

# Stoneman Dispatch

## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Email: [camp18@suvpac.org](mailto:camp18@suvpac.org) Web: [www.suvpac.org/camp18.html](http://www.suvpac.org/camp18.html)

Volume 9, No.3, June 2018

### Message from the Camp Commander

Greetings, Camp 18 Brothers! I am hoping that this message is finding you and yours doing well and in good health. Please contact me if otherwise, so that our camp can offer our support.

Thank you all who showed up for our Memorial Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery. Most of you were in uniform and it was quite the spectacle! Besides our 10 Camp Brothers in attendance, we had a bigger crowd this year. By my count, there were almost another 30 people present. We were especially honored to have Susan Sweet and Melenie Caines present from Camp 2 Auxiliary in period mourning dress. And, once again, Kasey Borders played "Taps" on her bugle. It was a Great Ceremony, and thank you one and all for your attendance and participation.

Our next meeting will be next week, on Saturday, June 16th and will be at the American Legion in Corona. As is our custom we will have a pre-meeting breakfast at 09:00 and start our meeting around 10:00. For my part, I will bring coffee and supplies, hash browns, and donuts. Please contact me if you wish to volunteer for eggs, sausages, etc. Also, as a courtesy to our camp, please RSVP me if you are coming or not. Hate to bring a bunch of food and have to bring it back home. At our meeting we will be discussing some bylaws that need to be added and also, Brother John Morris wants to give a presentation about the Veterans' Wreath Project that will be on December 8th, later this year. Consider this your

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### Tentative Camp Calendar

**Saturday, June 16** – Camp Meeting at the American Legion Hall, 1024B S. Main St. Corona. 9:00 a.m. breakfast and 10:00 a.m. meeting. RSVP please.

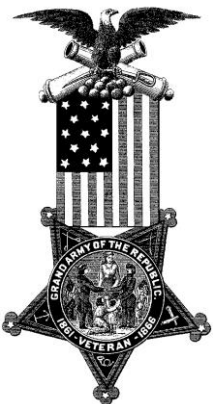
**August 9-12** – 137<sup>th</sup> Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Framingham, Massachusetts. All Encampment forms can be found at: [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

**Saturday, Oct. 20** – Camp Meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona.



*Photo at right, standing from the left; General Rosecrans Camp 2 Auxiliary Sister Maryanne Kilis, Camp 2 Brother Phil Caines, Auxiliary Sister Janette Kilis. Seated are Auxiliary Sisters Melenie Caines and Susan Sweet in Widow's Weeds for Memorial Day.*

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



**MESSAGE continued from page 1,...**

agenda notice from me.

For those interested, our upcoming National Encampment is upon us. It will be in the Boston area this year and will be from August 9th to the 12th. As a reminder, all attending must show their current membership card and have a Delegate card issued by the Department Secretary/Treasurer. Anyone interested in attending can contact me or Rudy for further information.

As always, my contact information is the same: phone: (909)-862-7129 and email address: <[psychrn10@aol.com](mailto:psychrn10@aol.com)>, if you have any questions or comments about our activities.

In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity,

Steve Doyle,  
Camp Commander.

Camp Order No. 1--Series 2018  
May 9, 2018

Passing of Camp 18 Brother Roger L. Rothrock,  
Major General, U.S. Army Ret.

By the authority vested in me as Commander of General George Stoneman, Camp 18 of the Department of California & Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by the Department Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: It is with a heavy heart that we report that Brother Roger L Rothrock, Major General, Ret., of Palm Springs, CA, a Life Member of General George Stoneman Jr., Camp 18, who was held in great regard, passed away on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Besides our organization, General Rothrock was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member in Good Standing with many other Organizations.

Section 2: His family has informed us that his remains will be shipped to Indiana for final internment and that it will be a private funeral and memorial service.

Section 3: Camp 18 extends sincere condolences to the entire Rothrock family. However, they have indicated that it is not necessary to send any sympathy cards. However, those wishing to do so, can send condolences to the Palm Springs Scottish Rite; P.O. Box 3996; Palm Desert, California, 92261-3996.

