



**James T. Crane**

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**Ocala, FL. 34476**

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Brothers,

I hereby announce my Intent to run for the position of SUVCW National Secretary. Any Brother who runs for National Office in this Order, considering the commitment being accepted, should not take this venture lightly. Thus, I have taken my time contemplating this matter.

A Life Member, I became a member of the SUVCW in 2004. Having been Commander of two separate Ohio Camps, I was elected Department of Ohio Commander in 2017, and also completed a couple of terms as Department Secretary/Treasurer.

Nationally, PCinC David V. Medert appointed me to the National Encampment Site Committee, a post I held from 2008 - 2018 and again 2021 – 2023. Made Committee Chair in 2013, I held that position the remainder of my time on the Committee. During this time, I was honored to work with three great, professional Brothers of this Order: Jim Houston, Kevin Tucker and Mike Paquette. Each has also chaired the Site Committee. In the administration of PCinC Peter Hritsko, August 2023 – 2024, I was his Chief of Staff. A tough position and I can tell you that I will respect all Chiefs of Staff from now on.

While in the United States Navy, 1969-1972, I was assigned aboard two ships the USS St. Paul & the USS Ranger at various times and did two tours in Vietnam. During my second tour I was with Task Force 117, and I spent some time as a “Brown Water Sailor”. Having served with some heroes, I will never forget my time with them. I always thank anyone who served in our military, that camaraderie will never die.

PCinC Eugene Mortoff presented me the Meritorious Service Award with/ Gold Star at the Springfield, Illinois, in 2016. Surprised and I had to read what the award was all about. In August of 2022 at in Grand Rapids, Michigan, National Encampment, I received the Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award, Brother of the Year from Mike Paquette.

Someone asked me why I continue to serve in various capacities within the Son's and I tell them that my Great, Great Grandfather Thomas C. Crane, a Sergeant in the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry Co.

K., was killed during the Civil War on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1862. When my time comes to an end, I don't want him to greet me at the Gates of Heaven (if I get there), jump me and tell me that I screwed up the GAR. Brothers, that is the reason we do what we do; continuing to honor our Ancestors. I will never stop until my time ends.

Lastly, it has been an honor to work with many of you and I know you are as dedicated as I am to this Organization. Thank you for your friendship and your commitment to honor our Ancestors. My best to all of you, and I hope to see you at the Houston National Encampment in 2 months.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty !!!!

James Crane