

# 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.4, September, 2023



*Above; newly elected National Officers. From the left are JVC-in-C Kevin Tucker, Commander-in-Chief Peter Hritsko and SVC-in-C Kevin Martin.*

*PC-in-C Tad Campbell photo*

### National Encampment Report

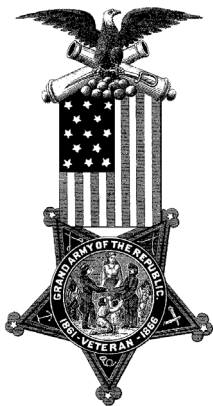
from Camp 18 JVC Brother Steve Matthews

The 142<sup>nd</sup> National Encampment of our organization took place from August 3-6 with the Business Meeting taking place on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

This was my first National Encampment. Department Commander & Camp 18 Brother Steve Doyle was present and actively participating in the meeting.

SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Bruce D. Frail presided over this meeting.

*Continued on page 2, see MEETING*



### Tentative Camp Calendar possible annual calendar on page 5

**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. 8:00 a.m. start time, all Brothers are invited to participate.

**Saturday, Nov. 11** – Camp Veterans Day Service 9:00 a.m. start time, details still being worked out. Stand by for more information as it becomes available.

**Saturday, Dec. 2** – 9:00 a.m. Wreaths Across America Ceremony walk through at Evergreen Cemetery. Participants arrive by 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 9** – Camp meeting and Officer elections, 10:00 a.m. American Legion Post 216, Corona.

**Saturday, Dec. 16** – Camp 18's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery @ 9:00 a.m. with Master of Ceremonies Brother SVC John Morris. Volunteers step forward.

### Quick Notes

**The Quartermaster Store** on the SUVCW National website is open again for orders. You can look over the website at; <http://www.suvcw-qm.org/>

**Annual dues** season is just around the corner. The Camp Secretary will be mailing the dues notices to you in early November.

*Continued on page 2, see Quick Notes*

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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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**Quick Notes** *continued, ...*

**Open invitation** to all Brothers and family members to attend or participate in the Camp's Veterans Day Service at Evergreen cemetery in Riverside on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Election** meeting is always a fun meeting to attend. If you have interested in a Camp Officer position or interested in the officer election process, please attend this meeting, you may enjoy it.

If you have any interest or concerns, please contact Secretary Rudy.

**Meeting** *continued from page 1,...*

Attendance was more than 160 members from all over the USA. We had 9 members present from our Department of California & Pacific.

I was very impressed by the democratic way that this meeting was conducted. Spirited discussions were held on various subjects such as eligibility for membership, guns at Camp Meetings among various issues.

An ambitious Legislative plan was shared with all participants.

Anyone interested in seeing this report please note that I will have copies at the October Camp18 meeting.

The last part of the Encampment saw elections for new officers. Elected for the next year to lead our National Organization is as follows:

Peter J. Hritsko, PDC of Ohio is now our Commander in Chief, Kevin L Martin, PDC of Maryland and dual member of Department of California & Pacific is now our Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Kevin Tucker PDC in the Department of Massachusetts is now our Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

Roderick J. Fraser Jr., Commander - Department of Massachusetts is now added to the Council of Administration.

I will bring their campaign literature to our meeting as well. I urge all of our Camp 18 brothers to attend the next National Encampment, it is an experience that you will want to share and will deepen your understanding of our organization and its noble mission.

Sincerely,

Steve Matthews

Junior Vice Commander Camp 18

**More from the National Encampment**

contributed by

**Camp 18 Brother & Department Commander Steve Doyle**

Greetings, Brothers:

Here is a quick rundown on some of the things that happened at the National Encampment:

-174 Brothers from our 31 Departments attended in Nashua.

-General Orders 24 and 24a (Weapons) was rescinded.

-Regarding the Change in Form 3 (Male at Birth): 50% of Departments (16/31) will have to vote in Favor for it to pass.

