

SHERIDAN'S DISPATCH

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4

Department of California & Pacific

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln Award (Best Camp in the Nation) • Marshall Hope Award (Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation)

Volume 25, Issue 2

San José, California

March-April 2024

138th Annual Department Encampment



Camp 4 Members with DC Doyle & JVCinC Tucker

L-R: Rick LaRosa, Dan Earl, Frank Avila, Tad Campbell, DC Steve Doyle, JVCinC Kevin Tucker, Linn Malaznik, Ken Felton *(photo by Kim Sayre)*

Tropicana Hotel, Laughlin, Nevada - April 5-6, 2024

Any letters, articles, etc., published in *Sheridan's Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc., the Dept. of CA & Pacific, camp officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

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Department Encampment

The 138th Annual Encampment of the Department of California and Pacific took place at the Tropicana Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada on April 5-6, 2024. This is only the third time in the history of the Department that the Encampment has been held in Nevada.

The honored guest, representing the Commander-in-Chief, was Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief **KEVIN P. TUCKER, PDC** of Massachusetts. Other National officers in attendance were National Patriotic Instructor **TAD D. CAMPBELL, PCINC** and National Legislation Officer **DANIEL R. EARL, PCC**.



Linn Malaznik and Frank Avila during a break

On the request of this Camp, the Encampment voted to restore Past Camp Commander honors to the following Camp members who were PCCs of the now-defunct Lincoln Camp No. 10: **ROBERT L. NELSON, CHRISTOPHER L. TITTLE, KEVIN R. COYNE, GARRETT B. HASSLINGER, and RANDALL W. HAWKINSON.**

A special exploratory committee was authorized for the purpose of investigating the possibility of hosting a National Encampment within the Department sometime in the future (see [Dept. Order No. 2, Series 2024-2025](#)).

A contentious vote on General Order No. 2 (Membership Qualifications Ratification) was held by secret ballot with the following results:

Recommendation #1 (amending Constitution Article III): **RATIFIED** (15 FOR and 14 AGAINST).

Recommendation #2 (amending Constitution Article VII, §2): **NOT RATIFIED** (14 FOR and 15 AGAINST).

Recommendation #3 (adding §6 to Article VII): **RATIFIED** (20 FOR and 9 AGAINST).

Recommendation #4 (amending Regulations §2, Chapter V, Art. X): **NOT RATIFIED** (12 FOR and 17 AGAINST).

(refer to [General Order No. 2](#) for details on the recommendations)

The following Department Officers were elected for the 2024-2025 term:

Commander: STEPHEN E. DOYLE, PDC (Camp 18)

Senior Vice Commander: DR. WAYNE L. EDER, PCC (Camp 31)

Junior Vice Commander: OWEN R. STILES, PDC (Camp 30)

Secretary-Treasurer: RANDY DHINDSA (Camp 32)

Council: DANIEL R. EARL, PCC (Camp 4), **DEAN R. SMITH, PCC** (Camp 2), **GARY E. HORMEL, PCC** (Camp 24)

The election for the office of Junior Vice Commander was contested between **OWEN STILES** and **ROBERT MAYER**, with the former being elected in a split vote.

A banquet and raffle were held Saturday evening. As usual, the date and place of next year's Encampment was left up to the discretion of the Senior Vice Commander.

Attention to Orders!

