
THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN

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Department of California and Pacific Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

A Message from the Editor



Dear Brothers: Thank you for an opportunity to provide another year of writing, editing, and publishing our Department's Newsletter, *The California Column*.

I'm sure you've been wondering why it has taken so long for this edition to be published. I ask myself that same question. Simply put, there has been few or no articles submitted to me by

most Camps. I am sincerely grateful to those Camps who *have* submitted articles and pictures for publication. Those are what make this a newsletter.

Since I am not in a position to be the journalist reporter I would love to be, covering Camp and Department events throughout California and Nevada, I must rely on each Camp *and* individual Brother to submit material for

inclusion in the newsletter. Remember, it is **YOU**, the individual Brother of this Department, that makes this newsletter!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

DANIEL R. EARL, Editor and Publisher



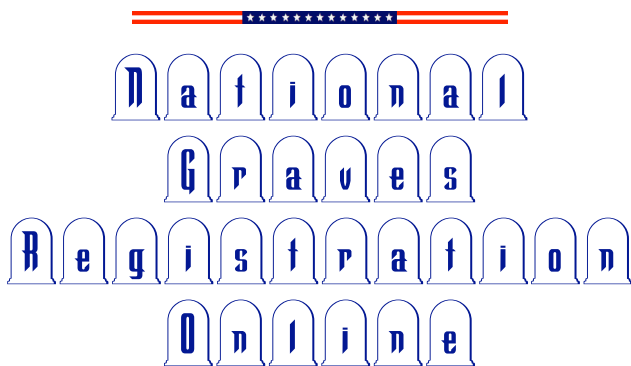
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Ten Cannots

by
President Abraham Lincoln

- 1) You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- 2) You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
- 3) You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- 4) You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- 5) You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.
- 6) You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
- 7) You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
- 8) You cannot establish security on borrowed money.
- 9) You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
- 10) You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.



The SUVCW National Graves Registration Project was established in 1996. Since then, hundreds of dedicated people from within and without our Order have graciously devoted thousands of hours of their time and energy

visiting cemeteries, recording, verifying, researching and entering the final resting places of Civil War veterans. From the beginning, one thing was missing – the means for the SUVCW and general public to search and view the results of our labor on the Internet. As the number of registrations grew to its current 326,000+, it was also apparent that duplication of effort and waste of time was reaching an unacceptable level, without knowledge of what was completed and what needed further investigation.

Now, nine years later, the National Graves Registration Database is available to all. The database was activated February 22, 2005. It can be found on the website index of the SUVCW National Website (www.suvcw.org) or directly at (www.suvcwdb.org). This will make all original registrations available for viewing by the general public, as well as allowing for new registrations to be entered through our online program. We have worked to avoid them, but there may be “start up” problems requiring our attention. So please be patient. For the time being, only new graves registrations will be entered through the “submitter” area. Once we are assured this has been successful, we will address the “updating of previously entered records”.

There are two sections/areas in the online program;
Public Area (for viewing/searching only),
Submitter Area (for those with approved accounts and allowed to enter registrations),

Regarding the “submitter area” -

1. An individual, Camp, Dept. applies for an Account, which is either approved or disapproved by the National Graves Registration Officer (Nat'l GRO)

2. Approved submitters enter a grave registration(s), it is automatically checked for duplication. If passed, it is allowed to be submitted, but is not entered in the main database.

3. The submitted record(s) goes to a “holding location”, where it is reviewed and either “approved” or “disapproved” by the Nat'l GRO.

4. Records passing the above criteria still are

not part of the main database until the Nat'l GRO or designee enters one additional area and inserts it/them into the database.



This system is not fool proof, but should reduce fictitious entries to an absolute minimum. Updated or additional information concerning previously submitted registrations should continue to be submitted to the National Graves Registration Officer. Naturally, submissions for those without computer access or preferring not to use this tool will be accepted through regular mail or email by Department Graves Registration Officers or, in their absence, the National Graves Registration Officer.

It is our hope that this online database program will promote increased interest in the SUVCW National Graves Registration Project and take us to an entirely new level of achievement. Depending on the source referenced, there were between 4.2 and 4.8 million Union Civil War Veterans. Due to mass burials, unreported battlefield losses, burials at sea and other circumstances, we can never expect to register all Union graves, but with your assistance we will succeed in honoring the "boys in blue" to the best of our ability.

