

# 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 14, No.3, June, 2023

### Memorial Day Service 2023

We could not have asked for a more pleasant day to spend a few hours outside honoring the memory of our Civil War/Grand Army of the Republic ancestors.

We had an audience of about 50 including family and friends attending.

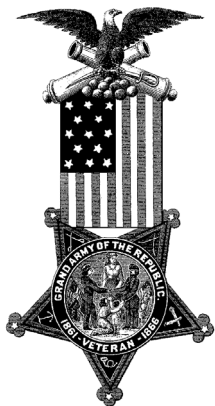
Let's start at the beginning,... On Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Camp 18 Brothers Mike Emmett and John Morris met up at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery in Riverside to place flags on the Civil War and Spanish/American War veteran's graves at the G.A.R Circle to get the area ready for the Camp's Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The guys made sure that all veteran's graves had flags in the immediate area, for the Memorial Day weekend.

On Saturday morning, hours before the Camp ceremony was to begin, Brothers gathered to start setting up for the proceedings. Brother John Morris directed a large group of volunteers that arrived to place flags on the veteran's graves throughout the rest of the cemetery. Some of these volunteers stayed around for the Camp's Memorial Service. Nice to have more of the interested public attend and learn more about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

There was a quick "dry run" practice at 10:00, shortly before the audience gathered for the actual ceremony that began promptly at 11:00 a.m.

This year's Camp Color Guard consisted of Brothers Rudy Velasco, John Morris, Mike Emmett and Richard Foy and posted the Colors with crisp precision.

*Continued on page 2, see Ceremony*



### Tentative Camp Calendar

possible annual calendar on page 5

**Saturday, June 17** – Camp Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.

**Tuesday, July 4** – Possible Camp Display at Evergreen Historical Cemetery 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Stay tuned for further information.

**August 3 – 6** – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment, Nashua, New Hampshire. <https://suvew.org/2023-national-encampment>

**Saturday, October 21** – Camp Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 216, Corona.

**Friday, Nov. 10** – Veterans Day Flag Detail, Evergreen Historical Cemetery, Riverside.

**Saturday, Nov. 11** – Possible Camp Veterans Day Service, details being worked out, Stand by for more information as it becomes available.

**Saturday, Dec. 9** - Camp Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16 – National Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.



### Welcome New Brother!

Camp 18 welcomes New Brother Rick Gay to the Camp.

Brother Gay joins the Camp as an Associate Member and was initiated at the April Camp meeting.

Rick brings an active interest in U.S history and a strong excitement about being a Brother in the Camp and SUVCW.



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

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**Ceremony continued,.....**

One of the highlights of the ceremony was having the Jones triplets singing the National Anthem.

The girls, pictured at the right, singing an acappella version of the anthem, brought tears to the eyes of many of the audience and participants. Thank You Girls!



Amanda, Maryssa & Miranda Jones singing the National Anthem at the Memorial Day Celebration.

The ceremony continued in typical fashion with Camp Chaplain Bill Daley PCC, giving the Invocation prayer followed by Opening Remarks from Department Commander Steve Doyle.

A Memorial Day Address was given by Camp Commander Matt Crowder. Before Commander Crowder continued with General Logan’s General Order No. 11, he paused to have Cemetery Acting President Don Teagarden give his remarks concerning the cemetery and the community coming together as one to continue the “growing” of community’s awareness of the cemetery’s needs.

Judy Dillard, Past President of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 Tent 87 recited the poem “Only a Private Killed.”

Camp 18 Brother Bodie Crowder recited the poem “How Sleep the Brave” before announcing the names of Camp 18 Brothers who have passed since the Camp was Chartered in 2011.



In the photo below left, Department Commander Steve Doyle and Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary Department President Melinie Caines pose for a photo after jointly presenting a wreath to the G.A.R monument, a really nice gesture!

The Ceremony continued with wreath presentations to each of the Military service branch flags by members of the Camp and family members.

The ceremony concluded with a Benediction from Camp Chaplain Daley, Musket Salute from Camp 18 Honor Guard of Steve Mathews, Mike Emmett and Richard Foy. “TAPS” and the dispersal of flowers to decorate the soldiers’ graves ended the program.

Special Thank you to participants, the Jones Triplets, Rick Gay, Angie Daley, Susan Velasco, Michelle Morris-Cao, Sarah & Josie Morris, Jennifer Cadkin, Judy Dillard, Melinie Caines, Rie Foy and Gene Justin. Thank you Brothers Benny White and Larry Duncan for making sure all of the participant spots were filled, that is REAL Camp loyalty!

Thanks to all participants in the photo below.



**Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Tent forming locally**

Judy Dillard, Past President of Amanda Stokes Tent 87, (Glendora), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) is gathering local interest in forming a “Daughters” Tent in the Riverside/Inland Empire area.

