

# THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN



**Vol XVIII The Newsletter of the Department of California and Pacific**

*June 2021*

## Commanders Corner



**Frank C Avilla, DC  
Commander**

Greetings Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I had the opportunity to do a school event in King City on May 21. Randy Hawkinson, Camp Commander for Camp 10 have been doing this event for several years now. King City is at the very end of the Salinas Valley. The teachers who put this on is Chris Andrew the coordinator of the event, and Mr Miller the tech guru who videoed the event. The students were at their homes on Zoom and we were set up at the school. The teachers set up a wall tent with a fly and a dog tent. The put tables out so Randy and I could put our stuff on. Randy talked about life of a confederate soldier and spoke about Artillery. I spoke on life as a union soldier and on Civil War Medicine. At the end we had a mock amputation of a soldier. The whole event was on Zoom and lasted about 2 hours. Kudos to the amazing teachers who allowed us to do this event with them. Hopefully we can do more of this in the coming months and next year.

## Juneteenth

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House two months earlier in Virginia, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas—until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.” In Texas, slavery had continued as the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops. Many enslavers from outside the Lone Star State had moved there, as they viewed it as a safe haven for slavery. After the war came to a close in the spring of 1865, General Granger’s arrival in Galveston that June signaled freedom for Texas’s 250,000 enslaved people. Although emancipation didn’t happen overnight for everyone—in some cases, enslavers withheld the information until after harvest season—celebrations broke out among newly freed Black people, and Juneteenth was born. That December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment.

# Around the Department

## General W S Rosecrans Camp 2



In addition to Camp 2's very active Memorial Day weekend, there are a couple of things that may be of interest.

Camp 2 was given a certificate of appreciation from the L.A. County Assessor, for our "contributions to restore and preserve Woodlawn Memorial Park." Unfortunately, when the volunteer organization, One Section At A Time (OSAAT,) tried to get support from the National SUVCW, the man they talked to blew them off, and did not even take a moment to direct them to Camp 2. They got the Walker Family Foundation involved, and the foundation's founder actually did all of the work on the GAR cannon, and flagpole. Through Br. Glen Roosevelt's contacts in L.A. County, we got brought in after the fact. Glen is now working on getting a retroactive grant for monument preservation, to reimburse the two non-profits for their expenses. I got Camp 2 to approve a \$100 donation, and I matched it with a personal donation. So, Camp 2 has contributed \$200 to partially offset their expenses, and Glen also gave them a donation, which I believe is from Camp 17, but I do not know the amount. Glen is now working with the Walker Family Foundation to restore a flagpole/monument to Spanish American War Veterans buried there.

So far, and I expect it will be all for this year, I have sent out **seven** JROTC awards to Cadets at area high schools, and **two** awards to Cadets in the Army, and Air Force, ROTC program at UCLA. I was able to attend the UCLA Air Force ROTC virtual awards ceremony to present our award, as well as the virtual awards ceremony at Garfield H.S. (Photos attached.) I may attend an in-person awards ceremony, this Friday, at North Torrance H.S., if no other Brother volunteers to be our presenter.

## Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17



May 31, 2021 marked the 106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Soldiers' Monument" that was dedicated at Santa Ana Cemetery in 1915. The Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV) dedicated this monument "To the Unknown Dead of the Civil War 1861-65".

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, there is no public ceremony held at Santa Ana Cemetery this year. The Orange County Cemetery District created a Virtual Memorial Day program that Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp #17 participated in that you can watch this 40 minute tribute at: <https://youtu.be/45KXwvIBVkY>

You can also just watch a one minute video of the laying of a Memorial Day wreath at The Soldiers' Monument by the Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp #17 that was created for the virtual Memorial Day program: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-10XHyLtWL1k7tKr3oIAEnRPZw3pfF0/view?usp=sharing>

## General George Stoneman Camp 18

Like other camps in the Department, Stoneman Camp 18 has, for the most part, been shut down. Observing Local and State mandates, the Camp as a whole did not participate in a Memorial Day ceremony. There were a couple of Brothers who braved the conditions and made sure that Grand Army of the Republic graves were decorated

For Memorial Day weekend Brother John Morris placed 90 flags at the graves in the G.A.R. circle at Evergreen Memorial Historical cemetery in Riverside. On May 30<sup>th</sup> Brother Steve Doyle placed flowers at the headstones in the same G.A.R. circle.

