and after hearing, the federal court kept the case. This brought the City to the bargaining table. On September 1, 2006, the judge signed a Consent Judgement as a result of these negotiations. The building

must remain as a permanent memorial to the GAR. If the building is sold, the new owners must comply with this judgment and allow the Allied Orders access to the building to construct and maintain a suitable memorial, along with preserving the tile floor in the main entrance, which portrays a GAR badge. The Allied Orders are also allowed access to all facilities where personal property formerly in the GAR Hall is now stored, to inventory and catalog it. The City had initially stated the property did not exist, but were told exactly where it was. Plans are underway to begin that inspection soon. This is great news and Camp 101 is to be commended in persevering in this project.

NEW CAMPS AUTHORIZED

Commander-in-Chief Pahl has been privileged to approve six applications for Permission to form a Camp: William A. Kent Camp 83, Department of Michigan Col. David Moore Camp 70, Department of Missouri March to the Sea Camp 135, Department of Michigan Gen. James R. McCormack Camp 215, Department of Missouri Charles Sumner Camp 25, Department of Maryland McPhearson Camp 1, Georgia (CAL)

MARYLAND

The Department of Maryland announces the chartering of its newest Camp: Luray-Carlisle Reunion Camp 1881 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Robert H. Moore, II is the new Camp Commander. This Camp is named for a reunion of Union and Confederate veterans from Carlisle, Pennsylvania and Luray, Virginia in 1881. In that year, members of the Grand Army of the Republic from Carlisle, Pa., traveled to the caverns at Luray. They sent notice ahead and Confederate veterans feted them with speeches and a banquet. The Union veterans returned the favor. They raised funds so the Confederate veterans could travel to Pennsylvania for a similar celebration. The initial Camp membership consists of members of Summers-Koontz Camp 490 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. While this caused the new Camp some grief from some rank and file members of the SCV, it appears that the leadership of the SCV is very supportive of this idea. You need not be a member of the SCV to join this SUVCW Camp, it just happened to start out that way.

Congratulations to all 2006 National Award Recipients!

Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star to PCinC Bob Grim, PCinC Andy Johnson, PCinC Danny Wheeler and PCC Lee Walters.

The Marshall Hope Award for best newsletter to Department of Kansas' *Sunflower Picket* (Camp) Dept. of CA & Pac Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21's *The General*.

Abraham Lincoln Award for outstanding camp to Phil Sheridan Camp 4, Dept. of CA & Pac.

Cornelius Whitehouse Award to Outstanding Brother, Chaplain Jerome Kowalski, Dept. of IL. (photo at right)

National aide for recruiting: Br. Warl T. McIntosh (Mine Creek Camp 6, Dept. of KS.; Craig A. Sundler, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Dept. of KS.; Randall Durbin, Old Abe Camp 16, Dept. of KS and PCC Jerry Sayre, Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Dept. of CA & Pac.



Department News

ILLINOIS

A dedication ceremony was conducted recently honoring the last Civil War veteran of Collinsville. Pvt. William N. Stibbens, Co., G, 18th Indiana Infantry. PCC Gene Beals of the Col. Friedrich Hecker Camp 443 organized the event. Camp Commander Greg Zelinske, members of the 17th Missouri Infantry and descendants of the honored soldier were also present.

William N. Stibbens, born August 1, 1843 in Salem, Washington County, Ind., had trouble getting into the army. "I come close to not gettin' in the army. Five times I tried to enlist, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. And five times they turned me down, because I was too small, only four feet ten. But then on Saturday they examined me all over again and called off my name." He continued, "I come there a whooping and loping like a young colt. And there the officer says to me, 'Say, you're rarin' to go, ain't you?' And when I answers 'Yessir,' they signed me up." Stibbens was so small he spent three hours sifting through piles of uniforms to find clothing that fit. His uniform was a combination of civilian clothing mixed with bits of cavalry, infantry and artillery uniforms.

Stibbens saw action at Grand Gulf, Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Black River Bridge, and Vicksburg. He recalled, "The hottest battle I was in was at Vicksburg, where we was three months at one crack, and all the dust and dirt and cannons going all the time."

The 18th Indiana linked up with General Benjamin Butler's forces at Bermuda Hundred, and saw action at Deep Bottom. It was then transferred to Washington D.C., where President Lincoln shook Stibbens hand.

Stibbens recalled, "When we left Washington, D.C., to come out to Pilot Knob to stop the rebels in Missouri, old Abe shook hands with lots of the boys and one of them was mine." His unit then joined Sheridan's army, participating in



Brothers Gene Beals and Greg Zelinske with Frank Arensmahn and members of the Stibbens Family.

the Valley Campaign, fighting in the battles of Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Winchester. At Cedar Creek, he witnessed the finish of "Sheridan's Ride." Stibbens said, "His horse was wet with foam."