Section 4: The Camp Charter is to be draped in black for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

Section 5: All Camp 18 Brothers are respectfully directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge (pursuant to C&R, Article III, Sec. 9) for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 9th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

By Order of

Stephen E. Doyle,  
Commander  
General George Stoneman, Camp 18  
Department of California & Pacific  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

*In Memoriam*  
**Brother Roger L. Rothrock**  
*22 February 1924 – 5 May 2018*



**Decoration Day Service 2018**

This year's Camp 18 Memorial Day Service was held on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the Ceremony followed the traditional Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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**SERVICE** *continued,...*

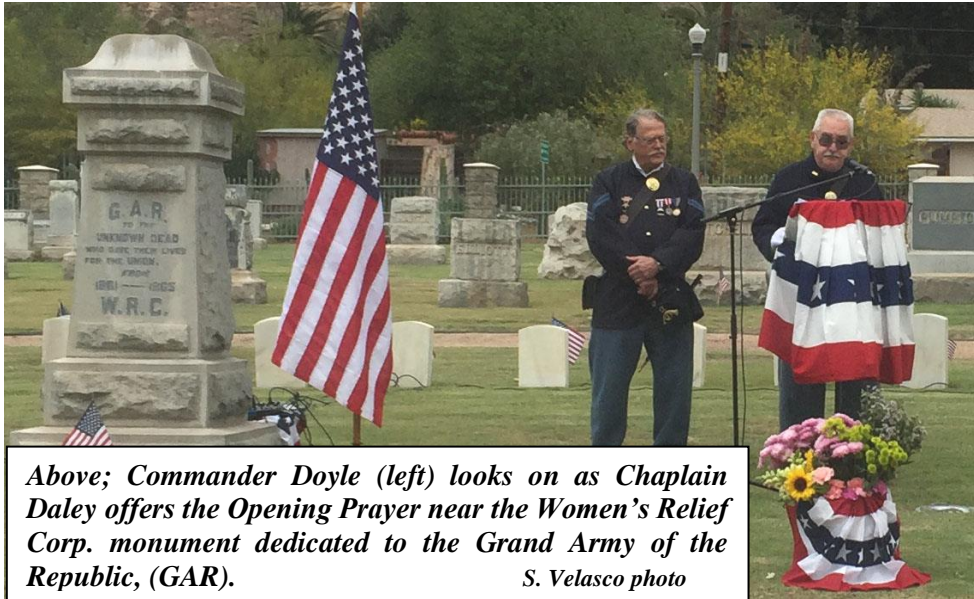
Ritual and turned out to be quite a success. Even the weather cooperated, staying a bit overcast and keeping the temperature a little cooler.

After a brief greeting and a few introductions by Camp Commander Steve Doyle, Chaplain Bill Daley PCC continued with the Invocation and led the Service in the Pledge of Allegiance.



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

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Steve Doyle        |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr,  | Michael Bullard    |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr,  | Richard Burns      |
| Sec/Treas,      | Rudy Velasco III   |
| Camp Council #1 | Michael Emmett     |
| Camp Council #2 | Rudolph Velasco IV |
| Camp Council #3 | John Morris        |



*Above; Commander Doyle (left) looks on as Chaplain Daley offers the Opening Prayer near the Women's Relief Corp. monument dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic, (GAR). S. Velasco photo*

Before the Camp Commander made his Program opening remarks, he directed the audience in an inspiring rendition of our National Anthem.

The Commander's opening remarks reminded us of why we assemble at this time each year, and of our duties as the Allied Orders of the G.A.R; to keep **Green the Memory** of the Soldiers and Sailors of 1861-1865, who wore Blue and protected the flag of our Country, never to forget the Service of any of our Country's Servicemen and women.

Photo at right shows Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board President Etienne Caroline, who asked to say a few words.