-We voted in Favor of allowing Camps to increase the Percentage Allowed of Associate Members from 1/3 to 49%.

-And, the Best News: the C-in-C (Commander-in-Chief) gave us the Charter for the Department's newest Camp - Liberty Camp No. 32!

Next year's National Encampment will be in Lexington, Kentucky, August 1-4, 2024. For those who like to make really long-range plans: Houston in 2025 and Rochester in 2026.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Steve Doyle, Department Commander



*Photo above; the Department of California & Pacific contingent at the National Encampment in Nashua, N.H. From the left, standing are Brothers Gary Hormel (Camp 24), Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell (Camp 4), Past Camp Commander Rick LaRosa (Camp 4), Past Camp Commander Dan Earl (Camp 4), Past Department Commander Frank Avila (Camp 4), Linn Malaznik (Camp 4) and Past Department Commander Dean Enderlin (Camp 23). Seated in front is Department Commander Steve Doyle, (Camp 18). Missing from the photo is Camp 18 Jr. Vice Commander Steve Matthews.*

## Camp 18 member participation in Wreaths Across America and Veteran's Day ceremonies

from Camp Sr. Vice Commander John Morris

1. I need the following positions filled by Camp 18 members for our camp participation in the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony on 16 December 2023:

- John Morris: Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony (wearing my civil war uniform)
- 4-man Honor Guard (all members wearing their civil war uniforms; two armed with muskets, the other two bring their muskets to fire later in the ceremony.
- Bill Daley as Camp Chaplain, giving the Invocation and Benediction for the ceremony.
- One camp member to play The National Anthem and TAPS music if we do not have a singer/bugler this year for the ceremony.
- Camp 18 Honor Guard fire 3 four-round volleys at the end of the ceremony prior to TAPS.

### **Wreaths layers and escorts:**

**US Army Wreath:** Rick Gay as the wreath layer, Benny White (if available) as the wreath escort.

**US Marine Corps Wreath:** Bill and Angie Daley as the Wreath layers; need a Camp 18 wreath escort.

**US Navy Wreath:** Need a US Navy wreath layer, Rudy Velasco as the wreath escort.

**US Air Force Wreath:** TSgt Dan Adams as the wreath layer, John Morris as the wreath escort.

**US Coast Guard Wreath:** Need both a Coast Guard wreath layer and a wreath escort.

**POW Flag Wreath:** Justin Ruff and Don Teagarden as the wreath layers, need a wreath escort.

2. I need the following positions filled if we, Camp 18, vote to go ahead and conduct a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Saturday, 11 November, for Veteran's Day. The six camp wreaths will be pre-placed at the base of each service flagpole; the Camp wreath will be presented to the GAR monument during the ceremony:

- Matt Crowder: Camp 18 Commander and Master of Ceremonies.
- 4-person Camp Honor Guard (John Morris + three others; two armed with muskets, two other members bring their muskets).
- Bill Daley as Camp Chaplain: Give the Invocation and Benediction for the ceremony.
- One camp member to read the poem "In Flanders Fields"

*Continued on page 4, see Ceremonies*



**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 & 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](mailto:rev03@dc.rr.com)



## Ceremonies - *continued*,...

- One camp member to read the poem “The Best On Earth”
- One Camp member to present the camp wreath to the GAR monument.
- Camp 18 Honor Guard fires 3 four-round volleys prior to TAPS.

This will be a topic at our October 21 Camp meeting. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brother John Morris; [john.morris.6@us.af.mil](mailto:john.morris.6@us.af.mil)

## What do you think?

A few ideas have been mentioned lately and we will be discussing these at the next Camp meeting.

Would Camp membership like to participate in a Christmas toy drive? We could bring new unwrapped toys (small dollar limit) to our December meeting and distribute the toys after the meeting to a shelter of some sort in the Riverside area.

How about a Highway Clean up crew? Have you ever seen the signs on the highway that mention this portion of the highway clean up is sponsored by so-in-so? How about the Sons of Union Veterans?

