

Robert J. Wolz

In May 1963 a newspaper article announced the formation of Co. D, 19th Ohio Regiment, Sons of Veterans Reserve in Youngstown, Ohio. Bob and his father joined just in time to participate in the Centennial reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. This was the spark that would lead Brother Wolz into becoming involved at every level of the Sons of Union Veterans.

Bob bases his eligibility on his two great grandfathers: Private John Wolz, Co. F, 87th Pennsylvania Infantry and Private Edwin Donaldson Co K, 191 Pennsylvania Infantry and upon a great grandfather Lt. Colonel James McKean of the 139 Pennsylvania Infantry who was killed in action.

Philip Triem Camp #43 of the Ohio Department consisted of 5 real sons. The Civil War Centennial breathed new life into the camp with nearly 50 new members. Bob's love of history became evident with Bob serving every office in the Camp and every office in the Ohio Department except Department Secretary-Treasurer. He was elected Department Commander at the age of 21 in 1968 and a second term in 1971.

His youth and active participation led to his appointment to national committees and national office. His mentor was Past Commander in Chief William Coffin who served in 1925.

The following list records a life of service:

- 1968 Chairman, Reconstruction of the Order committee
- 1968 Public Information Officer, National Sons of Veterans Reserve
- 1969 elected Vice Commander, Central Region, SUVCW & Auxiliary
- 1970 elected Central Region Commander, SUVCW & Auxiliary
- 1970 appointed National Chaplain, SUVCW
- 1971 appointed National Patriotic Instructor
- 1972 appointed GAR Highway Officer
- 1972 appointed National Quartermaster General SVR
- 1973 -1974 elected Junior Vice Commander in Chief



1974-1975 elected Senior Vice Commander in Chief

1975 became Life Member #61

1975 served National Military Affairs Committee

1975 appointed Education and Americanism Committee

1981-1983 appointed Editor of the Banner

2004-2023 served as National Historian - producing more than 60 pages of original research published in the Banner

2014 authored the book, *Grand Army Men: The GAR and Its Male Organizations*

2017 Received The Son's Lifetime Achievement Award

2019 authored the book *Grand Army Women: The GAR and eight Women's Orders*

2023 Bestowed the rank of Honorary Past Commander in Chief, one of five brothers so honored. The others were Major AP Davis, founder of the Order, RMJ Reed one of the founders of the Philadelphia branch of the Sons, Horace Hammer 50-year national secretary of the Sons, Comrade Albert Woolson, last Union veteran.

Bob is a past Ohio Commander, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and received their National Meritorious Service Award in 2014.

Bob is a recognized presidential historian serving more than 20 years as Executive Director of the Harry S. Truman Little White House in Key West, Florida.

He was active in the Boy Scouts of America serving as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster. He served 15 years as the Chapter Advisor for the Order of the Arrow.

He is an Honorary Board Member South Florida Council of Scouting America. He received the Silver Beaver Award, the Vigil Honor from the Order of the Arrow and the Order of St George.

He is a member of the Society of the War of 1812 and for more than 50 years a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He was named a Kentucky Colonel in 2009.

He is an active member in the parish of the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Key West, Florida, serving 30 years in the perpetual adoration chapel.