After duty in Georgia, the regiment was mustered out in August 1865 and Stibbens returned to Salem, working at a stone quarry. He married twice and was blessed with three children. He moved his family to Richmond, Missouri, in the mid-1880s, taking a job as miner and was a member of the town's GAR Post. His health deteriorated and he was eventually placed in the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Quincy, Illinois.

On April 16, 1938, Stibbens died at his son's home in Collinsville and was buried in St. John Cemetery with full military honors. American Legion Leighton-Evatt Post No. 365 provided the color guard and rifle salute. His final resting place is now marked with a new government headstone and a bronze plaque designating him a "Last Soldier of the Civil War."



Front row, from left: Craig Keller, Ray Nagel and Justin Mays. Second row, same order: Jerry Rose, Jim Irwin, Jim Perrine, Jim Crane and Jim Houston.

OHIO

During the recent Butler County Soldiers & Sailors monument 100th Anniversary Ceremony, Commander Keller spoke about the Wetzel Compton GAR Post and the SUCVW before giving the benediction. The Post was responsible for erecting the monument. Camp 8 brothers acted as hosts for the event.

Brother Craig Keller, commander of Pvt. Valentin Keller Camp 8 in Fairfield, Ohio, was featured with his family in a recent New York Times article. The article, entitled "Aging: So Big and Strong Grandpa Wouldn't Know You," was published on July 30th and focused on family health issues from the Civil War to today. The life of Br. Keller's Civil War ancestor, the Camp's namesake, was prominently featured and the article examined whether families are more healthy today than in the 19th Century.

MARYLAND

Two members of the Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2 have donated important documents to the Special Collections in the U.S. Military Library Academy. The documents included Maj. Gen. George C. Thomas' 1860 commission in the D.C. Militia and several of his West Point textbooks. Maryland DC Keith Young, who is also Camp 2's Commander, purchased the commission that had been contributed to a Civil War preservation fund-raising auction by fellow Camp member, Steve Meserve. The commission was dated May 21, 1860.

George Cummins Thomas (USMA Class of 1836) is not to be confused with the better known Civil War general, George Henry Thomas (USMA Class of 1840). George C. was appointed to the academy from New Jersey and upon graduation, was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the 4th U.S. Artillery. He served during the Seminole Wars, but resigned in 1842. He served as Maj. Gen. of the D.C. Militia during the Civil War and then, in the Army Engineer Dept. and in the Quartermaster General's Office until his death in 1882.

Brother Meserve had several text books that belonged to the general, which he was pleased to contribute. Two of the books, bound together, were original artillery texts, used by Cadet Thomas at West Point in 1835. They were translated from the French and printed at the Academy's lithograph machine. The charm of the volume lies in the doodles and notes by Thomas, that appear throughout the book.

The Director of Special Collections at the USMA Library, Suzanne Christoff, was contacted and the library readily agreed to add the items to their collection. The items were personally delivered this past July.



DC Keith Young with Ms. Suzanne Christoff

for quite a number of years prior to my great grandfather's arrival. Her maiden name was Carlson and there appears to have been a large number of residents in Illinois in the mid-1880s with that surname. I haven't yet, however, found any record of the Carlson's Family involvement in the Civil War, that I can connect to my family."

I believe this is to be a most admirable act. Most folks surely would not have gone to the trouble Mr. Walstedt did to ensure this item went back to its proper place of honor, now guarding over the grave of a very deserving U.S. Armed Forces veteran, Captain Henry Stark. Capt. Stark is interred in Mountain Home Cemetery, Otsego, Michigan. We can all learn from Mr. Walstedt's example.

Camps at Large

The Col. Edward D. Baker Camp 6 has committed to restoring the GAR plot in Eugene, Oregon's Pioneer Cemetery. There are over 40 Union veterans buried in the GAR plot and there are nearly another 100 Union veterans, including a Medal of Honor recipient buried elsewhere in the cemetery. The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery has the largest concentration of Union veterans in Oregon.

Camp 6 members are cleaning, restoring or replacing damaged and unreadable stones; as well as repairing damaged curbing and sidewalks within the GAR plot. The camp's goal is to complete the work and to conduct a public rededication of the GAR plot on Memorial Day 2007.

Camp 6 Secretary/Treasurer Randy Fletcher has done research and field testing on the safe cleaning of marble headstones. He's written a 4-page article, describing headstone refurbishing techniques, which is available by emailing him at cwtrooper1863@comcast.net.

On 29 May 2006, members of the Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger Camp 1, Fayetteville, NC, attended the New Bern

(Please turn to Page 16)

MICHIGAN

GAR Flag Holder Returned Long Distance

By CC John R. Keith, Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20
I received an email from Mr. Kirk Walstedt, who lives in Essex, Ontario. He found my email on the Department of Michigan SUCVW website as Department Historian. He wrote the following:

"An elderly friend of mine, who was a fellow antique collector, passed away a short while ago and his wife gave me a number of Civil War items he had collected over the years. One of the items is a very old iron spike grave marker with 'Grand Army of the Republic' embossed in a circle. There is a star in the middle with 61 above 65 written on it. It also has 'post' embossed in the bottom of the circle. There is also a slot in the back of the marker, which I believe would have been for the placement of small flag.

