

THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN



Vol XVIII The Newsletter of the Department of California and Pacific
December 2020

Department of California & Pacific

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the CINC

Brian C. Pierson



*DEAR COMMANDER VELASCO,
Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

*GREETINGS TO THE BROTHERS IN THE DEPT
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Brian C. Pierson
Commander-in-Chief*



Commanders Corner



**Rudy E. Velasco, PDC
Commander**

Greetings Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Season Greetings are in order as we enter into the upcoming Winter Holidays. I pray blessings abound this Christmas.

Thank you to our Department Delegates who attended the first virtual National Encampment meeting this past October 24th. The Department had 15 and at times, up to 17 Delegates on screen during this 7 hour meeting that actually went very well. There were very few glitches with this otherwise successful first time virtual assembly. This virtual technology may be the way of the future, integrating “in person” and “virtual” attendees at encampments and camp meetings.

We are all looking towards a brighter future as COVID has crippled our state and country. There may be light at the end of the tunnel with a virus vaccine currently being made available. Forecasts indicate that maybe by the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2021 we will see a more normal type of social interaction. One can only hope.

This is the time of year when our Camps are holding Officer Elections and collecting per capita dues. I would like to encourage all to stay current and get engaged with your Camp. You can have fun being involved. You won't know until you try. Be loyal to your Camp and to the Order and faithful to your fellow members so you may work in brotherhood as we Honor the Boys in Blue.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

**Rudy E. Velasco III PDC
Commander
Department of California & Pacific**

Honoring A Civil War Veteran

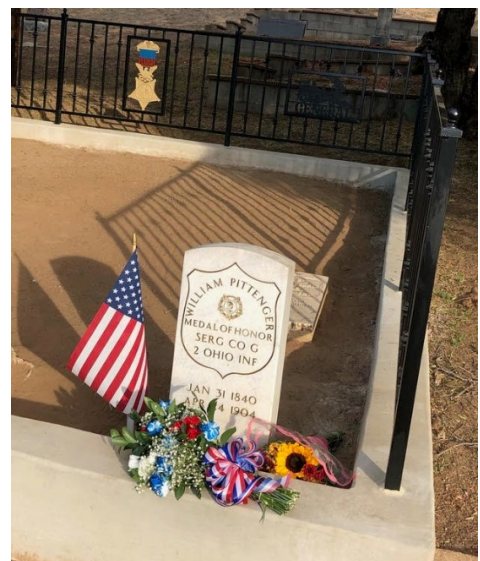
WILLIAM PITTENGER



William Pittenger was born January 31, 1840 in Knoxville, OH. He grew up and attended schools there. For a while he was, himself, a schoolteacher. When the war broke out he was 21 and he joined Co H 2nd OH Vol. Infantry on April 17, 1861. He was at the first battle of Bull Run. When his 3-month enlistment ended he rejoined the 2nd OH as a corporal in Co G, and was promoted to Sergeant on March 13, 1862.

On April 12, 1862 he joined a group of 19 fellow soldiers from Ohio and 2 civilians on an adventure that would change the course of their lives as they hoped it would change the course of the War.

Led by civilian James J. Andrews, the group later known as Andrews Raider would infiltrate far behind enemy lines into northern Georgia with a plan to disrupt the Western and Atlantic Railroad and keep the Confederates from being able to supply Chattanooga, TN making it an easier target for Union Troops.



A custom metal fence was designed and placed on three sides of the curb marking The Great Locomotive Chase with both of the trains, The Texas and The General. The middle of the fence has the Medal of Honor shining bright to honor Sgt. William Pittenger.

Early on the morning of the 12th, the Raiders commandeered a Confederate train called “The General” and headed north toward Chattanooga hoping to do as much damage as possible to rails, bridges and telegraph lines.

This plan might have worked if it were not for the stubbornness of the General’s conductor, William Fuller who pursued the Raider on foot, on rail car, and with several locomotives until he commandeered a southbound train, “The Texas” and chased them in reverse. Thus began ‘The Great Locomotive Chase’.

By early afternoon, being pursued and unable to refuel “The General” the raiders literally ran out of steam and were soon captured.

Of the 22 raiders, 8 were hanged as spies including Andrews, 8 escaped back to Union lines, and the last 6 were held prisoner for months before they were exchanged for Confederate prisoners.

William Pittenger was among these last 6, who were the first recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Around the Department

General W S Rosecrans Camp 2



This is a photo of Rosecrans Camp No. 2's participation in a Veterans Day Ceremony, conducted by the El Redondo, and Point Vicente Chapters of the D.A.R., at Green Hills Memorial Park, in Rancho Palos Verdes, this morning. The Harbor Chapter of the S.A.R. provided the uniformed color guard. The crowd numbered 30, including some veterans, families, DAR and DUVCW Sisters, and from Camp 2--Dean Smith, Kristen Anderson, and Brandon Villardi, our newest member, who is also the President of the Harbor Chapter of the SAR, and flag bearer.

Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17

Camp 17 met via Zoom on Nov. 19 and elected Officers for a second term, maintaining current command structure.

General George Stoneman Camp 18

The Brothers at Camp 18 are ready and waiting to get back out into the public with displays of Civil War and GAR items. Having regular camp meetings at the American Legion Hall again will be welcomed events. We are praying for this pandemic to end and the state’s social restrictions to be lifted.

We are happy to report that during this down time we have been able to add 3 new and very interested Brothers to the camp which is always a great thing.



