

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

Volume 15, No.1, January, 2024



Happy New Year 2024



Officer Installation – Holiday Meeting and Toys for Tots

Last summer, or there about, Camp Sr. Vice Commander Brother John Morris suggested putting a “Holiday” theme to our December Camp business and Officer election meeting. I am not sure how close we came to a “Holiday” meeting but we had fun. We also added a “Toys for Tots” collection at this meeting.

The meeting was attended by 12 which is about as many as we usually have on a regular basis, including Department Commander Steve Doyle.

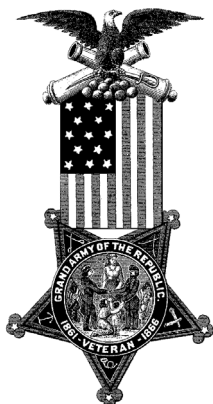
After the Camp Officer Installation, conducted by Commander Doyle concluded and the meeting ended, the holiday fun began.

First – Santa Claus never showed up but we all got to feel a little like a Santa by bringing items for Toys for Tots.

Second – Thank you everyone, for bringing items for the Pot Luck lunch, it was fun! There was sub sandwiches delivered, different chips and dips, different types potato salad, cookies, pumpkin pie and a variety of soft drinks. A big hit was the dish of red beans and rice. Newsletter Editor Rudy Velasco appointed himself the Official Quality Control Inspector of the cookies. He had to make sure everything was in order and the cookies were safe to consume before letting the Camp Brothers safely partake.

Third – the Holiday Spirit part, the Toys for Tots.

Continued on page 2, see TOYS,...



Tentative Camp Calendar

-- possible annual calendar on page 5 --

Saturday, February 3 – Camp Display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine Open House in Redlands. Open House hours 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Saturday, Feb 17 – Camp meeting – 10:00 am at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.

April 5 – 6 – 138th SUVCW, California & Pacific Department Encampment - Laughlin, Nevada. Final details still being worked out, more info to follow shortly. Stayed tuned.

April 20 – Camp meeting – 10:00 am, at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.

Saturday May 25 – Memorial Day flag detail and Camp 18 Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Details to follow.

Saturday, June 15 – Camp meeting – 10:00 am, at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.



Wanted

We have a couple of Camp 18 Brothers that are looking to purchase some gently used reproduction Union Civil War uniforms and leather gear. **Infantry** Sack coat and light blue trousers, waist belt, cartridge box etc. One Brother on the taller side. If any Brother out there has some extra gear they are looking to shed, please contact this Editor at rev03@dc.rr.com or phone (760) 774-6059 and I will put you in touch with interested Brothers. Thanks!



*Dedicated to Preserving the Memory
of the Grand Army of the Republic
And the soldiers who Fought to Save the Union 1861 - 1865*



*Photo above; Camp 18 Brothers attending the Holiday/Election meeting with 3 Corona Fireman coming to pick up the “Toys for Tots” that the Camp collected to help spread the Holiday Cheer to those in need. This is a Great group of guys!
Morris photo*

TOYS, continued,...

18 unwrapped gifts were collected at the December meeting which were collected by the Corona Fire Department at the end of our meeting.

We felt kind of special that the Local Fire Department would make a special trip to our meeting to pick up the gifts to take them to their distribution center. It is more about others, than us, at this time of year.

The local Fireman showed up to collect the donated gifts in Corona Firetruck “Old No. 1”. The Corona Fire Department was established in 1898.

At the end of the day, as it should be, everyone was happy with the “eats”, the comradery and the gift giving. Isn’t that what the season is all about?

greeted not only by Brother Jerry and his wife, but also by PCinC Brother Tad Campbell and his wife, Tina. I soon discovered that Brother Jerry is a “walking encyclopedia” about not only the history of Fallbrook but also about Sgt. Pittenger. After the museum tour we walked next door to the Pittenger House, which was built by Pittenger in 1890 and is owned by the Fallbrook Historical Society. The articles and furniture inside are all period 19th Century and one couldn’t help but feel transported back in time to that era.

Department Commander Steve Doyle visits San Diego Pittenger Camp 21

On December 2, 2023, I had the honor of installing the Officers of Sgt. William Pittenger, Camp No. 21 in Fallbrook. The Camp 21’s namesake received the Medal of Honor for his participation in confiscating the Confederate train, “The General” during the Civil War.