Mr. Caroline expressed his excitement for the continued interest and rejuvenation of Evergreen Memorial, Historical Cemetery.



**Appointed**

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Camp Chaplain        | Bill Daley       |
| Camp Historian       | Burt Hogue       |
| Graves Registration  | Michael Emmett   |
| Newsletter Editor    | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Richard Burns    |
| JROTC & Eagle        | Richard Burns &  |
| Scout Coordinators   | 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](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)



*Continued on page 4,.....*

Mr. Caroline also applauded the enthusiasm shown by the Memorial Ceremony participants and the importance of the event displayed by the audience.

General Logan's General Order No. 11 followed and was delivered very nicely by Camp Jr Vice Commander Richard Burns, PCC.

The main theme of the Ceremony was given by Camp Commander Doyle and marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Decoration Day as suggested by General Logan and described the history and the meaning of the annual date as it has transformed for the public through modern day Memorial Day.

Two wonderful and related poems were read to continue the theme of the Commander's service; "The Blue and the Gray" by Francis Miles Finch read by Commander Doyle and "The Unknown Dead" recited by Auxiliary Sister Susan Sweet.

The wreath presentations continued the Service with Auxiliary Sister Melenie Caines Delivering the first wreath to the Women's Relief Corps (WRC) Monument that was dedicated to the G.A.R. (*photo of monument*

on page 3.)

"Thank You" to the following for participating, delivering the wreaths to the U.S. Service Branch Flags: Kasey Borders to the Army Flag; Angie Daley to the Marine Flag; Susan Velasco to the Navy Flag; Nancy Cox (EMHC Board) Air Force Flag; Judith Auth (EMHC Board) to the Coast Guard Flag and Brother Bodie Crowder delivered a wreath to the POW/MIA Flag.

Each wreath that was delivered to the Service Branch Flags by our Distinguished guests was escorted by a uniformed Camp 18 escort as seen in the photo to the left where Camp 18 Brother Brian Stephens escorts EMHC Board Member Judith Auth to the Coast Guard Flag.

The program began to close with Benediction from Chaplain Bill Daley and a Musket Salute from the Camp 18 musket team of Brian Stephens, Michael Bullard and Rudy Velasco.

"TAPS" closed the program performed flawlessly by Camp 18 friend Kasey Borders, after with the audience being invited to disperse fresh Spring flowers to the graves of our Civil War Heroes interred at Evergreen's GAR Circle.



**Below; Camp 18 Brothers and friends; from the left, Camp 18 Brother Matt Crowder, Camp 2 Brother Phil Caines, Camp 18 Jr Vice Commander Richard Burns, Camp Commander Steve Doyle, Jr Brother Bodie Crowder, Camp Chaplain Bill Daley, Camp Sr Vice Commander Michael Bullard, Brother Brian Stephens, Secretary Rudy Velasco III, Brother David Runells and Camp 18 Friend and Bugler Kasey Borders.**

*S. Velasco photo*



### Honor Their Service

**A Special Thank You to:** first and foremost to our Country's Veterans, of all wars; Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board of Directors and Docent Team; General W.S. Rosecrans Camp 2 and Auxiliary No. 2 and Kasey Borders. Also to Brother John Morris and crew for placing and retrieving the memorial flags to all the graves.

#### More Memorial Day

Brother Michael Emmett in Billings, Montana has made his contributions to our beloved Civil War antecedents also;

On Thursday, May 10th, he gave a 1-hour presentation to the Civil Air Patrol cadets at Billings, Montana, on the significance of Memorial Day (Decoration Day) and its origins.

On Friday, 25 May, I placed Memorial flags on 66 graves of the Civil War veterans at Mountain View cemetery in Billings, Montana.

Monday, 28 May, I addressed those attending the annual Custer, Montana, cemetery Memorial Day event. (not to be confused with Custer Battlefield National cemetery).

Well Done, **Thank You** Brother Michael Emmett.