"I would very much like to return it to the proper authority, so it could be placed back in a veteran's cemetery, where it belongs."

It wasn't long before it arrived in the mail. After being sandblasted, it looked almost new again.

Mr. Walstedt's family moved to Canada from Malden, Illinois, which is near Princeton, in 1913. His great grandfather and grandfather bought the family farm, where his parents and siblings still reside. His great grandfather was born in Sweden in 1858 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1878.

Mr. Walstedt wrote, "I'm still in the process of researching my great grandmother's family, who had been in the Midwest



Memorial Day services. The event organizers announced that the evening before, seven state flags were stolen from the cemetery grounds. These were part of a 50-state flag display for the ceremony. Br. Harry Goodman suggested that the Ruger Camp and the SCV might work together to replace them. A week later, Br. Kevin Motter called Ms. Brenda Good of the New Bern National Cemetery, inquiring if anyone had offered to replace the flags. No one had and due to budget limitations, the cemetery could not replace them. Br. Motter contacted Br. Goodman, suggesting he approach the local SCV Camp about replacing three of the flags, while the Ruger Camp would replace the other four. Br. Goodman contacted the SCV, which agreed to replace the Georgia, Kentucky and Oklahoma flags. The Ruger Camp approved the purchase of the Delaware, Rhode Island, Wyoming and Washington State flags. Commander Larry Blumatte obtained the flags and forwarded them to Br. Goodman. On September 7th, the SCV's Edwin Fetzer and Bob Sydow, along with Br. Harry Goodman, met at the New Bern National Cemetery and presented Ms. Good with the replacement flags. Camp Brothers, working with our Confederate cousins, were able to complete the National Cemetery's 50-state flag collection in a spirit of unity, honoring all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Recently, members of the Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger Camp 1, Fayetteville, N.C., participated in a Flag Retirement

Ceremony at the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Parade Field. The event is sponsored annually by the Liberty Point Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Marques De Lafayette Chapter, North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company.

Camp brothers participating included Commander Larry B. Blumatte, who recited the three types of wood used in the fire, JVC Gerard Devine and Sec./Treas. Kevin Motter acted as event marshals, accepting flags from those presenting them for disposal, keeping them at a safe distance from the specially designed barrel. Camp Council member Frank Horton gave the toast to the flag and SVC Richard Bishop led the gathering in singing "America the Beautiful" and worked with the burn detail. Camp members participating with the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry were PCC Doug Elwell, who played the bagpipes and Associate Hosea Ray, who participated as a drummer. Associate Dr. Robert Downing played taps. Past SVC Donald Johnston was enlisted to take photos with his wife Shirley.

During the service, Terry Blumatte and Dr. Devine were awarded the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Certificate and Lapel Button.

An estimated 300 unserviceable flags were honorably retired by burning, taking four hours to complete. Once the ashes cooled, they were buried on the parade ground field. This marks the fifth year that the Ruger Camp has participated in this event.

Final Muster

Ruben W. Law
Carlin Camp 25 (CA/Pac)
January 1, 2005

Harold Hodges
Nash-Hodges Camp 43 (MI)
October 5, 2005

George Kingson
Slemmer Camp 6 (FL)
January 11, 2006

Martin E. Smith
Gore Camp 141 (PA)
June 4, 2006

Edison A. Conner
Taylor Camp 53 (TN)
February 14, 2005

Raymond Tanner
Mitchell Camp 4 (FL)
November 18, 2005

Kay L. Sander
Billy Yank Camp 65 (MO)
January 23, 2006

Kent M. Ruhl
Brindle Camp 50 (PA)
June 19, 2006

Douglas F. Colley
Logan Camp 1 (MI)
March 11, 2005

Darrin Russell
Huntley Camp 114 (IA)
December 5, 2005

William E. Van Eck
Gilluly-Kingsley 120 (MI)
March 27, 2006

James W. Johnson
Taylor Camp 53 (TN)
July 12, 2006

William Loyd Fry
Mitchell Camp 4 (FL)
April 28, 2005

N.P. Louis
Twombly Camp 2 (IA)
December 7, 2005

Willard A. Carvatt
Lincoln Camp 100 (NJ)
May 9, 2006

Hugh A. Lamb
Tift Camp 5 (MA)

Wilson Ryder
Mitchell Camp 4 (FL)
May 15, 2005

Raymond F. Mahaffie
Mitchell Camp 4 (FL)
December 16, 2005

Charles P. O'Neil
Harnden Camp 2 (WI)
May 17, 2006

Eugene F. Twining
Tift Camp 15 (MA)

Lawrence Mullin
Francine Camp 7 (NJ)
May 17, 2005

Clifton Gaunt
Sherman Camp 15 (MA)
December 26, 2005

Donald E. Hoch
Blair Camp 7 (MI)
May 21, 2006

Homer F. Weston
McFarlin Camp 132 (MA)