Brother Jerry Sayre, PDC, and his wife, Kimberly, were the most gracious hosts ever. when I arrived at the “The Heritage Center” museum, fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org

In Fallbrook for my “Private Tour” I was



Above left to right; Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell, Department Commander Steve Doyle & Past Department Commander Jerry Sayre.

Next, we visited the Sgt. William Pittenger gravesite at the Fallbrook Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery. Over the years, Brother Jerry has been

Continued on page 3, see San Diego,...

San Diego, Continued;

instrumental in keeping the gravesite in order and improving it with a beautiful memorial gate and plaque. For Camp 21's TV coverage of their 2021 Memorial Day service recognizing their efforts, go to: cbs8.com: "Grave of Civil War Hero in Fallbrook receives new life"

Finally, we went to La Cucina Trattoria restaurant where the Camp 21 meeting was held and the Installation of Officers took place. I was warmly greeted by all the Camp 21 Brothers and had one of the best Chicken Marsala dinners I've had in a long time!

If you are thinking of not only a fun, but educational "Day Trip", I suggest driving the 80 miles to Fallbrook to see the sites. But you should check first on the times that, "The Heritage Center" museum and Pittenger House are open. And before you leave to come home, make sure you stop for lunch at La Cucina Trattoria Restaurant (lacucinatrattoria.com). You can thank me later.

Thank you, Department Commander Steve Doyle



**General George Stoneman Jr.
Camp 18 Officers**

Wreaths Across America 2023

On Saturday, 16 December 2023, nine Brothers from Camp 18 participated in a Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery in Riverside. This was the sixth annual Wreaths service presented by Evergreen and Camp 18.

Back up a couple of days,... on Wednesday, 13 December, Brother John Morris and a few cemetery personal met the wreaths delivery truck in the morning and unloaded 89 boxes of wreaths for a total of 1068 wreaths, enough to be placed at the headstone of every veteran interred at Evergreen cemetery. In the six years that we have participated in the wreath service, this is the very first time that every veteran received a wreath.

Riverside City Officials were represented in the audience of over 100 spectators along with Military Officers and top Enlisted from March Air Base. Board Members of the Riverside Cemetery Association & Board members of Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery attended.

The ceremony began with an introduction from Master of Ceremonies Brother John Morris, a moment of silence and the presentation of Colors by the Camp 18 Color Guard. The National Anthem was sung live by Miss Deanna Urias.

The ceremony continued with an Invocation by Lt. Col. Sarmiento, Opening remarks from Brother John Morris and orations from Cemetery Board Members Don Teagardin and Justin Ruff and Air Force CMSgt, Greg Quintana.

Nine Camp 18 Brothers participated in the ceremony. U.S.

Continued on page 4, see ceremony,...

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Matt Crowder |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr, | John Morris |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr, | Steve Matthews |
| Sec/Treas, | Rudy Velasco III |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett |
| Camp Council #2 | Rudolph Velasco IV |
| Camp Council #3 | Benny White |

Appointed

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain | Bill Daley PCC |
| Camp Historian | Burt Hogue |
| Camp Guide | Bodie Crowder |
| Camp Guard | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Graves Registration | Michael Emmett |
| Newsletter Editor | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Steve Doyle PCC |
| Eagle Scout &
JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |

If you have something of interest that you would like to add to this newsletter, something that our **Brothers** might enjoy like an article, a photo or a Civil War event, contact the Editor, Rudy Velasco for placement. rev03@dc.rr.com



Ceremony continued,...

Army Veterans Brother Rick Gay & Brother Steve Doyle presented a wreath to Army flag. Brother Bill and Angie Daley presented a wreath the Marine Corps flag escorted by Brother Larry Duncan. Brother Rudy Velasco escorted the U.S Navy representative to the Navy flag. Brother John Morris escorted the U.S. Air Force Rep to the Air Force flag, Camp Commander Matt Crowder escorted the U.S Coast Guard Rep to the Coast Guard flag and Brother Brian Stephens escorted Board members Don Teaguarden and Justin Ruff to the POW/MIA flag.



Above; Wreath adorn the headstones of the Civil War Veterans interred at the G.A.R. Circle at Evergreen Cemetery 12/16/2023. Morris photo

The speaking part of the ceremony ended with closing remarks from ceremony M.C. Brother John Morris.

Camp 18 musket squad, Brothers Rudy Velasco, Steve Matthews, Camp Commander Matt Crowder & Brian Stephens fired three musket volleys followed by a live playing of TAPS by CMSgt (Ret.) Donna Penland.