Camp 18 Jr. Vice Commander John Morris, his daughter Sarah and Department Jr. Vice Commander Steve Doyle PCC, wearing masks and staying social distant, made sure that flags were placed on the graves of our veterans at Evergreen Historical Cemetery in Riverside for Veterans Day. Staying in line with the Wreaths Across America program this December, Brother Morris made sure wreaths were placed at Evergreen Cemetery.



Sgt William Pittenger Camp 21



*Pictured Above (L-R)
Demis Lovato, PI, Jack Bruzas, John Keenan, CC, Jerry Sayre,
PDC, Wes Scarborough, John May, Sec/Treas. Not pictured,
but present, Peter Huelsenbeck, SVC, and Brian Bingham.*

Photo by: Kim Sayre

Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 of The Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War, embarked on a project to have removed and replace the cracked and falling apart cement curb surrounding the gravesite of Sgt. William Pittenger, Medal of Honor Recipient.

Edward Dickinson Baker Camp 31



In his first official capacity as Camp Commander of Camp 31, Dept. of CA & the Pacific, SUVCW it was his honor to present their new Junior Vice Commander Jimmie Bodenhamer his membership badge. He will also be receiving his Viet Nam War bar to wear on this badge for his service to our great Nation. This man is a true hero and has both my deepest respect and friendship. I am proud to be able to call him an SUVCW Brother. Huzzah!

The Vacant Chair

Passing of Brother Brian Worcester, PCC
Passing of Brother James F Blauer
Passing of Brother William E Nelson, PCC
Passing of Brother Leonard Becker, PCC
Passing of Brother Michael Peebles

Department New Brother in 2020

Camp 2: Steven Shampine
Cole Andrews
Kristen Anderson
John Richardson Jr
Albert Jones
Brandon Villardi
Camp 18: Mark Radeleff
Jason Valencia
Benny White
Eric Ramey
Camp 21: Kevin park
Lawrence Harden
Frederick Hall
Timothy Sapanara
Shawn Turner
John Huelsenbeck
James Holtz
Jerry Cook
Camp 22: Matthew DiLoreto
Camp 24: Joshua Barger
Jeffrey Nibert
Gregory LaFramboise
Glen Martin
Camp 25: Richard Dalton
Jonathan Dickey
Camp 28: Eric paape
Terrence Towner
Camp 30: Curtis Willey
Edmund Smith
Thomas Younkin
Daniel Younkin
Camp 31: Jimmie Bodenhammer
William Jones

SVR 6th Military District



Greetings Brothers!

It is with a great sense of humble honor that I announce my appointment as Commanding Major of the 6th Military District SVR by Major General Robert Grimm effective 10/1/20. As discussed previously, I will do my utmost to honor and lead our organization.

Regarding 6th MD Staff assignments, I submit the following for your consideration:

Mark Stevens will retain his position and rank as Adjutant/Captain.

Gary Dickey will continue to serve as Chaplain at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant

Randy Fletcher will continue to serve as Public Information Officer at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Owen Stiles will serve as Inspector General at the rank of Captain.

There is still one vacancy on the District Staff for Chief of Staff (Captain). This position serves as Liaison for the District and handles other duties as assigned by the District Commander. If you have a current SVR Officer or NCO that you would like to nominate to fill this position, please let me know ASAP at jerseyartillery@gmail.com

SVR Regulations <http://suvchw.org/svr/forms/2019svr-reg.pdf>

I appreciate the support each of you has given me this year and I look forward to continuing in the upstanding tradition set by the previous Commanders and members of the 6th. I wish you a safe and prosperous Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and God Bless each of you and your families.

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 Auxiliary President's Corner

Due to Covid, there have not been activities from any of the other Auxiliaries other than Ivy Stiers.

Department Encampment will also be a Zoom event scheduled for March 20,2021. I sincerely hope for a happier, healthier year for all.

Ivy Stiers Auxiliary No. 23



Our happy Auxiliary members at our Lincoln Dinner celebration in February- the last event of 2020 before Covid. Our two newest junior members, Olivia and Penelope Scott, were installed as members that night. It was a night of camaraderie, with Camp 23 and members of other local organizations such as North Bay Round Table and Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, and lots of dancing!! It's a night to keep remembering until we meet again.

On 12/12/2020 we had a joint Zoom meeting with Camp 23, and elected our slate of officers for the coming year.

Department of California and Pacific Officers

Commander Rudy Velasco, PCC
Senior Vice Commander Frank Avila, PCC
Junior Vice Commander Stephen Doyle, PCC
Secretary/Treasurer Owen Stiles, PCC
Councilman Daniel Earl, PCC
Councilman Kurtis Dunphy, CC
Councilman Wayne Eder
Camp Organizer Owen Stiles, PCC
Chaplain Allen Davis, OCC
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 Kenneth R Walker
Guide Brian Stephens
Historian David Davis, PCC
Newsletter Editor Owen Stiles
Patriotic Instructor – Will Tisch, PCC
Signals Officer/Webmaster Tad Campbell, PCinC

Department 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 SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2
Passing of Brother Brian Worcester, PCC

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER NO. 3
Passing of Brother James F Blauer

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER NO. 4
Passing of Brother William E Nelson, PCC

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER NO. 5
Passing of Brother Leonard Becker

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER NO. 6
Passing of Brother Michael Peebles

General Orders

- [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

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