Louis C. Hawes
Allen Camp 96 (IA)
September 2005

Merrill D. Anthony
Dodge Camp 75 (IA)
2005

Robert M. Batinson
Couch Camp 26 (MA)
May 30, 2006

PCC James A. Muetting, Sr.
G. A. Custer Camp 1 (IL)
December 18, 2005

Donald J. Gunn
Custer Camp 17 (NJ)
September 27, 2005

Charles C. Harber
Pittenger Camp 21 (CA/Pac)
January 2, 2006

Arlo Quill
Keith Camp 12 (CA/Pac)
May 30, 2006

PCC Steven J. Stewart
Phil Sheridan Camp 2 (IL)
August 31, 2006

National Encampment Summary

Contributed by PDP Helen Geppi and PDP Judy Morgan
The Auxiliary accomplished much at its National Encampment. Seventy delegates and 24 guests, representing 13 departments and the MAL attended. During the Joint Memorial Service, Tributes of Memory were given for PNP's, Esther Peiper, and Catherine Zapatka.

PNP Margaret Atkinson performed the Exemplification of the Ritual and five new sisters were initiated. Reports were given which reflected a very active year. A total of 242 sisters attended Memorial Day Services nationwide and 578 children participated! Aggressive advertising in periodicals, local newspapers, Civil War newspapers and magazines has begun.

The Nat. Patriotic Instructor Gift in Memory of the GAR was presented to the Downtown Daily Bread Kitchen, which provides a nourishing, hot meal for the poor and homeless of downtown Harrisburg at no cost to the recipient. A \$100 check was also given to John S. Townsend Auxiliary 108 for repairing the GAR Hall in Frost, Ohio. This Hall is one of only three remaining in Ohio, which is still being used for its intended purpose by both John S. Townsend Camp 108 and Auxiliary 108.

At Friday night's Campfire, Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed, welcomed us and gave a wonderful talk on Harrisburg during the Civil War. Great entertainment was provided by the "New Dawn Singers". Following this, various Departments presented both NP Cynthia Fox and CinC Donald Darby, with skits which included sailors, soldiers, witches, pirates, and Francis Scott Key! Saturday night concluded the Encampment with a huge banquet and tour of the National Civil War Museum.

A very special thank you to the Pennsylvania Department for all of their hard work in planning this Encampment. Great job, well done!

New Auxiliary Organizes in Granite State

Charles W. Canney Auxiliary 5 of Rochester, New Hampshire, was instituted September 23rd at the American Legion Hall in Rochester. NP Barbara Mayberry presided with PNP Cynthia Brown, NVP Judith Trepanier and NH Dept. Pres. Florence Jennison. The Auxiliary's new President is Linda Murray, Allenstown, NH;

The Auxiliary will help the Camp with: Veterans Lap Afghans, the annual New Durham Living History program (which benefits the NH Flag Restoration Initiative), the Thank a Veteran program, and the Rochester Public Library's Annual Civil War Day.

Future Auxiliaries are planned in Iowa, Kentucky and Missouri.

The brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders all strive to carry out the principles of the GAR, keeping our history true and keeping green the memory of the Union veterans' sacrifices. Working together increases the chances of success. Interested in forming a new Auxiliary in your area? contact: PNP Danielle Michaels, Auxiliary Organizer at Michaels_family@hotmail.com

Auxiliary's Remembrance Day Tradition

by PNP Margaret E. Atkinson
As the 50th Anniversary of the observance of Remembrance Day in Gettysburg nears, the Auxiliary remains strongly committed to being a part of its commemoration.

In 1954, NP Ellinore L. Konrad and Celeste D. Gentiou, Chair of the Auxiliary GAR Fund, voted to erect an appropriate tribute to Albert Woolson, the GAR's last surviving member. They hired world renowned sculptor Avarad Fairbanks of the University of Utah to sculpt a bronze statue of Comrade Woolson. The \$17,000 monument was to be mounted on a granite base, placed in the Gettysburg National Military Park and dedicated on September 12, 1956.

At the age of 107, Comrade Woolson posed for the bronze bust, used as a model for the larger-than-life size statue. (This original bust was donated to the Philadelphia's GAR Museum by the sculptor's son, Dr. David Fairbanks.) Plans were made for Albert Woolson to attend the dedication ceremony. Unfortunately, he died on August 2 and the inscription was changed to read "Memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic". Nonetheless, the ceremony drew large numbers from the Allied Orders.

For 26 years prior, the Past Commanders and Past Presidents Assoc. of South Central PA observed President Lincoln's battlefield dedication during a dinner held on the closest Saturday to November 19th. Thus, ceremonies at the Woolson Monument, supported by the Auxiliary, began to be held on the same day as the dinner.

The exact year a parade was organized is unknown to the writer, however, from its inception, Auxiliary members participated on an individual basis. Approximately six years ago, Auxiliary members from the Maryland/Delaware Department began to parade directly behind the Sons of Veterans Reserve and in subsequent years, members from other Departments joined them. Last year, over 125 sisters paraded with their state and/or American flags.