After the ceremony ended most of the attendance broke up into 5 groups to place wreaths on the veterans graves throughout the cemetery.

We have to mention the Camp 18 Color Guard that helped open the ceremony; Brothers Rudy Velasco, Steve Matthews, Steve Doyle and Brian Stephens. These guys practice their positions and movements to make an honorable presentation. Nice job guys.

Finally, a shout out to the Camp members who sponsored wreaths for this ceremony. Besides our Camp that sponsored 3 wreaths, six Brothers/families sponsored wreaths also, you know who you are,...THANK YOU!

Eagle Scout Report

In the last couple of months, the Camp has received one Eagle Scout Commendation request and we were happy to accommodate by sending a SUVCW Eagle Scout Commendation award certificate to Eagle Scout Joseph Fuerte for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Alta Loma on 13 January 2024. Fuerte's Eagle Scout project was safety repairs to the welding area at Rancho Cucamonga High School. Great job Joseph!

2nd Annual Veterans Day Service

On November 10, 2023 a few Camp 18 Brothers went to plant American flags at the Civil War Veterans graves at the G.A.R Circle in Evergreen Cemetery for the upcoming Veterans Day Service that the Camp planned for November 11th. Thank you Brother Steve Doyle, Department Commander, John Morris-Camp Jr Vice Commander and daughter Michelle Morris for attending to the Veterans graves and planting the American flags.

The Veterans Day Service movements was practiced, the Color Guard was in tune as well as musket squad. A perfect ceremony was carried out.

The problem was the Camp's Veterans Day Service was scheduled on the same as all other cemeteries in the area as well as the ceremony going on at Riverside National Cemetery.

The Camp's 2nd Annual Veterans Day Service was carried out to precision but because of National Cemetery competition we had an audience of five, and a couple were Camp 18 Brothers.

The Pride of our mission as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is there.



Photo left, Brother Morris planting flags at the Veterans graves for Veterans Day 2023

Graves Registration Report 2024

by

Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Micael Emett

Preparatory to my leaving for South Carolina to celebrate Christmas. I will give a preliminary report of grave registration for 2023. To wit; 725 Union boys put to rest in the SUVCW archives; among them, Walter F. McWhorter, Medal of Honor recipient for Saylor's Creek VA.

As a note, I have surpassed the 7500 mark of grave registration (which includes some Confederates over the years). I may be back in time to increase the annual numbers, if so, I will let you know. My son, Michael E.S. Emett, a member of the camp, has completed his PhD at the University of South Carolina (the other USC) and is presently an adjunct professor at the university. His dissertation is to be defended in the early spring and his official gowning will be in May. We are hoping to print and publish his dissertation on Fort Sumter once defended. More details to follow. This past summer we visited with Mike and family in Columbia, S.C. and spent one day in Charleston visiting the beautiful city and park at the point which was an area which bombarded Fort Sumter in 1861. We also visited the Hunley which is soaking in a solution to preserve its integrity. Great little museum open to the public (for a fee) which gives a well detailed insight into the story behind the submarine and its crew. Last year Mike and I found the burial site of all three crews which died aboard the Hunley, including the inventor. Brings the Civil War home to get that close to history. Anyhow, more, hopefully, to my story later.

FCL, Mike Emett



*Above, left to right, Camp 18 Brothers – Son & Father, Michael E.S. Emett PhD, and Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Michael Emett at Fort Sumter
Emett photo*

2024 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

January

February

Saturday 3rd - Lincoln Shrine Display.

Saturday 17th - Camp Meeting

March

Monday 25th – Medal of Honor Day

April

Sunday 9th – 159th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Saturday 20th – Camp Meeting.

May

Saturday 25th - Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

May 25th – Camp Memorial Day Ceremony, Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

June

Saturday 15th – Camp Meeting

July

August

Aug. 1 – 4 -143rd National Encampment, SUVCW at Lexington, Kentucky. More info to follow.

Possible Camp meeting on the 17th?? The camp hasn't had an August meeting because of summer vacations. More Camp discussion needed?

September

October

Saturday 19 – Camp Meeting

November 8 – 9 - Veterans Day Flag Detail and Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery.

December

Saturday 14th – Camp Meeting.

Saturday 21th – National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Newsletter
69586 Borrego Rd.
Cathedral City, CA. 92234*