### JROTC Awards Report

The ROTC/JROTC awards season has essentially come to an end for 2018. General Stoneman, Camp 18 was able present 10 award certificate & medal packages to 9 ROTC/JROTC programs at colleges and high schools in the Inland Empire and Riverside County.

Thank you Brothers Burt Hogue, Richard Burns and Rudy Velasco III for making a few of the presentations.

### Interesting,...?

At our last camp meeting, Camp Historian Burt Hogue shared an interesting letter he had come across while doing some other research.

The following are Excerpts from a Letter from Major General George Stoneman to Thaddeus Lowe:

Washington DC  
July 10th 1863

Prof Lowe  
Washington D.C.

My dear Sir,

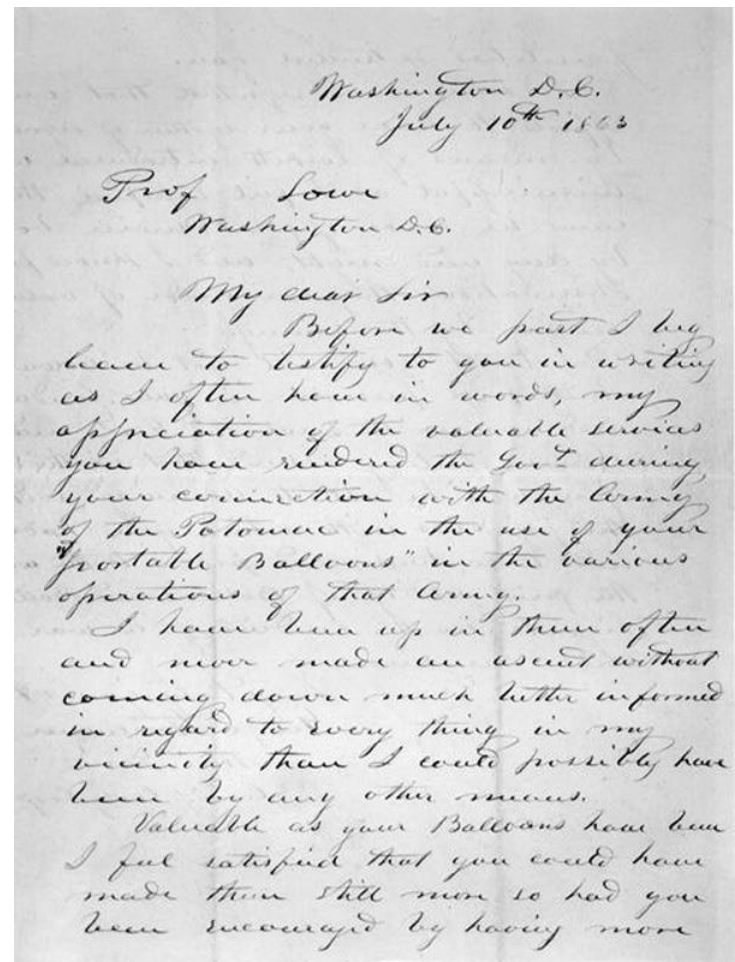
*Before we part I beg leave to testify to you in writing as I often have in words, my appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered the Govt during*

*your connection with the Army of the Potomac in the use of your "portable Balloons" in the various operation of that Army.*

*I have been up in them often and never made an ascent without coming down much better informed in regard to everything in my vicinity than I could possibly have been by any other means.*

*I trust you will not be discouraged but will persevere in your laudable endeavors to serve the Govt and the cause, feeling assured that in the end you will be able to do away with the prejudices with which you have had to contend, and prove to the world the great utility of Balloons and Balloon Signals in the conduct of a war, and remain*

Very truly yours  
George Stoneman  
Maj Genl  
Comdg Cavly Corps



The first page of the letter from Stoneman to Professor Thaddeus Lowe is shown above. More of this letter and about Professor Lowe can be found on line at;

[www.thaddeuslowe.name/CWletterStoneman.htm](http://www.thaddeuslowe.name/CWletterStoneman.htm)



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