The National Civil War ball tops off the Remembrance Day activities and was begun informally eleven years ago by a few members of the Allied Orders. To date, the Ball's profits have totaled \$44,100, including the \$5000 that will be given to the Gettysburg National Military Park at the 2006 Woolson Monument ceremony.

In 2000 and 2001, because of the ravages of time, the National Auxiliary with the help of the SUVCW, refurbished the monument and provided for perpetual care.

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The Guidon

News of the Sons of Veterans Reserve

SPECIAL ORDER 2006-1

4 July 2006

1. Effective 10 August 2006, First Lieutenant Eric J. Schmincke, Deputy Provost Marshal, SVR, is appointed Provost Marshal for the 125th National Encampment, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This appointment expires at 2400 hours 13 August 2006.
2. The duties of Provost Marshal for the 125th National Encampment is to ensure order is maintained when the National Encampment is in session. The Provost Marshal will report directly to the Commanding Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve, or his designee.

SPECIAL ORDER 2006-2

10 September 2006

1. Effective 12 August 2006, the National Military Affairs Committee finalized a schedule of events for Saturday, 18 November 2006 in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary Remembrance Day Weekend at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
2. Among other matters addressed by the National Military Affairs Committee, 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, 18 November 2006 was established as the time and date for brief ceremonies to take place at the GAR Memorial in the National Park.
3. All Sons of Veterans Reserve Units participating in the Remembrance Day Weekend should plan on attending the ceremonies at the GAR Memorial in the National Park at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, 18 November 2006.

BG David V. Medert
Commanding Officer
Sons of Veterans Reserve

Attest:
Colonel Henry E. Shaw, Jr.,
Adjutant General
Sons of Veterans Reserve

SVR Personnel Actions

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The following men are commissioned and appointed to the General Staff to serve in the position indicated:
Colonel Robert E. Grim - Deputy Commander
Colonel David R. Medert - Chief of Staff
Colonel Elmer F. Atkinson - Inspector General
Colonel Andrew M. Johnson - Washington, D.C. Liaison
Colonel Henry E. Shaw, Jr. - Adjutant General
Lt. Colonel Larry D. Freed - National SVR Chaplain
Major Charles E. Kuhn, Jr. - Provost Marshal
First Lieutenant Eric J. Schmincke - Deputy Provost Marshal

Major James B. Pahl - Judge Advocate General
Captain Leo F. Kennedy - Public Information Officer
Major Peter N. Rotando - Commander, 1st Military District
Captain Todd A. Shillington - Commander, 2nd Military District
Major Donald E. Darby - Commander, 3rd Military District
Major Jack G. Grothe - Commander, 4th Military District
Major David E. Allyn - Commander, 6th Military District
Captain Talbot S. Hackett, Jr. - Cmdr, 7th Military District
Additionally, Ivan E. Frantz is appointed Musician Sergeant Major to serve on the General Staff.

The following men are re-commissioned and re-appointed to serve three years:

(First Military District)
2nd Lieutenant Richard P. Ruffin - Public Information Officer (Second Military District)
Captain George J. Weinmann, SVR, Commander of Co. I, 83rd NY Vol. Inf. 2nd Lieutenant John P. Portanova, SVR, Adjutant of Co. I, 83rd NY Vol. Inf. (Third Military District Staff)
Captain Edward J. Krieser - Chief of Staff
Captain Martin W. Lowery, Jr. - District Adjutant/PIO
2nd Lieutenant Timothy H. Downey - Chaplain
Captain Martin W. Lowery, Jr., SVR, Commander of Battery I, 1st Ohio Lt. Art. (Fourth Military District Staff)
Captain Stephen A. Michaels - Chief of Staff
Captain Robert D. Champlin - District Adjutant
Captain Emmett P. Taylor, III - Inspector General
2nd Lieutenant Randel O. Baehr - Public Information Officer
2nd Lieutenant Jerome W. Kowalski - Chaplain (Sixth Military District Staff)
Captain Bob Lowe - District Adjutant General/Chief of Staff
2nd Lieutenant Carl M. Taylor - Chaplain
2nd Lieutenant William E. Tisch - Public Information Officer

PROMOTIONS

Pursuant to SVR Regulations, the following personnel are promoted to the grades indicated and appointed to the following:
(Second Military District Staff)
Captain Todd A. Shillington - Commander (Seventh Military District Staff)
1st Lieutenant Kenneth V. Early - Chief of Staff
1st Lieutenant Eric B. Peterson - Chaplain
2nd Lieutenant Dennis J. Rebman - District Adjutant General

TRANSFERS

(2nd Military District)
Captain George Shadman transferred to the SVR Inactive Reserve
2nd Lt. John P. Portanova, Inactive Reserve, SVR, is returned to active duty as Adjutant of Co. I, 83rd NY Vol. Inf.

