

# Stoneman Dispatch

## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: [camp18@suvpac.org](mailto:camp18@suvpac.org) Web: [www.suvpac.org/camp18.html](http://www.suvpac.org/camp18.html)

Volume 11, No.3, September, 2020



## What a Year!

### *From the Editor...*

I do not believe there is a more thought-provoking way to start a conversation or stimulate some thought than by making a statement like “What a Year” well, at least in 2020.

Not only is our country devastated by a virus pandemic, the like we haven’t seen in a century, we are dealing with hurricane flooding in the southeast and overwhelming forest fires on the west coast and the nationwide civil unrest.

Let’s pause, call to mind and thank the first responders and the frontline and essential workers that are still on the job trying to keep our everyday lives as normal as they can be. *Thank you...*

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We are heading towards the end of the year and when Camps across the Departments of the SUVCW are readying themselves for Camp Officer elections. General Stoneman Camp 18 is always interested in hearing from Brothers that want to become more involved in the everyday running of the camp, which really isn’t too big of a commitment. There is that old adage, “*you get out of your camp what you put into your camp.*”

And in the immortal words of President John F. Kennedy, “ask not what your *Camp* can do for you but what you can do for your *Camp.*”

We are looking forward to seeing everybody soon.



## Tentative Camp Calendar

**Saturday, Oct. 17** – Camp 18 meeting, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom video communications. Meeting invitation requests will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

**Tuesday, Nov. 10** – Veterans Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, Riverside. 8:00 a.m. start time. **More details on page 3 & 4.**

**Saturday, Dec. 12** - Camp 18 meeting, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Detail same as October meeting, above.

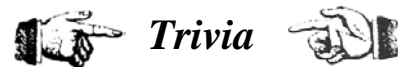
**Saturday, Dec. 19** – Wreaths Across America; wreaths placement at Evergreen Memorial Historical cemetery. **Details on page 4.**

## Did you know?

**September 5, 1864** – Voters in Louisiana approved a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

**September 14, 1861** – The first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the *USS Colorado* attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner *Judah* off Pensacola, Florida.

**September 22, 1862** - Following the preemptive strike at Antietam, President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in states or portions of states still in rebellion on January 1, 1863.



## Trivia

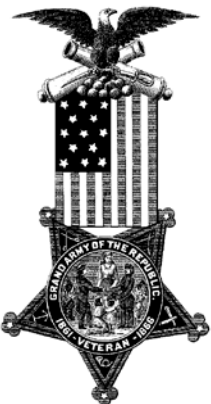
**What did Stonewall Jackson call his fast-moving Infantry in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862?**

*(answer on page 4, see “Trivia”)*

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*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory  
of the Grand Army of the Republic  
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*

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**Commander in Chief Edward J. Norris****Special Order #1****Series 2019 – 2020, 17 September 2020**

1. It is with great sadness that I'm reporting the passing of Edwin C. Bearss, 97, of Arlington County, Virginia on September 15, 2020. Many of you knew him and witnessed his contributions to our organization and to our understanding of the Civil War.

2. Brother Bearss was one of our four current Honorary Members. He became an Honorary Member at the 130th National Encampment (2011) held in Reston, Virginia and was associated with the Lincoln Cushing Camp in the Department of the Chesapeake.

3. Brother Bearss was the recipient of numerous awards in the fields of history and preservation. He wrote extensively, including a three-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign, and was a regular guest on programs for the History Channel, A&E Networks and TLC, as well as appearing throughout Ken Burns' documentary *The Civil War*. On November 1, 1981, he was named Chief Historian of the National Park Service, a position he held until 1994. After his retirement in 1995, he received the title Chief Historian Emeritus, which he held until his passing.

4. At the request of the Bearss Family, in lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Brother Bearss may be made to the American Battlefield Trust. Recognizing the special place that these battlefields held in his heart, such gifts will be used to secure additional land associated with the Vicksburg Campaign.

Ordered this 17th Day of September, 2020

Edward J. Norris  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Eagle Scout Commendation**

Earlier this month Camp 18 received our first (and only one so far) Eagle Scout Commendation application of the year.