Special thanks to Brothers Nathan Orr and Leo Kennedy PDC, without whose efforts, this database would not have reached this successful launching.

Please direct all inquiries concerning the National Graves Registration Project or Database to National Graves Registration Officer Bob Lowe PDC via phone at (619) 588-9148 or email at Cavalry21@cox.net.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HOW THEY SERVE YOU.

With the start of a new Administration this past spring, and as editor of *The California Column*, I asked each elected and appointed Department officer to submit a brief biography of themselves and explain what their function is within the Department. This should help every Brother should he have questions about a specific topic, or desire to assist his fellow Brethren. *The Editor.*

The following two items were submitted:

SEBASTIAN NELSON, HISTORIAN:

Dear Brothers,

My name is Sebastian Nelson and I am honored to serve as your new Department Historian. I am currently earning my Masters of Library and Information Science degree at San Jose State University, and my membership is through my great-great grandfather Private Thaddeus Bradley, who you can read about at <http://www.bpmlegal.com/76NY/76bradleytw.html>.

You may know me from the history of Sheridan Camp No. 4 which I compiled, a copy of which was provided to every camp in the department. I am taking over from the past Department Historian Robert "Nels" Nelson. Nels has done an enormous amount of work preserving our GAR and SUVCW history, and his will be a hard act to follow. Nels and others have managed to accumulate many pages of contemporary newspaper articles about GAR and SUVCW encampments and activities. Much more information remains undiscovered on microfilmed copies of old local newspapers. During my term, however, I hope to focus instead on whatever old documents and relevant photographs still exist outside the protective confines of a library. Accordingly, I have begun to accumulate the obituaries of several dozen past department commanders of our SUVCW department in the hopes of locating descendants



who may still possess some of our relics. If I can do anything to help you research any camp or department history, please let me know. Similarly, if you have anything to contribute to our history, I would love to hear from you. I can be contacted by email at sebnelson@gmail.com or at 1312 Hester Ave, San Jose, CA 95126 (408-287-8169).

Lastly, if you would like a free CD-ROM copy of the Department's history, please contact me with your name and mailing address.



KIRBY R. MORGAN, CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER:

I was born in Salem, Marion County, OR on 29 June 1929 and was primarily raised in the Lafayette/Walnut Creek Area of Contra Costa County, CA, from 1937-1957. We were in a rural setting and had horses and farm animals. Summers were spent in Oregon working on my uncle's farm and/or traveling with my mother who was a freelance writer and commercial photographer.

I served in the U.S. Army, with my primary assignment in Korea as a crane and heavy equipment operator. I have attended some 13 colleges receiving my AA degree and BS degree in Wildlife Management. Later I graduated from the police academy and have received many certificates in Police Science, Supervision, teaching credentials and other courses. I retired as California State Park Manager/Ranger in 1986. After retirement I worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Geodetic Survey Crew for a few seasons. Now I work a variety of part time jobs. My wife and I do quite a bit of traveling from our home base in Coarsegold, Madera

County, CA, as we live full time in a 34' fifth-wheel RV.

I became a National Member at Large, SUVCW in 1978 and reassigned to Camp #22 in 1994. I become active as Camp #22's GRO/MO in 1995. In 2005 I transferred to Camp #9 in and serve as its GRO/MO.

As the Department Memorials Officer I help maintain the Department CWM web page, assist Camp Memorial Officers and others in identifying and recording all types of memorials dedicated to Union Civil War soldiers within our geographic area. I enjoy working with other groups and individuals in preserving and perpetuating Memorials that honor Union Veterans of the Civil War. Additionally, I review and submit completed memorial reports to National HQ on the status of Civil War Memorials.



Memorial Day Honored in California and Nevada

CAMP 4



It seems that after several years the Phil Sheridan Camp 4 has now established a new tradition of participating in the "Civil War

Days/Memorial Day” weekend events at Roaring Camp in Felton, CA. This small community is based in the center of the Santa Cruz mountains; the event attracts both public and participants from as far away as Fresno and Sacramento. Although it is a relatively small “reenactment event” the crowds are huge. This year, as in the past, Camp 4 Brothers and Auxiliary 52 Sisters “set up camp” on the Friday evening start of the weekend. The one difference this year was the use of a new wall tent *and* fly tent. This allowed for additional display tables to be set up, including not only SUVCW educational informational material, but a history and recruiting material for the Auxiliary and a special table for Brother Lavrischeff’s “artillery.” Over the past few years Camp 4 averaged about 300 contacts over the weekend, recruiting potential members, generally for Camps in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Valley areas. This year over 600 contacts were made over the Saturday-Sunday weekend! Several of these contacts may lead to new members for Camps 4, 10, and 24.