The Camp has kept in touch and conducted business through having normal Camp meeting dates using video – Zoom meetings.



We have received requests and mailed out 4 JROTC Award packages in the past couple of months for local high schools in Riverside County. There haven't been any JROTC Award ceremonies scheduled to attend but we are sending out the awards when requested for the Cadets.

### Sgt William Pittenger Camp 21



What a wonderful turnout! It was so nice to see everyone together once again. This will be the first of several e-mails to follow of the Ceremony.

This was the first year of holding a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery where there is one Union Soldier buried there. He was honored by the Camp this year. His name is Samuel J. Fair.

The last 14 years has been at Fallbrook's Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery where there are 14 Union Soldiers buried, one of which is Sgt. William Pittenger, Medal of Honor Recipient. Those 14 soldiers were not forgotten. Jerry Sayre PDC placed flags and a bouquet of flowers on each gravesite.

Thank you all who held the charge of Honoring "The Boys In Blue" and all others that served our great nation and paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

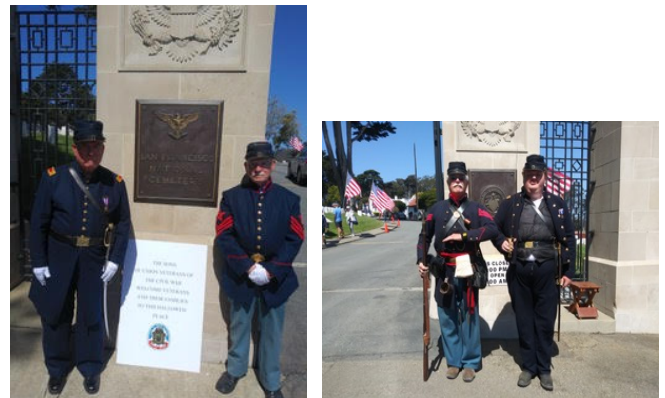
### Col. Elmer Ellsworth Camp #23



*L to R: Cindy Eddy, PDP (Ivy Stiers Aux. 23); Dean Enderlin, PDC; Mace Gjerman, PCC; and Jamin Gjerman, PCC*

Almost all public Memorial Day events in our service area were cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Middletown Cemetery was an exception, and we were honored to be invited to participate in the full ceremony there. In addition to reading General Logan's Order No. 11 in the regular Memorial Day program, our Camp and Auxiliary performed a dedication ceremony for three newly-installed headstones for Union Civil War veterans buried in that cemetery, namely: PVT Wesley Hiram Cook, Co. F, 65th IL Inf.; PVT Philip Maxwell, Co. K, 109th NY Inf.; and PVT David Henry Orne/Thorne, Co. D, 2nd WI Cav. About eighty people were in attendance.

### General Alfred Pleasanton Camp 24



Because Memorial Day activities were cancelled this year at the San Francisco National Cemetery due to Covid restrictions, several Brothers decided we needed to do something to honor veterans and their families. So we decided that at the very least we could post ourselves at the entrance to the cemetery so we could salute the veterans and families who were coming to pay their respects. We had no idea what the reception would be, and we were overwhelmed by the response - people were so grateful that we were there. Vets wanted to thank us, families wanted their children to meet us (we gave out flags to the kids), people had all sorts of questions to ask (Why are Civil War soldiers buried here? Where are the Buffalo Soldiers buried? Where is Pauline Cushman - the Union spy - buried?, etc.) My fellow members of the SUVCW had come from afar that day (Monterey, Tracy, Oakley) to be there and we were very glad we made the effort. It was touching to see the Vietnam vet crying for his lost buddy as he left the cemetery, the parents who brought their kids to teach them the meaning of Memorial Day, the elder Chinese woman who wanted to talk about her husband who was in the US Army, or the 100 year old vet who had been in the Battle of the Bulge, being driven around the cemetery by his grandson.