Membership in the DUVCW is through lineal descent of a Union Civil War Veteran only.

If you are interested in being a member in a local DUVCW Tent, contact Judy by email at; [jinxrae@charter.net](mailto:jinxrae@charter.net)

More information about the DUVCW of California & Nevada can be found on the internet at: [www.canvduvcw.org/membership](http://www.canvduvcw.org/membership)

### April 9<sup>th</sup> Appomattox Day

The Battle of Appomattox Court House was fought on April 9, 1865, near the town of Appomattox, Virginia, and led to Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender of his Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

This year marks the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Civil War, and for the most part, all hostilities. Camp 18 Brothers John Morris and Steve Matthews met at G.A.R. Circle in Evergreen Cemetery to place a wreath at the monument there. *Thank you Brothers for honoring our Forefathers.*

### At the April 15<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting

Brother Steve Matthews accepted the appointment to Camp Junior Vice Commander and was there installed into his new Camp Office by Camp Commander Matt Crowder.

JVC Steve Matthews has enthusiastically stepped into the JVC role of maintaining and recruiting new meaningful members.



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

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 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 &<br>JROTC Coordinator | Rudy Velasco III |



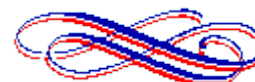
**Photo above left:** from the left, Brother Matthews and Camp SVC John Morris pose with the wreath at the GAR monument on April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Photo on the right:** Brother Matthews is installed as Camp Jr. Vice Commander with new member Rick Gay in the background.

### Department Encampment 2023

This year's Department Encampment was again held in Bakersfield at the Four Points by Sheridan Hotel on Friday & Saturday, March 17 & 18. Accommodations have been fairly good there in past years and were the same this year. I would say that a Good Time was had by all that attended and I believe that the encampment kept the bartenders busy.

National Council of Administration Officer Brother Kevin Tucker, Past Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, was the National Representative from Commander-in-Chief Frail to the Encampment, to bring National Greetings and Install the newly

*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, see Encampment,...

**ENCAMPMENT *Continued*,.....**

elected Department Officers. Brother Tucker also brought National Issues to discuss with the Encampment.

Eleven of the Department's 14 Camps were represented at this year's meeting.

Annual Camp and Department Officer reports and Awards took up most of the morning session. Camp 18 Graves Registration Officer Mike Emmett received the "Major General Montgomery C. Meigs Graves Registration Award" for registering 2100 Civil War soldier's graves in 2022. Camp 18 also received an award for best Camp newsletter in the Department of California & Pacific.

Department Officer elections closed out the afternoon session of the meeting and produced our very own Camp Brother Steve Doyle being voted in as Department Commander.

Approximately 40 members attended this year's encampment and one highlight of the event was our Camp 18 had seven Representatives attend. Nice job Brothers.



*Above from the left; Brian Stephens PCC, Dept. Commander Steve Doyle, Rudy Velasco PDC, Gene Justin, Camp Commander Matt Crowder, Camp Guide Bodie Crowder and Camp Jr. Vice Commander Steve Matthews.*

### **On Line Civil War Event** by Camp JVC Steve Matthews

*On April 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended a Civil War Symposium via zoom which was held at the National Museum of the United States Army, In Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I appreciate brother Rudy for connecting me to this event -Steve Matthews*

### **This full day event was called "A new birth of Freedom, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War"**

A significant amount of time was spent in examining the various campaigns by both Union and Confederate armies in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In many ways

this area and various other battles was a microcosm of the war as a whole. Geographically this could have been a launch point for the South to attack Washington DC. In fact the Confederates came up to, but did not cross the Potomac at Washington, D.C. This 1862 thrust toward Washington by Confederate General Jackson understandably worried President Lincoln.

Which army controlled the Shenandoah was a constant theme during the whole Civil War.

Most of the speakers made clear the connections between victories and losses on the battlefield to decisions that President Lincoln had to make on the political front.

Lincoln constantly searched for a General who could lead the overall Union Army, and one who would fight.

In 1863 after Grant led the strategic victory in the "West" at Vicksburg, (the West then was seen as the Mississippi River), President Lincoln named him to lead the overall Union Army and in particular engage Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia in Virginia!

Surprisingly Grant left most of the top military officers in the Union Army in place when he assumed overall command.

Grant did move General Sheridan and his Cavalry troops to the Shenandoah which was key to putting the Confederates on the defensive.

Interesting reasons that some Generals stayed in place even if not effective for the Union Army. One such case was General Sigel who was of German heritage. One of the key ethnic groups that supported President Lincoln and the Union were the Germans. Sacking Sigel from command could have alienated German Americans from supporting Lincoln.

