

# 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 12, No.5, September, 2021

### Attention Company!

#### A message from the Camp Commander

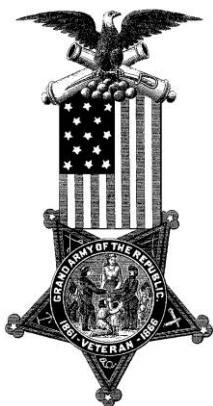
Dear Brothers,

I hope you all had a great summer. It sure seems like it went by way too fast. Many Americans simply view Memorial Day weekend in May as the start of the summer tourist season which lasts until Veterans Day weekend in November. This year, we hope to use these two National Holidays to bookmark our patriotism and honor both past and present veterans from all wars. Expanding our mission of patriotic remembrance beyond just the American Civil War.

Being a successor organization to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), our annual flagship event has always been on Memorial Day which began as Decorations Day started by the GAR to honor those who served and gave their lives to preserve the Union. This year with the leadership of Camp 18 Junior Vice-Commander John Morris we are also planning an event for Veterans Day on Thursday November 11, 2021. We are hoping to honor those (including our Camp Brothers) who have served in the U.S. Military. We owe you all a big and since THANK YOU!

Please plan on joining us for this new event held in downtown Riverside near Veterans Circle inside the Evergreen Historic Memorial Cemetery.

*Continued on Page 2, see Commander,*



### Tentative Camp Calendar

**Saturday, Oct. 16** – Camp meeting at the American Legion Hall, 1024-B S. Main St. Corona. 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 6** – Veterans Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery, Riverside. 8:00 a.m. start time.

**Thursday, Nov. 11** – Possible Camp 18 Veterans Day Service at Evergreen M.H. Cemetery, Riverside. Still waiting for participation commitments.

**Saturday, Dec. 11** – Camp meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 18** – Wreaths Across America ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery. More details as we get closer to the date.

**Saturday, February 5, 2022** – Lincoln Shrine Open House, Redlands. Waiting for firm confirmation.



*Above from left; Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. Steve Doyle, Dept. Cmdr. Frank Avila & Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell at the 140<sup>th</sup> National Encampment in St. Louis, MO. on August 7, 2021. Report on page 2. S. Doyle photo*

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



**Commander, continued,...**

I know you will be pleased you did. In the meantime, I am looking forward to seeing you at our October 16th meeting at the American Legion Post 216 Hall in Corona, CA.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brian Stephens

**2021 St. Louis National Encampment**

by Steve Doyle, DJVC

Just when I thought I had everything planned for my trip to St. Louis, Spirit Airlines cancelled my flight the night before I was to leave. After several hours on the computer and updating my Itinerary, I was able to get two connecting flights to and from St. Louis with Delta Airlines. But when I got to Ontario Airport, I was put on, "Standby"! But traveling alone and talking politely to the gate attendant got me the last seat on the plane. Too much drama to start my trip!

After taking the shuttle to our Encampment hotel, the Hilton Frontenac, and getting checked in, I met up with Brother Frank Avila, our Department Commander. Whereas during previous National Encampments our Department has usually had 12-14 Brothers attend, it was only Frank, myself, and Brother Tad Campbell, PC-in-C, who made it to St. Louis this year.

The next day Frank and I went on the bus tour to the Missouri Civil War Museum ([mcwm.org](http://mcwm.org)) at Jefferson Barracks. Built in 1905, the museum was originally a gymnasium where soldiers could exercise. But with the onset of WWI it became a troop's barracks for Company A of the 6th Infantry until the outbreak of WWII. In 1942 the building became an overflow ward for the nearby Jefferson Barracks Hospital. By 1946 the building became vacant and abandoned for the next 60 years. In 2002, the Missouri Civil War Museum was formed and a decade-long restoration of the historic structure began. Through a grassroots effort of fundraising and hard work, the not-for-profit organization raised the funding needed to save the building and open the new Civil War museum.

Unlike our one day Department Encampments, National Encampments are two days Friday and Saturday (Aug. 6th and 7th this year). It was reported that 186 Brothers had registered but during the Voting Roll Call, only 147



**Photo above; the Past Commanders-in-Chiefs of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who were in attendance at this year's Annual National Encampment.**

were present.

Two of the recommendations that C-in-C Brian Pierson proposed that I will bring to your attention are: having a 5 year Special Committee to plan for the commemoration of the 250th year of the Independence of the United States; and another Special Committee to develop a plan for the Order to commemorate the Centennial of the Lincoln Memorial in 2022.

During the two day Encampment some 30 Proposals were considered and voted on. Most of these passed by an overwhelming number of brothers holding up their voting cards in favor of "For" or "Against" the presented proposal. Some proposals generated more interest than others and brothers would get up to speak the opinions they had on the matter.