Camp Orders — <https://suvpac.org/camp4orders>

CAMP ORDER NO. 1 – Election and Appointment of Officers

Department Orders — <https://suvpac.org/orders>

DEPT. ORDER NO. 4 – Changing of Bank Signatories For Camp No. 22

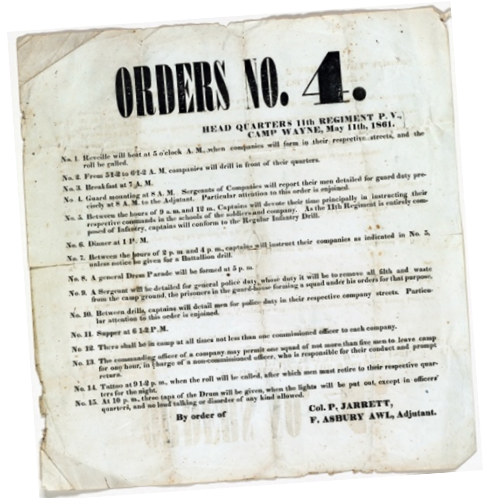
General Orders — <https://suvcw.org/general-orders-of-the-commander-in-chief>

GENERAL ORDER NO. 10 – Resignation and Appointment of National Patriotic Instructor

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11 – Rulings on National Counselor's Opinions 001-2024 and 002-2024

GENERAL ORDER NO. 12 – Disbandment of Carpenter-Welch Camp No. 180, Dept. of Michigan

GENERAL ORDER NO. 13 – Lobbying for the Department of New York



Did you know?

The oldest Civil War soldier on either side was an 80 year old Union private.

Curtis King was the oldest recorded man to serve in the Union Army, being mustered in at the age of 80 on November 9, 1862 as a private in Company C, 37th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served until he was honorably mustered out on March 20, 1863, and passed away later in the year. He is buried at Chillicothe in Wapello County, Iowa.

The 37th Iowa Infantry was nicknamed the "Graybeard Regiment." It was unique in that it was composed entirely of men not liable for military service. All men enlisted had to be at least 45 years old. It spent most of its service guarding prisoner of war camps and supply trains.



CAMP BROTHER APPOINTED NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

In February, Brother TAD D. CAMPBELL, PCINC accepted an appointment from the Commander-in-Chief as National Patriotic Instructor. Among his duties are the administration of Memorial University, monthly patriotic instructions to the Departments, and a quarterly patriotic submission to *The Banner*.



Was your Union ancestor an officer?

The **Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)** is the first and oldest Civil War fraternal organization in the United States. It was founded on April 20, 1865, by current and former Union officers. Male descendants of Civil War officers who honorably served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service may be eligible for membership as Hereditary or Associate Companions.

Camp Brother **TAD CAMPBELL** is the current Commander of the California Commandery. Contact Brother Campbell or visit the MOLLUS website for more information: <https://loyallegion.org>

Event Schedule

March 23, 2024

Camp Meeting
Admin Building, Oak Hill Memorial Park
San José, California

April 4-5, 2024

138th Department Encampment
Laughlin, Nevada

May 18, 2024

Camp Meeting
Admin Building, Oak Hill Memorial Park
San José, California

May 27, 2024

Memorial Day Observance
Los Gatos Memorial Park
San José, California

June 8, 2024

Alcatraz Living History Day
San Francisco, California

July 4, 2024

Independence Day Parade
Monterey, California

August 1-4, 2024

143rd National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky

September 14, 2024

Camp Meeting
Location TBA

November 16, 2024

Camp Election Meeting
Location TBA

***Be sure to check the Camp website
for additional events and updates***

<https://suvpac.org/camp4schedule>

160 Years Ago

Civil War Anniversaries

March 1864

March 2 — US General Ulysses S. Grant is appointed lieutenant general, a rank revived at the request of President Lincoln. Grant assumes command of all United States Armies in the field the following day.

March 10 — The Red River Campaign begins. As part of an overall Federal strategy to strike deep into various parts of the Confederacy, a combined force of army and navy commands under General Nathaniel Banks begins a campaign on the Red River in Louisiana.

April 1864

April 8 — Battle of Sabine Crossroads or Mansfield, Louisiana, the first major battle of the Red River Campaign in Louisiana.

April 9 — Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. The United States Army under Banks defeats the attempt by Confederate forces under General Richard Taylor to drive them out of Louisiana. The result of the campaign would be less than desired as it drew to a close in the first week of May with Confederates still in control of most of the state.