Eagle Scout Dylan Nguyen of San Bernardino had his Eagle Scout Board of Review in December, 2019 and

his Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Elks lodge in Riverside.

Dylan's Eagle Scout project was building a butterfly garden for a local elementary school.

To date, General Stoneman Camp 18 has issued one Eagle Scout Commendation (Dylan's) and five JROTC Commendation certificate awards to local Riverside County High Schools for 2020. Because of COVID-19 restrictions we have only been able to participate in one JROTC presentation ceremony.

**Membership applications**

General Stoneman Camp 18 has been receiving requests for membership information, a bit more than what we usually receive. Maybe because more people are staying home surfing the web these days.

We have received two membership applications and hopefully we will be introducing these two candidates at the Camp's Zoom video meeting scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. All of the paperwork looks to be order.

On another membership note, I know we are still in September but just a reminder that annual membership Dues renewal requests will be going out in the mail at the end of November.



*Photo above; recently received camp flag for the Department's newest camp #31.*

**Another Milestone for Baker Camp 31**

The Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's newest Camp, Senator  
*(continued on page 3, see Milestone)*

**Milestone, continued from page 2,...**

Edward Dickinson Baker Camp #31, of Henderson, Nevada has passed another milestone as a new Camp.

It has been almost a year since the camp officially received the Camp 31 charter and two years since they started the new camp organization process.

Camp Organizer and Senior Vice Commander, Dr. Wayne L. Eder, ordered the camp flag properly through the SUVCW National Quartermaster website in January 2020 and then COVID, the manufacturing facilities seemed to have shut down. After a fair amount of patience (6 months' worth) and after some investigative phone calls during the summer months, manufacturing resumed, the flag was finally finished and delivered to Brother Eder in the last week of August. See the photo on page 2.

More to the Camp's success, we have gathered enough personal Camp 31 Officer information and with help of Department Webmaster Brother Tad Campbell, PCinC, the Department has updated its website to include Baker Camp 31 information. Check out the new website at:

[www.suvcw.org/camp31.html](http://www.suvcw.org/camp31.html)

Best of luck to our Department's newest Camp Senator Edward Dickinson Baker Camp #31.



**General George Stoneman Jr.  
Camp 18 Officers**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Michael Bullard    |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr,  | Brian Stephens     |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr,  | Matt Crowder       |
| Sec/Treas,      | Rudy Velasco III   |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett     |
| Camp Council #2 | Rudolph Velasco IV |
| Camp Council #3 | John Morris        |

**Appointed**

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain                      | Bill Daley PCC   |
| Camp Historian                     | Burt Hogue       |
| Camp Guide                         | Bodie Crowder    |
| Camp Guard                         | Steve Doyle PCC  |
| Graves Registration                | Michael Emmett   |
| Newsletter Editor                  | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor               | Steve Doyle PCC  |
| Eagle Scout &<br>JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |

*If* you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. [rev03@dc.rr.com](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)

**Veterans Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery**

By Camp 18 Brother John Morris (USAF Colonel, Ret.)

Camp 18 Civil War Graves Registration Officer Brother Michael Emmett (CMSgt Ret. USAF) thought it would be a great idea to place American flags on the Graves of our Country's Veterans at an old, over run and almost forgotten cemetery in Riverside for Veterans Day and Memorial Day more than 20 years ago. He took on the job at his own devotion and made maps of locations of where all the cemetery's veterans were buried so he and others could remember where to place the flags, twice a year. Camp 18 would probably not be involved with the flags placements at Evergreen cemetery if it wasn't for Brothers Emmett and John Morris.

In October 2001, CMSgt Mike Emmett and I were stationed together at Headquarters Fourth Air Force at March Air Reserve Base, California. Chief Emmett and I were talking and he told me about this historic cemetery in downtown Riverside, California. The name of the cemetery was Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery, and Mike served on the Board of Directors for the cemetery. Mike also told me that every year he put American Flags on all of the veteran graves in the cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. In light of the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, I asked Mike if he wanted to put American Flags on the veteran graves for the upcoming Veteran's Day,

*(Continued on page 4, see Evergreen)*



**EVERGREEN, continued from page 3,...**

and I would help him. That was my initiation to the cemetery and the beginning of our joint flag details for both Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.