Bro. Charles J. “Corky” Reed
SVC, Camp 24

Joining Camp 4 were Camp 24’s **COMMANDER CHARLIE MABIE**, **SVC CORKY REED**, and **BROTHER PAUL HILLAR**. **TIMOTHY REED**, Commander of Camp 10 and PCC

ROBERT “NELS” NELSON, also stopped by for awhile. Setting up the tents, and staffing the booth all weekend, were Camp 4’ **COMMANDER DANIEL EARL**, **SVC STEVE WELCH**, **DC TAD CAMPBELL**, **ROBERT KADLEC (PCC)**, and **COUNCILMEMBER PAUL LAVRISCHEFF**. They were joined by Auxiliary ladies **PRESIDENT RACHELLE CAMPBELL** and **DEBBIE EARL**. Camp 4 Brothers participating in the reenactment with the ACWA during the weekend included **FRANK AVILA**, **JOE MARTI**, and **ROBERT SORIA**.



One of the largest contributing factors to the increase in contacts during this year was the newly established “artillery table” by resident firearm expert, **BROTHER PAUL LAVRISCHEFF**. **PAUL** enjoyed speaking to the crowds and demonstrating the various guns, including a real cannonball, just as much, if not more than, those observing what he had to say. Not only **PAUL**’s exhibit, but his captivating presentations kept spectators glued to the table all day long.



MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATED IN PACIFICA

by
SVC Steven J. Welch

SENIOR VICE CAMP COMMANDER STEVEN WELCH organized and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the City of Pacifica, California, official Memorial Day observance with the help of **BROTHER J. FRANK GUIRADO III**. Both are members of the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 in San José. It was Steve's eighth year as MC of this event. The ceremony planning begins a few months ahead when invitations are sent out to all the local politicians, veteran's organizations, and potential guest speakers. As the date comes closer, the Veterans Memorial where the event takes place is spruced up by **BROTHER GUIRADO**, including an annual landscaping upgrade, donated by Brother Welch. The Boy Scouts are invited to play taps on the bugle and they get advancement credit for participating in a flag ceremony. A local military vehicle fan brings his restored jeep with a 50 caliber mounted gun, BAR, M1 Carbine and M1 Garando all in their jeep scabbards. The crowd is also entertained with a photo display of all the past ceremonies and pictures of the building of the veteran's memorial, which was built in front of Chapel by The Sea Funeral Home in the mid-1990's by volunteers from the community.



Brother Steve Welch
SVC, Camp 4 (on the right)

The ceremony was called to order by **BROTHER STEVEN WELCH** and opened with a prayer by **REV. PIERS LAHEY**, the local Catholic pastor, and a history of Memorial Day was then read by **STEVE** to the crowd of 125, including the Mayor and members of the City Council, the Fire and Police Chiefs, North Coast Water District Board, VFW, American Legion, U.S. Volunteers, Pacifica Military Moms, Boy Scouts, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, who all sent representatives to the ceremony. This year active duty military personnel on leave from Iraq participated in the ceremony as well.



After **BROTHER WELCH** had read **GENERAL LOGAN'S** order and a history of Memorial Day, there were patriotic songs and a recitation of "In Flanders Field." The Mayor gave an address and then the Star Spangled Banner was played. Speeches were offered by members of the community assembled and "God Bless America" was sung. The ceremony concluded with the names of all the Pacifica residents killed in the Vietnam War were read and taps was played, after which the flag was lowered to half staff. A closing prayer was offered by **REV. TOM NIBBE**, USMC, and then a wreath was presented by the American Legion Auxiliary. The ceremony was then followed by lunch at the local American Legion Hall.



Other Camp 4 M.D. Weekend Events

BROTHER DAVE SCHLEETER (PCC), now living a considerable distance from Camp 4's area and as a duel member with Camp 23, partook in several different events on behalf of both Camps. Saturday, May 27th he jointed the Color Guard of the Scottish-American Military Society, **ADM. WILLIAM A. MOFFET** Post 1921 at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, and on Sunday, at the **USS SAN FRANCISCO MEMORIAL**, San Francisco. On Monday, **BROTHER SCHLEETER** participated with the Ellsworth Camp 23 at a reenactment of the 1906 Memorial Day event at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. **DAVE'S** wife, **SISTER ANN SCHLEETER** attended, representing the Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52.