4th Military District hosts Artillery School



Maj. Jack Grothe addresses students at the 4th MD Artillery Safety school, held May 20, 2006, at the Boscobel, Wis., Sportsman's Club. 82 attended.



Capt. Steve Michaels, right, congratulates Cpl. Richard Roban and his unit, Cushing's Battery, for their support of the 4th MD Artillery Safety School.



Maj. James Newkirk, NWCAA President, instructs at the 2006 4th Military District Artillery Safety School.

The SVR's 4th Military District held its annual Artillery Safety School at the Boscobel, Wisconsin, Sportsman's Club on May 20th. Instructors from the National Civil War Artillery Association and the SVR qualified 82 re-enactors and living historians.

The students, representing historic periods from the War of 1812 to the Civil War came from five states to attend the school. The SVR host unit for the school was Cushing's Battery. SVR members of the 3rd Iowa Light Artillery and the Headquarters Company also participated.

Upon successful completion of the course, each student received an NCWAA qualification, which lasts two years. After the school, students were treated to a tour of the town's GAR Hall, the last in Wisconsin.

SVR Staff support for the school included BG Charles Corfman, new student instructor, Maj. Jack Grothe, District Commander, and Cpt. Stephen Michaels, School Coordinator.

Sisters from C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4, Milwaukee, and Henry Harnden Aux. 2, Madison, provided lunch for the students during their instruction.

The 4th Military District has held Artillery Safety Schools since 1998. This is the fourth such school held in Wisconsin. Next year's school will be held in Cuba City, Missouri



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SVR Scrapbook

Brothers of the SVR, right, prepare to present the colors to open the National Encampment in Harrisburg, PA, in August. Below, the leadership of the SVR, from left: Col. Robert Grim, Col. Harry Shaw and Commanding General David R. Meddert, prepare for SVR Breakfast at the Encampment.



Above, Captain Talbot S. Hackett, Jr., 7th Military District Commander, is promoted to the rank of Major by Deputy Commander Bob Grim, left. In photo at right, a group shot of those attending the annual SVR Breakfast at the National Encampment in Harrisburg.

Collecting the Sons

By PDC Robert J. Wolz, National Historian

Since the SUVCW has celebrated its 125th anniversary and many have been collecting Sons insignia, this new column will appear as space permits.

Some of the rarest items pertain to organizations that were eventually absorbed by the Sons of Veterans, USA (now known as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War).

One such order was called the Filii Veteranorum, founded in Albany, New York, in 1880 by the GAR. Historically, we refer to this order as the Post System. Local chapters were called Posts and members were referred to as comrades. The order's badge had a distinctive round pendent.

Many Grand Army members on the national level did not approve of the Sons imitating their ritual and regalia. They felt the veterans had earned titles in battle, while the Sons were "playing soldier" and wearing uniforms and insignia that should be used by the GAR alone. At the 21st GAR National Encampment, held in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 28-30, 1887, this resolution was presented:

"That we regret the action of the Sons of Veterans in some instances of calling their local organizations "posts" and appropriating to each other the fraternal name of 'comrade' believing that these terms should remain exclusive features of the Grand Army of the Republic."

Clashes often occurred between the Sons of Veterans, USA, and their New York revivals. The Grand Army finally backed the Pittsburgh based Sons and by 1889, the Post System was absorbed into the Pittsburgh based Sons. The Post System only existed from 1880 to 1889, so their insignia is very rare. Here are examples of their badges. Figure 1 has 3 stars on the rank strap, indicating the rank of Past Senior Vice Commander in Chief. Figure 2 indicates a post staff officer. Figure 3 shows their membership badge. The order used the same flag ribbon as the GAR. Figure 4 is the lapel button. Figure 5 is a gold and enamel badge, believed to be a Past Department Commander's presentation badge. Their uniform buttons were simply the letters "SV" or sometimes "SOV."

In later years, Woman's Relief Corps PNP Ada Mohr regularly presented a copy of this badge and \$10 to the Son who recruited the most new Sons members for the New York Department.