Up to Grant's assuming control of the Union Army, President Lincoln was intricately involved in planning of battles. Some might say he micro managed events. This was no longer the case when Grant was in command.

It was not certain that President Lincoln would be re-elected in 1864. The War went badly for the Union in 1862 and not until the Union victory at Vicksburg in 1863 by General Sherman and then Grant beginning to turn the tide in Virginia did Lincoln win re-election. One speaker said the turn of events in Virginia was decisive to determine the vote in the presidential

*continued on page 5, see Event,...*

**Event, continued...**

election of 1864. I believe all 3 of these events were necessary.

In referencing the lack of willingness to fight, General George McClelland was at the top of the list. How much his eventual decision to run for President vs Lincoln played into this behavior is a subject for some debate. Eventually things came to a head when events led to huge changes in the focus of the war.

As Union lines moved, slaves came with them. This forced the issue and Lincoln had to determine what to do about the question of slavery. The nature of the war changed over time with Secretary of Defense Stanton pushing that to win the war, it had to be waged against the southern population. General McClelland opposed this approach. In a letter to President Lincoln he mirrored the same Pro Slavery, Pro Southern approach of the Southern Democratic Party of those times and advocated taking a soft hand to southern civilians.

President Lincoln realized that the North could not win with this approach and had to address slavery. He planned the historic Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in Confederate States. But Lincoln waited until the Battle of Antietam, a Union Victory and Confederates being driven from Maryland before signing the Emancipation Proclamation freeing millions of slaves.

General McClelland, in a particularly disloyal approach, told Union troops if you don't like the freeing of the slaves then vote Lincoln out of office.

There was considerable effort on the part of the Confederacy to involve England and France on their side of the Civil War.

Both countries had already abolished slavery. Once the US Civil War was defined about slavery per the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln, did the support of these foreign countries melt away from the Confederacy.

The great bulk of the presentations during this full day were intricate discussions of battles, battle plans, misjudgments, and opportunities taken which determined the outcome of those battles and ultimately the Civil War.

**Throw Back Event, it happened 122 years ago**

**A 1901 event of the SoV-GAR-USWV, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic  
(USWV -United Spanish War Veterans) June 22, 1901**

The time for talking celebration – that is a regular, ragtime Corona celebration for the Fourth, has passed; so those who are bent on observing the great national holiday, celebration or no celebration, are beginning to

cast about for suggestions and formulate plans. But Custer Camp, No. 18, Sons of Veterans, has already settled the matter for a goodly portion of the community.

With the aid of Carlton Post, G.A.R. and the resident Spanish-American war volunteers it will undertake to organize a mammoth picnic party to spend the day at Coldwater or some other favorable mountain fastness, where, provided with sundry and divers baskets, buckets and bottles and other picknicking requisites, the participants will revel in the lap of Nature whilst they comfort the inner being with the luxuries of the marts of civilization.

It is also possible that an appropriate literary and musical program will be provided in order to show proper respect to the cherished traditions of the day. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, a short address, recitations, singing and music by the City Band are talked of as probable features of such a program.

Plans for this picnic excursion are well under way and the promoters will spare no effort to make it a success. If the services of the band are secured, a refreshment stand will run on the grounds to bely defray the expense.

**The above article was taken word for word with actual punctuation from the Corona Courier newspaper, June 22, 1901.**

**Eagle Scout / JROTC awards report**

Sorry to say, the Camp has received no Eagle Scout Commendation applications this Spring so no award certificates were given out.

The Camp only two requests for JROTC awards this Spring season, one from Corona High School for Navy JROTC Cadet Celeste Arredondo. Corona High School's JROTC awards Ceremony was held on 19 May, this year.

The Camp also participated in the Marine Corps. JROTC Ceremony for Cadet Staff Sergeant Andrew Monfils at Murrieta Valley High School on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Brother Benny White for representing the SUVCW and Camp 18 at Murrieta High School's JROTC award ceremony.

Camp 18 is anticipating a more active Eagle Scout and JROTC season next year!



## 2023 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

### June

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Camp Meeting

### July

### August

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment. Nashua, New Hampshire.

### September

### October

**Saturday 21** – Camp Meeting

### November

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Veterans Day Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Camp Veterans Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

### December

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Camp Meeting.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** – National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

## 2024 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

### January

### February

**Lincoln Shrine Display**, date TBA

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** - Camp Meeting

### March

**Department Encampment**, date to be announced.

**Medal of Honor Day**

### April

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Camp Meeting.

### May

**Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail** at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

**Camp Memorial Day Ceremony.** Date and location to be announced.

### June

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup>** – Camp meeting



*General George Stoneman Jr. Camp 18  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
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