It was a time when wearing a Union uniform had a real meaning and a real message. It was a great day.

### **Henry C Veatch Camp 30**



With the cooperation of a local car dealership, we were able to set up an informational booth for Memorial Day weekend. The display included historical information, local veterans grave site information, camp information as well as replica firearms. Despite the heat, the event was well regarded by the employees and customers.

### **Edward Dickinson Baker Camp 31**



The Senator Edward Dickinson Baker Camp 31, Department of California & the Pacific honored Private James H. Ladd, (1841-1934) of the 49th and 18th Indiana Infantry on May 31, 2021 at 10:30 AM. Private Ladd is buried in Goodsprings, NV, South of Las Vegas. The 2021 visit afforded more participation by the

Camp and Public with six Brothers and approximately fifteen members of the public participating. Camp Commander Wayne Eder, Department JVC and 6th MD SVR Commander, led the ceremony and discussed the practice of placing coins on veterans graves as members of the local historical society questioned the practice. All members of Camp 31 are also members of Battery A, 3rd US Artillery, SVR of the 6th Military District SVR. A three gun salute was fired from a reproduction 12-pound Model 1841 Coehorn Mortar. The Camp's newest addition, Junior Member Wayne L. Eder II participated and fired his first artillery (blank) round from the mortar. An in-person camp meeting was held immediately after the ceremony, allowing members to catch up after the last year of zoom meetings.

## **Department New Brothers in 2021**

- Camp 2: James Albert Bellows  
Gary William Pelmear
- Camp 12: Frank A Hollingshead  
Richard R Sheehan  
Jon D Harrison
- Camp 21: Michael S Millican
- Camp 22: Douglas J Gilham Jr
- Camp 23: William G VanValkenburg
- Camp 24: Christopher Brozek
- Camp 30: Stanley D James  
Harinder Dhindsa  
Jackson Dhindsa, Junior Member  
Tighe Dhindsa, Junior Member  
Jon D Russell  
John S Hendon  
Sheldon E Ball  
Marc S Hendon  
Joshua P James  
Ethan P Gastelum-James  
Enoch J Gastelum  
Noah K James  
Jonah Jauregui-James, Junior Member  
Brendan D Gastelum, Junior Member  
Shelvin S Singh, Associate Member
- Camp 31: Wayne L Eder II, Junior Member

## **The Vacant Chair**

- Passing of Brother William E Nelson, Camp 2
- Passing of Brother Daniel M Bunnell, PDC, Camp 4
- Passing of Brother Roy Cameron, Camp 12
- Passing of Brother Richard D Raver, Camp 18
- Passing of Brother Charles Ford, Camp 22



## SVR 6<sup>th</sup> Military District



Greetings Brothers!

I pray each of you is safe! Thank you for your continued service! A few thanks are in order. A HUGE thank you to each of our unit commanders (and adjutants) for getting your annual report packages submitted in a timely manner. Thank you to Brother Randy Fletcher for getting out our Western Dispatch newsletter, it is always a pleasure to read. Many thanks to all members of the 6th Military District Staff for all you do to keep our team together. Now for the big one. A very special and heartfelt thank you to our beloved Adjutant Captain Mark Stevens. I do not believe that our members have a clue as to the responsibilities of this man. Gathering annual reports, submitting documents, coordinating activities, all the while serving as one of our unit commanders. Captain Stevens makes my job easy, as well as making each of us look fantastic to the National SVR. Thank you, Mark. I encourage each of you to drop a line to Captain Stevens for his service to the SVR. Like myself, Captain Stevens is also a retired Fire Chief and uses his organizational skills to keep the 6th running smoothly. I hate to sound like a broken record BUT please keep up your recruitment efforts! Chief of Staff Captain Robert Mayer and his unit have been bringing on new members for Battery H, 3rd US Artillery. Thank you, Robert! Keep in minds that the more members your unit recruits, the more opportunity for rank promotions become available. Please review the Regulations of the SVR for unit requirements. A big thank you is in order for all of you that participated in Memorial Day ceremonies. This is the true role of both the SUVCW and SVR and it is our honor to remember the sacrifices of the “Boy’s in Blue”. It was a huge honor this year to have my son, Wayne L. Eder II participate in his first official capacity as a junior member, even firing our Battery A, 3rd US Artillery’s Coehorn Mortar for the first time. For those of you with children and grandchildren I hope that you are getting them involved so we can pass on the legacy of the SUVCW and SVR, otherwise our organizations will simply die. What a travesty that would be. I wish each of you the best. Please feel free to contact me should I be able to assist in anyway. Stay safe!