One of the more contentious proposals was from the National Committee on Constitution and Regulations (C&R) and had to do with adding two paragraphs to the Virtual Meeting Policy:

***"All such meetings shall be in person. The Camp Commander may allow a limited number of Brothers to attend virtually, by way of interactive video conferencing or other such electronic means, should he find (that) a Brother would not otherwise be able to attend a meeting in person. . . ."***

***"When a state of emergency exists . . . which prevents a Camp from meeting, the Department Commander may allow the Camp to meet virtually through the issuance of a Department Order."***

*Continued on page 3, see ENCAMPMENT*



**ENCAMPMENT continued,**

Although the preference is for brothers to meet in person to ensure the legitimacy of the camp, arguments in favor of having such a Hybrid Meeting were that this would allow sick or elderly brothers to attend, it would facilitate brothers to attend who live great distances from the physical camp meeting, and it would allow brothers to attend who otherwise would not be able to make it to the camp meeting due to inclement weather. One final point was that, allowing such hybrid meetings might increase membership from younger, more electronically savvy prospective members. The proposal required a 2/3 majority vote and because the voting by raising hands was too close to count, an actual physical counting had to be performed. The proposal needed 93 of the 143 votes and passed with 104 brothers voting in the affirmative.

**--- Other news that came from the Encampment ---**

The IRS still lists us as a 501(C)4 Charity despite showing our **501(C)3 “Determination Letter”** on their website. Our National Treasurer, D. Michael Beard, has tried very hard to fix this situation, but the IRS is significantly delinquent in updating their website to show that we are a 501(C)3 Charity. Our Determination Letter, dated November, 2020, is posted on the National website.

We are now giving out **Eagle Scout Certificates** to Female Recipients. The Eagle Scout Certificate has been revised and has removed the word, “his” from the certificate to make it more suitable for issuing to all Eagle Scouts.

There is a New 12th Edition of **“Robert’s Rules of Orders”** out and it covers Virtual Meetings.

There is a new **Membership Application (Form 3)** on the National website that omits the word “Perjury” as far as applicants reporting their ancestry. However, when printing it out from the website, the bottom of each page does not print. It States: **“SUVCW Form 3 (Revised May, 2021)**. Previous versions are obsolete”.

Other things that took place were the handing out of Awards and Certificates of Appreciation to brothers on the various National Committees and the National Office Holders, and, most importantly the election and initiation of new officers. We were supposed to end our meeting by 17:00, but didn’t finish until 18:00. We then had a Cocktail Hour, followed by our Saturday night banquet.

This was my fourth National Encampment that I attended and all four were very interesting as far as seeing different parts of the country and appreciating all the hard work that Brothers do on the National level and to see how we, as Departments and Camps, support their work.

*Continued on Page 4, see SUVCW,...*



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

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

**Appointed**

Camp Chaplain	Bill Daley PCC
Camp Historian	Burt Hogue
Camp Guide	Bodie Crowder
Camp Guard	Steve Doyle PCC
Graves Registration	Michael Emett
Newsletter Editor	Rudy Velasco III
Patriotic Instructor	Steve Doyle PCC
Eagle Scout &	
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)



**SUVCW continued,....**

Next year’s National Encampment will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but no Department has stepped forward yet to host an encampment after 2023. This is, no doubt, due to the cancellation of last year’s encampment in Atlanta due to Covid. But also, as you can imagine, there are a lot of moving parts to put together a National Encampment. Let’s hope that we can continue our long tradition of having a Physical National Encampment in the future.

**Cannon Dedication at the Lincoln Shrine**

On Saturday, August 14, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands held its first in-person event in almost 18 months, for a canon dedication.

Camp 18 Brothers Steve Doyle,PCC and Rudy Velasco,PDC attended the event to set up a small display table and hand out information about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.

As the information table was being set up and before the dedication began, Camp 18 Brother Mark Radeleff who was attending the event stopped by to say hello and catch up.



**Photo above; Brother Steve Doyle PCC, left and Brother Mark Radeleff, right, stand for the photo taken at the Lincoln Shrine Canon Dedication on August 14<sup>th</sup>. R. Velasco photo**

A generous local donor purchased the beautiful brass reproduction 12 pound Napoleon canon for the museum and with the help of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Light Artillery re-enactors, the big gun was fired three times for this dedication in front of the gathered crowd of about 100.

At the beginning of the gathering, the Camp Carleton Coronet Brass Band entertained the audience with Civil War era tunes and played again between each of the three dedication rounds that were fired through the big 12



**Above; reproduction 12 lb. Napoleon canon that was fired and dedicated at the Lincoln Shrine on 8/14/21. S. Doyle photo.**

pound Napoleon gun.

Stamped into the front rim of the canon barrel tube is; “ No. 385 REVERE COPPER CO. 1233 lbs. 1864.” You can barely see the stamping in the barrel in the photo above. It was very exciting to see the barrel and carriage weighing in at a combined 1233 pounds, this is a real big gun.

