

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

In 1866, Union Veterans of the Civil War organized into the *Grand Army of the Republic* (GAR) and became a social and political force that would control the destiny of the nation for more than six decades. Membership in the veterans' organization was restricted to individuals who had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service during the Civil War, thereby limiting the life span of the GAR. The GAR existed until 1956.

In 1881 the GAR formed the *Sons of Veterans of the United States of America* (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory long after the GAR had ceased to exist. Membership was open to any man who could prove ancestry to a member of the GAR or to a veteran eligible for membership in the GAR. In later years, men who did not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who demonstrated a genuine interest in the Civil War and could subscribe to the purpose and objectives of the SUVCW, were admitted as Associates. This practice continues today.

Many GAR Posts sponsored Camps of the SV. In 1925 the SV name was changed to *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* (SUVCW), under which its federal charter was issued in 1954. The SUVCW is legally recognized as the heir to, and representative of, the GAR.

Today, the National Organization of the SUVCW, headed by an annually elected Commander-in-Chief, oversees the operation of 26 Departments, each consisting of one or more states, a Department-at-Large, a National Membership-at-Large, and over 200 community based Camps. More than 6,360 men enjoy the benefits of membership in the only male organization dedicated to the principles of the GAR -- *Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*. The SUVCW National Headquarters is located in the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

<http://www.suvcw.org/>

<http://www.suvcw.org/camp25.html>

MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING **HARRY REYNOLDS** RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



OCTOBER 13, 2012
ELKO, NEVADA

Co. M, 3rd United States Cavalry
9 September 1876
Battle of Slim Buttes
Dakota Territory

1. The VFW Post 2350 presents our National Colors
2. The Elko H.S. Band under the Direction of Mr. Walt Lovel will play the National Anthem of the United States of America.
3. Opening Prayer by Camp William Passmore Carlin, Chaplain Wayne L. Eder, Camp-25, Reno, NV
4. Remarks by Camp-25 Commander John Riggs
- 5 Elko H.S. Band
6. Remarks by VFW Post Commander
7. Remarks by Jerry D. Reynolds
8. Elko H.S. Band
9. Wreath Laying Ceremony with participants, Jerry Reynolds, Camp Commander John Riggs and Department Historian David A. Davis
10. The Poem "TAPS" read by Camp- 25 member Brian I. Worcester
11. Recognition of Bill Johnson, Scout 3rd US Cavalry
12. Closing Prayer by Camp Chaplain Wayne L. Eder
13. Bugle Call "TAPS" by Bugler Ray Ahrenholz, *Bugles Across America*



3rd United States Cavalry



Indian Wars
Congressional Medal of Honor



United States of America
Indian Campaign

Thank you to EVERYONE for making this dedication possible.

Medal of Honor Ceremony Honoring Harry Reynolds Elko City Cemetery, Elko, Nevada — October 13, 2012

HISTORIC HONOR: WAR HERO REMEMBERED

By John Rasche — *Elko Daily Free Press*, dated October 16, 2012

http://elkodaily.com/news/local/historic-honor-war-hero-remembered/article_4ced50b2-173b-11e2-b32c-0019bb2963f4.html

ELKO — Months after defeating Lt. Col. George Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Native American leader Crazy Horse and hundreds of his braves watched from a ridge as Harry Reynolds charged into a ravine in Slim Buttes, Mont., on Sept. 9, 1876.

Before Crazy Horse could attack Reynolds and his fellow soldier, Sgt. Kirkwood, however, reinforcements arrived from Reynolds' Company M of the 3rd Regiment.

Reynolds and Kirkwood proceeded to capture Chief American Horse of the Miniconjou Sioux village in the ravine as battles of the American Indian Wars raged above.

Both men received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service, but no one knew of Reynolds' accomplishment until long after he was buried in the Elko City Cemetery.

On Saturday, a different sort of Indians visited his grave.

The Elko High School Band of Indians played several songs for Reynolds' Medal of Honor ceremony, an event that was long overdue.

On Jan. 5, 1876, Reynolds died without telling anyone about receiving the Medal of Honor. Many wonder if he even knew it himself.

After about two years of research, the Gen. William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Reno discovered the truth.

"(Reynolds) lived a good life and an exceptional life," SUCVW Camp Commander John Riggs said at the ceremony. "He served in the Civil War, he served in the Indian Wars, and in the state of Nevada, he was famous as a wagon master, stagecoach driver and rancher."

The people who recognized him as a wagon master, however, most likely did not know Reynolds was also the recipient of a Medal of Honor.

"If it weren't for this group, we probably would have never known the real story," said Gil Hernandez, state chief of staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2350. "It takes groups like this and individuals to carry on the stories of our history as military men and women.

"I've always tried to encourage our men and women that serve in uniform when they get back home ... to write down their stories. If we don't do this, no one will ever know, especially your family members."

Reynolds' grandson, Jerry, made a few humble remarks at the ceremony, thanking everyone for shedding light on his heroic grandfather.

"It was great of you guys to come out here," he said, motioning to the spectators and high school band members. "I appreciate it very much. ... There used to not be a flag on his grave, but now there is. And there will be (from now on)."

Commander Riggs presented Jerry Reynolds with a Medal of Honor American flag and two certificates commemorating his grandfather's courage and service.

"Harry Reynolds took that one step above and beyond the call of duty," Riggs said. "It put him in the pantheon of American heroes."

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KENVTN News 10 in Elko, Nevada produced a video of the event that may be viewed at the following link: [MEDAL OF HONOR HARRY REYNOLDS](http://www.kentv.com/news/story/Medal-of-Honor-Harry-Reynolds/9zRxI5XSIUadYRnv_iQvCA.csp)
http://www.kentv.com/news/story/Medal-of-Honor-Harry-Reynolds/9zRxI5XSIUadYRnv_iQvCA.csp



Above: Participants dressed in uniforms of the Civil War and Indian Wars periods.



Above:
Elko High School Band of Indians played several songs for Reynolds' Medal of Honor ceremony

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Jerry Reynolds receives certificates and a flag in recognition of his grandfather's service.



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