Figure 3



Figure 2



Figure 6



Figure 5

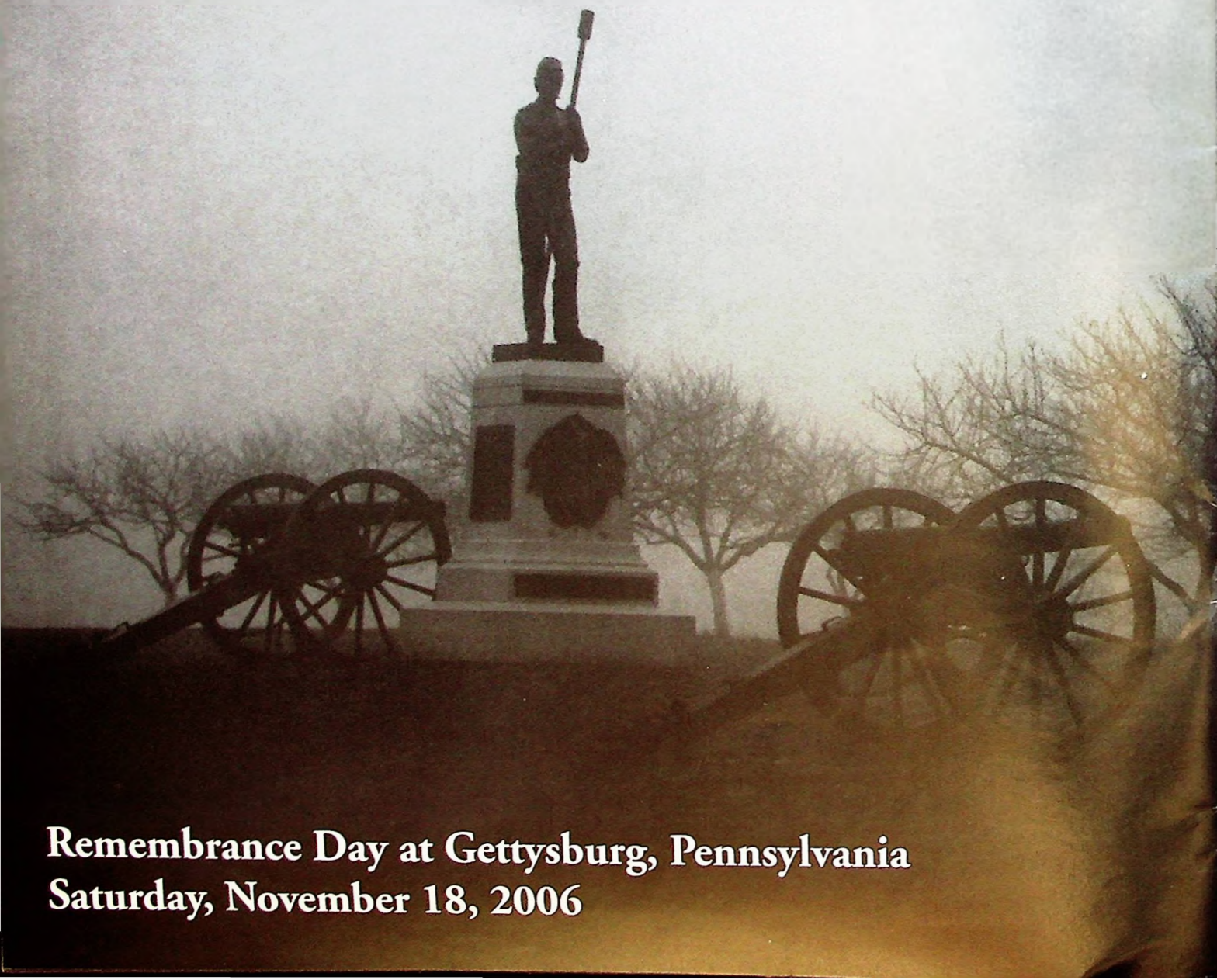


Figure 4



Figure 1

Help Us Remember What They Did Here



Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Saturday, November 18, 2006

2006 REMEMBRANCE DAY SCHEDULE SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>
7 am	SVR Breakfast	Eisenhower Inn Emmitsburg Rd. (US 15) South of Gettysburg	\$12 by November 3rd to Col. Henry E. Shaw, Jr. 27 Griswold Street Delaware, OH 43105-1716
9 am	Unit Commanders Parade Briefing	Eisenhower Inn	Commemorative Badges available \$5 each to Col. Henry E. Shaw, Jr.
11 am	50 th Anniversary GAR Ceremony	Woolson Monument	None
1 pm	Parade Step-off		None
6 pm	76 th Ann. Dedication Day Dinner (all are invited)	Eisenhower Inn	\$25 by November 11 th to 1126 Hanover Road York, PA 17408
9 pm	National Civil War Ball Music by 28 th Penn. Reg. Brass Band (cash bar and snacks)	Eisenhower Inn	\$15 by November 10 th to Col. Bud Atkinson 1016 Gorman Street Philadelphia PA 19116-3719 (\$20 at door)

2006 POST REMEMBRANCE DAY SCHEDULE SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>
7-11 am	Camp 112 Pancake Breakfast	GAR Post 9 Hall 53 E. Middle Street Gettysburg	\$6 at door
8 am	Nat. Council of Administration Meeting (open to Nat. Officers, PDCs and DCs)	Eisenhower Inn	None

THESE WORTHY FUNDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your monetary contributions to the funds listed below help further the efforts of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. ALL donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: National Organization, SUVCW.

My contribution is submitted for the fund(s) checked below: In the amount of:

Honor Roll \$ _____
 Donations to the Permanent Fund in memory of a Union soldier/sailer or a departed Brother. (\$10 minimum)

Honoree's Name: _____ Military Unit: _____

G.A.R. Fund \$ _____
 Donations support the Order's scholarship program and tributes made to several annual patriotic observances.