South of San José, **BROTHER BOB EARL** and his wife, **SISTER PHYLLIS EARL**, represented Camp 4 and Auxiliary 52 with a visit to the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Salinas. **DEPARTMENT COMMANDER TAD CAMPBELL** and his wife Auxiliary 52 **PRESIDENT RACHELLE CAMPBELL**, in addition to the events in San José, also paid tribute at the Gavilan Hills Cemetery in Gilroy.

CAMP 12

The SUV William B. Keith Camp #12 participated in a joint SUV, SVR, SCV Memorial Day service at Woodlawn Cemetery in Las Vegas, NV on May 29th. The Camp honored all veterans of all wars in our thoughts and prayers. The Camp specifically honored **WILLIAM BOONE KEITH** (1840-1920) of Iowa and his confederate friend **MR. JAMES B. GRAHAM** (1838-1917) of Virginia by laying wreaths on their graves. **BROTHER LEN BECKER** and his wife **EM** placed Union and Confederate flags on all eight of the Civil War graves we know of in Woodlawn Cemetery prior to the ceremony. **KEITH** and **GRAHAM** are buried side by side and share a common headstone arranged by mutual agreement. As far as is known, this is the only place in the U.S. where a Union and a Confederate soldier share a common headstone.

BROTHER STEVE HAUK officiated at the ceremony, with SVR First Sgt. **MATT CARLING** commanding the color guard and Sgt **JASON COFFEY** commanding the firing detail. The firing party was composed of the SVR and local Confederate reenactors. **MRS. PENNY HUSSON** of the Daughters of Union Veterans Tent # 79 laid the wreath on the grave of **MR. KEITH** and **MRS. CHERYL GIORDANO** of the United Daughters of the Confederacy laid a wreath on the grave of **MR. GRAHAM**. Taps was sounded by **BROTHER BILL JONES** who was attired in a Captain's uniform to honor his ancestor. The national colors were carried by the youngest member of Camp 12, **BROTHER JOHN MALONEY**.

In summary, all the Civil War patriotic organizations in Las Vegas came together, pooling their varied and plentiful talents, to honor our Veterans. The event was a resounding success and we had many members of the public in attendance. Our local television media provided coverage of the ceremony on both the 29th and the 30th of May.

CAMP 17

Twelve Camp 17 Brothers participated in eight different Memorial Day services in order to honor our veterans in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The main observance was at the Santa Ana Cemetery GAR plot and monument where Camp Brothers representing both the SUVCW and SAR presented colors and wreaths during the ceremony coordinated by the Santa Ana/Tustin/Orange Tri-City Veterans Association. The participants at Santa Ana included Camp **COMMANDER GLEN ROOSEVELT**, **PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR JAMES BLAUER**, **WALTER DAVIS**, **MONUMENTS & GRAVES OFFICER CHARLES BEAL**, **SECRETARY-TREASURER FLOYD FARRAR**, and **COUNCIL MEMBER MIKE QUIGLEY**.



Camp **SENIOR VICE COMMANDER PAUL GILLETTE** took part in the ceremony at Magnolia Memorial Park, and after the ceremony **PAUL** gave his renowned History Walk of the Civil War veteran burials. **BROTHER RICHARD RAVER** performed drummer duty with the Continental Marines at the San Clemente observance, while **RICHARD** and **PETER IGNATIUS** formed part of the Honor Guard and rifle salute at Valhalla Memorial Park in North Hollywood, and **BROTHER TERRY SHAW** assisted with the services in Costa Mesa. Camp member **DAN HENRY** made his observance of the holiday at General Grant's Tomb in New York City. In addition to active participation, Camp

members set out flags and floral arrangements at Westwood Village Memorial Park and at the grave of Orange Counties "Last Civil War Soldier" in Anaheim. The Fullerton American Legion Post made a special presentation during their reading of the Roll of Honor at Loma Vista Memorial Park to commemorate two Union Civil War veteran grave markers that were ordered and installed under the direction of **CAMP GRAVES & MONUMENTS OFFICER CHARLES BEAL**.