April 12 — Capture of Fort Pillow, Tennessee. After a rapid raid through central and western Tennessee, Confederate cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked and overwhelmed the Federal garrison at Fort Pillow, located on the Mississippi River. Forrest's troops murdered nearly 300 United States soldiers after they had surrendered, most of whom were African American. Congress investigated the affair and while Confederate authorities denied any wrongdoing, the events at Fort Pillow cast a pall over Forrest's reputation and remained an emotional issue throughout the remainder of the war and after.

April 17 — Grant forbids prisoner exchange talks to progress unless Confederate authorities agree to treat black soldiers the same as white and until Confederates release enough US soldiers to make up for the large number of Confederates paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

Source:

<https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/civil-war-timeline.htm>

ALCATRAZ LIVING HISTORY DAY JUNE 8



Participants will be provided with parking and lunch, and breaks so they can tour the island. We would love to have more ladies on the island to portray: officer's wives having tea in the garden; laundresses; and sewers and knitters. Men can portray sutlers or politicians visiting the fort.

You should be at Pier 33 by 7:00 a.m. We will end the day by taking the 4 p.m. boat back to Pier 33. You will have an opportunity to meet people from all over the world and tell them about how the Civil War is affecting California. (You'll be sent notes on that subject) Plus, you will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the island, including the underground Citadel. Let any other re-enactor friends know about this in case they'd like to attend.

Please confirm with me whether or not you will be coming so we can plan the schedule, order lunches, etc.

Thank you,

Steve Johnson, Coordinator
Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

Email: stephenjohnson1851@att.net

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10:00 am
LOCATION: Admin Building, Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave., San Jose, California

Officers for 2024-2025

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 Camp Officers

- Commander Donald E. Menzies
- Senior Vice Commander .. Rick T. LaRosa, PCC
- Junior Vice Commander Daniel R. Earl, PCC
- Secretary Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
- Treasurer..... Linn W. Malaznik
- Council Daniel R. Earl, PCC
- Council Frank C. Avila, PDC
- Council Thomas T. Graham, PDC

- Patriotic Instructor Dean A. Enderlin, PDC
- Chaplain Paul E. Lavrischeff, PCC
- Historian John E. Stolp, PCC
- Counselor Daniel R. Earl, PCC
- Guide Paul E. Lavrischeff, PCC
- Guard Paul E. Lavrischeff, PCC
- Color Bearer Frank C. Avila, PDC
- Graves Registration Officer ... Kenneth G. Felton
- Civil War Memorials Officer ... Kenneth G. Felton
- Eagle Scout Cert. Coord. ... Frank C. Avila, PDC
- ROTC Award Coord. Vacant
- Legislative Officer Daniel R. Earl, PCC
- Newsletter Editor Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
- Signals Officer Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
- Musician Christopher C. Avila
- Musician James M. Welch

SUVCW Membership Eligibility

A male descendant, whether through lineal (direct ancestor) or collateral line (uncle) and not less than 14 years of age (6 to 14 years for Juniors), who: (1) is a blood relative (descendant or nephew) of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service, who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, was honorably discharged from or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or in such state regiments called to active service and was subject to orders of United States general officers, between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; (2) has never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime and (3) has, or whose ancestor through whom membership is claimed has, never voluntarily borne arms against the government of the United States.

Tax Deductible Donations

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognizes the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its subordinate organizations (Departments, Camps, and SVR Districts & Units) as tax exempt organizations under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)3 and eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with Code section 170.



Websites



Phil Sheridan Camp 4
<https://suvpac.org/camp4>

SUVCW Department of Calif. & Pacific
<https://suvpac.org>

SUVCW National Organization
<https://suvcw.org>

Contact the Camp

MAILING ADDRESS: Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4
10080 Parrish View Drive, Gilroy, CA 95020-9447

E-MAIL: camp4@suvpac.org
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 408-879-9550

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: suvcw@icloud.com