Since our Veteran's Day flag detail in November 2001, our participation has grown from just the two of us to roughly 60 to 100 people for each event each year. We now have members of Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets from Unit CA-92, Arlington High School, service members from Headquarters Fourth Air Force, 452d Air Mobility Wing and the 163d Attach Wing (California Air National Guard), and local citizens from Riverside and nearby communities. It is a labor of love and respect, honoring our fallen, fellow veterans and paying homage to their selfless military service and sacrifices on behalf of a grateful nation.

On 10 November 2020, my two daughters and I will be at Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery, honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our American Flag details. This November, we only plan to place American Flags on the veteran graves in the Civil War and Spanish American War Circle and a few other, select graves, limiting our time at the cemetery and size of the crowd due to the COVID-19 threat and personal health concerns.

The flags will remain in place until Friday, 13 November when the flags will be picked up.

Approximate start time to place the flags is between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Contact Brother John Morris if you would like to help or if you would like more information about the details at email; [john.morris.6@us.af.mil](mailto:john.morris.6@us.af.mil)

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## **Wreaths Across America 2020 Saturday, 19 December**

A bit different this year at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside

A formal Wreaths Across America Ceremony is a NO GO this year, for obvious reasons but there is still a plan in place to purchase and place as many wreaths as possible. Brother John Morris has one or two helpers to help unload the wreaths from the delivery truck and place them at the veterans' graves, at least around the Grand Army of the Republic circle.

A tradition of the Mission to Remember, Honor and teach.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America™, to continue and expand this effort, and support

other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to Remember, Honor and teach.

In 2017, Wreaths Across America and their national network of volunteers laid over 1,565,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1440 locations in the United States and beyond. They accomplished this with help from over 3270 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Their annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran's homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

If interested, please see page 5 and the attached order form. If you have any questions, please contact the editor. Note: for every ten wreaths that you purchase with the attached order form, fifteen (15) will be delivered. Thank you.

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### **--Last note --**

#### **from Commander in Chief Edward J. Norris General Order # 36**

Obviously, the in "Person National" Encampment scheduled for August 13 – 16 in Atlanta was cancelled.

An abbreviated National Encampment meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, October 24 at 12:00 PM EDT.

To facilitate voting, only Past Commanders-in-Chief, Department Commanders, Past Department Commanders, and Delegates may attend. Unfortunately, we cannot allow non-voting Brothers to attend. Each Department must send a list of voting members.

The California – Pacific's list of Delegates was prepared at the Department's video Encampment meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> of this year and sent to the National Video Encampment meeting committee in August.

### **Trivia answer from page 1,**

In 1862, Stonewall Jackson referred to his fast-moving Infantry as "*Foot Cavalry.*" They marched almost 400 miles in about a month.



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## Wreath Sponsorship Form

\*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Wreaths Across America TM  
PO Box 249  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623  
Questions? Please call 877-385-9504  
Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Do we have permission to publicize your name as a sponsor?  
\_\_\_ Yes OR \_\_\_ No, I wish to remain Anonymous

| Sponsorship  | Price      | Quantity           | Total |
|--|------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Individual</b> = 1 Wreath   | \$15.00    |                    |       |
| <b>Mailed "In Honor" card</b> = If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included. | \$2.00     |                    |       |
| <b>Family</b> = 4 Wreaths  | \$60.00    |                    |       |
| <b>Small Business</b> = 10 Wreaths   | \$150.00   |                    |       |
| <b>Corporate</b> = 100 Wreaths   | \$1,500.00 |                    |       |
|  |            | <b>Grand Total</b> |       |

**\*\*SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS\*\***

**In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

**Email:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

**Branch of Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: CAEGMP      Fundraising Group ID: CA0369

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Total\$: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total # Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_  
MO \$: \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN: \_\_\_\_\_



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Newsletter  
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