CAMP 21

Sunday May 28, 2006, nine Brothers and seven Ladies (6 Aux and 1 DUV) met at Falbrook Odd Fellows Cemetery to honor the 12 Union Veterans at rest there. This year, we began our ceremony at the grave of our Camp's Namesake, Sgt Wm. Pittenger, and went on to two others buried there, **LT. ASA HEBBERD** and **SGT. JAMES TRACY**. The ladies performed the flower ceremony at all three graves.



There was a crowd of about 35 there to honor the dead, including reporters from the San Diego Union, and local Fox News affiliate, XETV 6. We had front page coverage in the Union and North County Times. Truly the best coverage of this small event we've ever had.

Sunday, May 28, 2006, five Brothers and seven Ladies (6 Aux and 1 DUV) provided a color guard during ceremonies at El Cajon Cemetery put together by Elk's Lodge 1812. This is our 6th year participating in this event as Co G, 5th CA Vol Inf. This year, a Korean War Veteran was honored.



Monday, May 29th, 2006 Camp 21 was represented by **COMMANDER WILL TISCH** (SAR uniform, below) and **PCC JERRY SAYRE** at the ceremonies held at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, CA. Hundreds of veterans groups from all over San Diego County gather every year to honor veterans at this large event. Between 2500 and 3000 participate in the annual event covered by all media.



Tuesday May 30th, 2006, 13 Brothers and five Ladies (4 Aux. and 1 DUV) gathered at our main event at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego pictured here at GAR Hill. This annual event draws participants from the entire Civil War Community in San Diego SUVCW, SCV, DUV, UDC, ASUVCW, SDCWRT and various other veterans organizations made up the crowd of 200, including some WWII vets, and community members.



Both television and print media organizations attended, interviewing our members. The smaller event in Fallbrook on Sunday got much better publicity than the bigger events on Monday.

CAMP 22

The General George Wright Camp 22 displayed its new banner at northern California's largest Civil War reenactment. Brothers of Camp 22 participated in the three-day event at Gibson Ranch. Gibson Ranch is a working ranch located in a Sacramento county park, with rolling hills, creeks, bridges and hills that allow a great view for the spectators and guests. Friday, some members of Wright Camp acted as docents leading some of the group of 3,200 students that

came out for Civil War School day. Fifteen stations were set up on the fields for educational purposes and one third of the students went through five stations every one and a half hours.

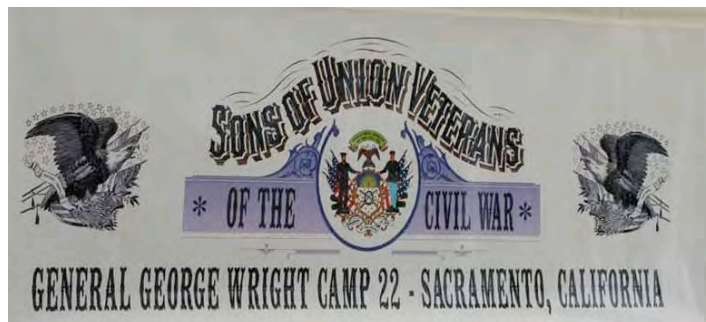


Each year the NCWA selects a theme for the reenactment and this year portrayed the beginning and end of the Civil War. The SUVCW followed with "The First and the Last." **BRAD SCHALL, PDC**, was the guest speaker on the battle of Big Bethel (First) and then the GAR and Memorial Day (Last).



Brothers from Camps Wright, Pleasonton, and Grant attended the event and manned a recruiting

and educational booth. **CAMP COMMANDER DON WILT, MEMORIALS OFFICER HARRY HARLAND, CAMP SECRETARY TOM SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WAYNE GRISWOLD, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR BRAD SCHALL (PDC), AND LEE WOLARY** manned the most successful recruiting effort the camp has had during a reenactment. Three applications have been obtained as a result of the reenactment.



NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT DELEGATES

Next month the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will hold it's 125th Annual National Encampment in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Brothers serving *ex officio*, elected, or appointed by DC Campbell include:

- TAD D. CAMPBELL, DC**
- DANIEL BUNNELL, PDC**
- BOB LOWE, PDC**
- BRAD SCHALL, PDC**
- JAY WOOD, Camp 2**
- DANIEL R. EARL (CC), Camp 4**
- ROBERT J. KADLEC (PCC), Camp 4**
- DAVID C. SCHLEETER (PCC), Camp 4**
- RICK T. LAROSA, Camp 4**
- GLEN ROOSEVELT (CC), Camp 17**
- DEANE POOLE, Camp 21**
- JERRY SAYRE (PCC), Camp 21**

WILLIAM TISCH, Camp 21
 BRADEN SCHALL, Camp 24
 CHRISTOPHER SCHALL, Camp 24
 GARY PARROTT (PCC), Camp 25
 Alternate: GERALD SCHEIB, Camp 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

by
 Jerry Sayre, PCC Camp 21

On July 3rd, 2006, 14 members of the Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, 5 ladies from the ASUVCW, 1 DUV from Nancy Hanks Lincoln Tent 5, and 2 members of the Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 gathered at GAR Hill, Mt Hope Cemetery in San Diego to dedicate a new Flagpole and Monument to the Grand Army of the Republic.



A culmination of an 18 month project, the flagpole was to replace an older one damaged and removed in 2005. Funds were raised by Camp 21, including those from National Special Projects Fund, to purchase, and have set, the 30 ft flagpole. The Monument was made from local granite and plaques and was placed by 5 members of Camp 21.

The event was attended by members of the local Civil War Community, several local

veterans' organizations, and a representative from GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S office. Music was provided by American Civil War Brass Band, Soloist RITA CARTWRIGHT, Piper KIRK YSLAS, and Co G, 6th US Reenactors fife and drum unit, JIM and COLIN MCKIM.

The first flag was raised amid cheers and singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by WWII veteran, ALEX KAPITANSKI, locally known as "The Flag Man".

by
 Daniel R. Earl, Commander Camp 4

Short of attending the National Encampment, this summer has culminated with the annual Peninsula Celebration Association Independence Day Parade the past July 4th. This is the second year the SUVCW and others have marched with their Color Guard in the downtown Redwood City parade; Camp 4 plans to do so for many years to come. Leading the Color Guard with the Department Banner



were Dr. Mary E. Walker Auxiliary No. 52 President Rachele Campbell and Jo Montgomery. Calling parade commands was Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 Brother Paul Lavrischeff. The Color guard included DC Tad Campbell, Camp Commander, Daniel Earl (CC), PCC Dave Schleeter, Brothers Steve Welch, Rick LaRosa, Frank Avila, Camp 24 Commander Charlie Mabie, members of the ACWA, the 20th Maine, and the 114th PA Zouaves.



Department Officers

Commander — **Tad D. Campbell**
tadcamp@earthlink.net

Sr. Vice Commander — **Jerry Sayre**
cod26ia@tfb.com

Jr. Vice Commander — **Gary Parrott**
Birdmanofmono@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer — **J. Tom Smith**
Jtssuvcw@aol.com

Department Council —

D. Brad Schall, PDC (chairman)
dschall@starstream.net

Al Peterson, PDC
Aepsuvcw@cox.net

Glen Roosevelt
GLRoosevelt@adelphia.net

Patriotic Instructor — **William E. Tisch**
tis346@cox.net

Chaplain **Thomas E. Helmantoler**
TomCIF88@san.rr.com

Historian — **Sebastian Nelson**
snelson@slis.sjsu.edu

Counselor — **James C. Brazelton**
jcbraz@aol.com

Guide — **Paul Washeleski**
paulww@charter.net

Color Bearer — **Charles J. “Corky” Reed**
lcolreed@juno.com

Guard — **Phillip L. Caines**
proskcaines@earthlink.net

Graves Reg. Officer — **Donald Hotchkiss, Jr.**
cpth65eng@aol.com

Civil War Memorials Officer — **Kirby Morgan**
kirby_m2000@yahoo.com

Signals Officer — **Tad D. Campbell**
tadcamp@earthlink.net

GAR Highway Officer — **Gary Parrott**
Birdmanofmono@aol.com

Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator —
Al Peterson, PDC
Aepsuvcw@aol.com

Newsletter Editor — **Daniel R. Earl**
danearl64@earthlink.net

Newsletter Mailing Address:

Department of California and Pacific
3012 Lake Estates Court
San José, CA 95135-1366

Department Website

<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/deptca.html>



Fraternity Δ Charity Δ Loyalty

4 July 2006

“Independence Day”

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