Heritage Preservation Fund \$ _____
 Support the Order's future legal efforts to protect our Nation's Civil War memorials.

Civil War Memorial Preservation Fund \$ _____
 Donations + \$2 from each Brother's annual dues (Juniors excluded) allow grants for preservation work on Civil War memorials.

Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief Fund \$ _____
 Donations support promotion of the Order and membership recruitment advertising.

National Headquarters Fund \$ _____
 Donations support the operation of our national headquarters.

General Fund \$ _____
 Donations support the general operating expenses of the Order.

Permanent Fund \$ _____
 Donations strengthen a restricted sum that generates investment interest, which is used to support operation of the Order.

Please remember the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in your will.



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Greetings from your Commander-in-Chief

I am honored and humbled in the vote of confidence placed in my meager abilities. I accept this office in honor of my Lord and Savior. Also, my great-great grandfather, Pvt. John Boyer, Co A, 29th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, wounded at Chickamauga.

As my first official act, I signed the charter application approval for the William A. Kent Camp #83, Department of Michigan. This is only the first of the Camp applications I hope to sign in the coming year.

The work of the Order is progressing on the shoulders of many. But a few in each Department rise above and accomplish great things, usually not recognized as they should be. I ask the Department Commanders to forward such names to me as they find from time to time - so that the National Organization can properly recognize these efforts.

I will continue to recognize those who recruit new brothers with the designation of National Aide and authorize them to wear the ribbon with National Colors attached to their member or associate badge, as currently provided for in the National Regulations.

I will be swift in praise and giving honors. I will also not hesitate to use the powers conferred upon the Commander-in-Chief if items need correcting.

CONTACT INFORMATION - I call upon every Department and Camp to maintain a webpage. Contained in that web page **MUST** be the name of a contact person, with email address and telephone number - someone who can be counted upon to follow-up upon requests and inquiries. This may not be an elected officer, but must be someone who will be available and will respond. Prospective members and those interested need to have someone to contact. This will greatly assist our Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in carrying out his duties.

I have set several goals to assist us in moving forward as an Order:

We need to develop a management plan for our key elected National officers, so they will spend much less time doing routine clerical functions and spend more time participating in the Order's management, designing each "chair" to build upon the last and creating even more effective leadership.

The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief is assigned as an ex-officio member of the National Fraternal Relations Committee. He will work with that committee in building relationships with not only the other Allied Orders, but the various veterans and memorial organizations whose goals are similar to ours. He will build relationships that will carry forward in future years.

The Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief is directed to examine the National Membership Committee and to devise a plan to present to the 126th Annual National Encampment, to replace the committee membership with a more permanent 5-member committee. He will work with the National Signals Officer and his staff to design, develop and implement the ability to accept applications electronically from our web page - to streamline the procedures and eliminate as many middle-men as possible getting these applicants to the Departments and Camps as quickly as possible. Once this program is fully implemented, I foresee the JVCinC fulfilling a more supervisory role, allowing the Commander-in-Chief to assign additional duties as issues within the Order arise.

The Patriotic Instructor and the National Committee on Americanization and Education: Education of our youth, both within and outside of the Order needs to be one of the primary goals of our Order. Article II of our National Charter - as our mandate from the Congress of the United States, is to "to teach patriotism, the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our flag".

The previous National Patriotic Instructor made a good start. However, we do not have in place a good overall program to use for this purpose. At one time, the Order maintained the Sons Memorial University in Iowa. The University educated our youth in those ideals we strive to uphold today. The National Patriotic Instructor and the committee have the task of re-establishing Sons Memorial University. The first task is to design and implement a Junior program - much like the merit badge system used in the Boy Scouts. Our Juniors can work towards earning various badges and be better prepared to meaningfully participate as citizens and members of the Order as they move into their adult years.

The committee can also improve materials currently available for our Brothers in making school presentations, plus assisting Camp Patriotic Instructors in preparing programs for use during the "Good of the Order" section at Camp meetings.

I envision and hope that future years will see the development of an on-line degree program at the very least, an associate degree level, to fully re-introduce the educational program offered by the original university.

National Committee on GAR Post Records: We have been charged by the U.S. Congress in our charter to "assist in every practicable way in preserving, and making available for research, documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members". I believe we have seriously neglected this sacred obligation.

I call upon the National Committee on GAR Post Records to design a model that each Department can use in developing their own Department and Camp committees - to search out and locate, inventory, catalog, record and index all such records that exist. This is every bit as important as Graves Registration and Monument preservation.

National Chaplain: An example was set by our previous National Patriotic Instructor in publishing a booklet to assist the Department and Camp level officers in their duties. I call upon you to develop a similar work to assist our Department and Camp Chaplains. I ask Past National Chaplain William B. McAfee of the Department of Michigan to assist you in this project.

The theme for this administration - stop spending so much time trying to make the Order work, rather spend that time doing the work of the Order. The task is large and much is to be done. By working together as an Order and cooperating with the other Allied Orders and similar organizations - we can accomplish much and keep green the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.