A highlight of the 4 hour event was a student in the Claremont/McKenna College system who stopped by for some information about the SUVCW that he had heard about through the college ROTC program awards. The Sons of Confederate Veterans award and the Sons of Union Veterans award really interested him.

**Wreaths Across America**

**save the date - Saturday, 18 December**

I am John Morris, Junior Vice Commander and proud member of Camp 18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors for Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery in downtown Riverside, and the project officer for our annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony.

I am writing to you to see if my Camp, Camp 18, and fellow members would be interested in making a donation to purchase wreaths to decorate the graves of all of the veterans buried in our cemetery for our annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony which will be held on 18 December 2021 starting at 0900L at Evergreen Memorial Park and Cemetery. Each wreath costs \$15.00.

*Continued on page 5, see Wreaths,...*



**Wreaths, continued,...**

For every two wreaths you purchase, we receive one extra wreath free. We do not get nor do we want any money from your purchase of the wreaths; every cent of your money is for wreaths for the veterans buried in our cemetery. On top of that, your payment goes directly to the Wreaths Across America Main office in Columbia Falls, Maine; we do not receive nor touch your money. Our cemetery is credited with the wreaths you purchase through the Location ID and Fundraising Group ID numbers on the front of the available Wreath Sponsorship Form. If Camp 18 and our members are interested in doing this, please fill-in the available Wreath Sponsorship Form and identify the number of wreaths you plan to purchase and mail in your sponsorship form NLT 15 November 2021. As a reminder, for every two wreaths you purchase, we get one more wreath for free!

We have 1,015 veterans, to include 1 Medal of Honor recipient, buried in our cemetery. Last year, we only received 420 wreaths, and thus well over half of the veteran graves were not decorated with a wreath last year. Our goal for this year is to get enough wreaths sponsored so that EVERY veteran grave is decorated with a wreath on 18 December 2021. As a fellow veteran who also served in a foreign war, I respectfully ask for your help. We would also be honored to have all the members of Camp 18 join us on Saturday morning, 18 December 2021, starting at 0900L for our Wreaths Across America Ceremony and help us place the wreaths on all the veteran graves in the cemetery.

If you have any questions, please call me on my cell phone at (951) 746-0416.

I deeply appreciate your consideration of our request.

Very Respectfully,

John M. Morris, Col (ret), USAF  
Board Member, Evergreen Memorial Park & Cemetery

***NOTE: Wreaths Across America order forms will be available at the Camp 18 October meeting or by email from the Camp Secretary.***

**Jewish (and Muslim) Soldiers in the Civil War**

by Stephen E. Doyle, DSVC & Camp 18 Patriotic Instructor

With the onset of the Civil War, in 1861, Congress ordered military regiments to appoint chaplains who were specifically of the Christian faith.

Following protests by the Board of Delegates of American Israelites and introductions by others, a meeting was held in December 1861 with President Lincoln, which led to the rescinding of the order and the appointment of the first Jewish Chaplain.

During the war, an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 Jews (out of around 150,000 Jews in the United States) fought on the Union side. Two Union Jewish companies were raised, including Company C of the 82nd Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers, made up mostly of recent immigrants from Europe, and the "Perkins Rifles" of Syracuse, New York. But most Jews serving in the war served alongside Christian soldiers, many in units such as Company D of the 8th New York National Guard Regiment and the Light Infantry Blues of Richmond.

Estimates vary as to how many Jews fought on the Confederate side, with 3,000 being a low, and 10,000 being a high. Perhaps the most well-known of these was Judah P. Benjamin, who was considered the, "brains of the Confederacy", serving in several high offices during the war. As the South's position became increasingly desperate in 1864, he even publicly advocated a plan to emancipate slaves who would join the Confederate Army. But his proposal was met with stiff opposition from traditionalists. But by the time it was passed in March, 1865, it was too late to salvage the southern cause.

There were nine Jewish generals in the North and several in the South. Jews fought not only for their respective causes, but also for equal treatment for themselves. Six Jewish soldiers in the Union army received the coveted Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery. When the war ended, Jewish soldiers returned to their homes to rebuild their country and their lives.

Interestingly enough, there were 291 Muslims who are known to have fought during the Civil War. The most highly ranked Muslim in the war is considered to be Nicholas Said. He came to the United States in 1860 and found a teaching job in Detroit. He enlisted in the 55th Massachusetts Colored Regiment and rose to the rank of Sergeant. He died in Brownsville, Tennessee in 1882.

Today's Armed Services now has a new table of, "Faith and Belief Codes", listing over 200 denominations and religious groups. In 1994, the military appointed its first Muslim Chaplain. Hindu and Buddhist Chaplains followed in 2004 and 2011, respectively.





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