Dr. Wayne L. Eder  
SUVCW Camp 31/Henderson, NV - Commander  
6th Military District SVR -Commanding Major  
Battery A, 3rd US Artillery SVR - Commander

## Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War



The California & Pacific Auxiliary will be having their Department Encampment on July 11, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. (EST) by Zoom, since I moved to Florida and as Department President, Zoom is the best I can do.

I’m looking forward to attending National Encampment in St. Louis next month.

### Department of California Officers

**Commander** Frank C Avila, PCC  
Senior Vice Commander Stephen Doyle, PCC  
Junior Vice Commander Wayne L Eder, CC  
Secretary/Treasurer Owen Stiles, PCC  
Councilman Daniel Earl, PCC  
Councilman Kurtis Dunphy, CC  
Councilman Wayne Eder, CC  
Camp Organizer Owen Stiles, PCC  
Chaplain Rudy E Velasco, PDC  
Civil War Memorials Officer Dean Enderlin, PDC  
Color Bearer Kurt Dunphy, CC  
Counselor Daniel Earl, PCC  
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator Randall Hawkins, CC  
GAR Highway Officer Charles Beal, PCC  
GAR Records Officer David Davis, PCC  
Graves Registration Officer Kenneth Felton, PCC  
Guard Paul E Lavrischeff, PCC  
Guide Jerry R Sayre, PDC  
Historian David A Davis, PCC  
Newsletter Editor Owen Stiles, PCC  
Patriotic Instructor – Will Tisch, PCC  
Signals Officer/Webmaster Tad Campbell, PCinC

### Dept of California ASUVCW Officers

Rebekah Thomas – President  
Beverly Graham – Vice Commander  
Rachelle Campbell – Secretary/Treasurer  
Cindy Eddy – Council #1  
Cindi Menzies – Council #2  
Beverly Graham – Council #3  
Paige Mitchell – Chaplain  
Patriotic Instructor – VACANT

## **Department Orders**

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 1  
Election, Appointed Officers, & Department  
Headquarters

### **SUCVCW General Orders**

\*Series 2020-2021 (Commander-in-Chief Brian C. Pierson)

- [General Order No. 1](#): Administration
- [General Order No. 2](#): Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star, James McGuire, PDC
- [General Order No. 3](#): Veterans Day
- [General Order No. 4](#): Remembrance Day
- [General Order No. 5](#): Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star, Joseph Hall, PDC
- [General Order No. 6](#): IRS Group Exemption 501(c)3 Determination
- [General Order No. 7](#): Monument Protection Policy
  - [Special Message from CinC Pierson](#) regarding Monument Protection and Preservation Policy
- [General Order No. 8](#): Passing of Allen W. Moore, PCinC
- [General Order No. 9](#): Passing of Union Solider Widow Helen Jackson
- [General Order No. 10](#): Passing of Lucille "Peaches" Streeter, PNP, WRC
- [General Order No. 11](#): Appointment of National Counselor Mark R. Day, PCinC
- [General Order No. 12](#): Licensing Issues
- [General Order No. 13](#): Liability Insurance
- [General Order No. 14](#): Lobbying
- [General Order No. 15](#): Clarification of Guidance on the Issuing of Membership Cards
- [General Order No. 16](#): Passing of Michelle Langley, PNP, ASUVCW
- [General Order No. 17](#): Memorial Day
- [General Order No. 18](#): Definition of So-Called "Paper Camps"

\*These General Orders and Department Orders issued October - December, 2020 can be read by visiting SUVPA.org.