Anyway, both of the above ideas are currently being researched. More information to follow as it becomes available.

## Huntington Beach Civil War Days reenactment

reported by Rudy Velasco PDC

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Huntington Beach Civil War Days Living History Event took place over the past Labor Day weekend, September 2 & 3. It had been a few years since I had visited or participated in a reenactment so I thought it was time to attend.

Saturday morning was overcast and a bit rainy but by mid morning the Union, Confederate camps were set up with plenty of activity. There were also plenty of the Sutlers stores set up to make sure the combatants and the public had a bit of period goods. I did pick up a pound of FF black powder while I was checking the reenactors goods. The powder will come in handy with our musket salutes in the upcoming ceremonies.

The soldiers were very busy in their camps drilling, listening to the daily orders and preparing themselves for the upcoming battles. There were two battles each day.

There were several groups that had set up displays between the Confederate and Union camps.

Fort Tejon State Historic Park had some activities for the children at their display. The United Daughters of the Confederacy along with the Daughters of Union Veterans 1861 – 1865 were proudly on display.

SUVCW General Rosecrans Camp 2 and Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 had displays set up, along with Rosecrans Auxiliary No. 2.



*Photo above; Camp 17 display – from the left are PDC Rudy Velasco, Terry Shaw PCC, Camp Commander Scott McKee, Charles Beal PCC & George Dore PCC.*

*Photo below; President Lincoln passes the time of day with Camp 18's own Dr. Malarky (Larry Duncan)*



I wasn't able to stay and watch the results of the battle reenactments but I have a pretty good idea of the outcome of the war. Union Forever.

## Soldier Accounted for From World War II

reported by Brother Gene Justin

Brother Gene Justin attended this service at Riverside National Cemetery on 8 June 2023 and reported the story at our June Camp meeting.

Washington, 30 May 2023

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Pvt. Robert R. Gruwell, 20, of Los Angeles, California, killed during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 12, 2022.

In the summer of 1944, Gruwell was assigned to Company G, 3rd Battalion, 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team. On August 15, Gruwell's unit was part of Operation Dragoon, the invasion of southern France to secure ports along France's Mediterranean coast. Specifically, their orders were to prevent German troops from moving to the invasion beaches to fight back against the sea landings and to secure the area around LeMuy. Gruwell's unit landed near Callian early in the morning and he went missing that day between Callian and LeMuy. He was never reported as a prisoner of war and no recovered remains were ever identified as him. On May 15, 1945, Gruwell's status was changed to killed in action.

The American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was charged with recovering the remains of fallen service members in the European Theater following the war. Between July 1947 and October 1949, AGRC teams conducted several searches in the area where Gruwell went missing, but never found any remains that could be identified as him. He was declared non-recoverable on Aug. 1, 1951.

On Aug. 23, 1944, a team from the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Evacuation Hospital interred a set of remains designated X-23 Draguignan in what is now known as Rhône American Cemetery, an [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) cemetery in Draguignan, France. X-23 is believed to have died around Aug. 16 and was so badly burnt that he was unable to be identified.

DPAA historians continue to conduct research on those missing from Operation Dragoon. Their analysis of X-23's file led them to associate those remains as possibly belonging to three soldiers, one of whom was Gruwell. X-23 was disinterred in February



*U.S. Army Pvt.  
Robert R. Gruwell*

2020 and sent to the DPAA Laboratory for analysis. DPAA scientists used dental and anthropological analysis to identify Gruwell's remains.

Gruwell's name is recorded on the Wall of the Missing at the Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie Saint Martin, France, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Gruwell was buried at Riverside National Cemetery on June 8, 2023.

## 2023 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

### 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---

### January

### February

Lincoln Shrine Display.

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

### March

Department Encampment.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Medal of Honor Day

### April

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** – 159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

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

### May

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

**May 25 - 27** – 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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