

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.3, May/June, 2024

Memorial Day 2024

What a great bunch of guys and family members

On Saturday, May 25th, Camp 18 conducted another successful Memorial Day service at Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery in Riverside with plenty of Camp participation.

Brother John Morris spent Friday morning, 24 May, putting flags on the graves of the Civil War and Spanish American War veterans at the G.A.R. circle (photo right) at the cemetery to get ready for the Memorial Day weekend.

Brother Morris also spent the last six weeks tweaking the ceremony script to make sure the service ran as smooth as can be.



Above, the GAR monument at Evergreen Cemetery

The Ceremony began with Camp 18 Commander Matt Crowder greeting the audience of about 50 consisting of some public, family, Camp Brothers and special guests Riverside City Council members Philip Falcone, Chuck

Conder, Assistant Michael Maldonado and CMSgt Timi Bilal, 452 AMW Command Chief.

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Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, June 15 – Camp meeting – 10:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 216 in Corona.

August 1 – 4 -143rd Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment at Lexington, Kentucky. See more information on line at; <https://suvchw.org/national-encampment>

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

Saturday, October 19 – Camp meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 216 in Corona.

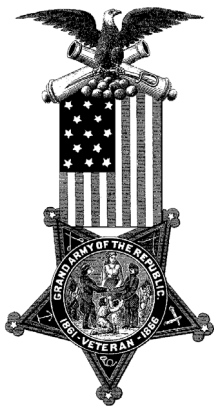
Interesting Dates in History?

May – June

May 10, 1865 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union Troops near Irwinville, Georgia. Davis had planned to escape to Texas and build a new Confederacy, but he was captured by Union forces despite wearing a disguise, his wife's cloak and shawl.

May 23, 1900 – William Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor bestowed upon American service members for acts of valor. Carney was not the first Black person to be awarded the Medal of Honor, but the act for which he was awarded the medal preceded all others. During the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863, Carney saw the soldier carrying the regiment's flag had been shot so Carney rushed to grab the flag and

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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*





Above left; Amanda, Maryssa and Miranda Jones sing the National Anthem to open the Memorial Day Ceremony. Center photo; Angie & Brother Bill Daley-PCC, escorted by Brother Rich Foy, take a wreath to lay at the Marine Corps Flag. Above right; Camp 18 Musket Squad fires a volley to end the Memorial Day Ceremony. S. Velasco photos

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All Veterans attending were recognized and greeted.

It was nice to see Diane Stephens, representing the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the Service.

Camp 18 Color Guard was ordered into position to present the Colors just before Camp 18 Brother Rick Gay's God Daughters, Amanda, Maryssa & Miranda Jones, sang the National Anthem.

Camp Commander Matt Crowder opened the Service with a few remarks and general Greetings to all and asked Camp Chaplain Bill Daley to come forward to invoke the Devine Blessing.

Department Commander Steve Doyle was next to address the audience. He reminded us of the traumatic events of the Civil War and the Fraternal organizations born of those events. Commander Doyle closed by defining the three Tenets of the Grand Army of the Republic; Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Mr. Don Teagarden, Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board President and Navy veteran, followed Commander Doyle to address the audience. Mr. Teagarden explained a bit about the volunteer organization that was formed to restore the historic parts of the cemetery, in part where our Civil War veterans are interred.

Camp Commander Crowder returned to the microphone to give a brief history of the beginnings of Decoration Day and the transformation into Memorial Day, which of course has to be followed by reciting

General John Logan's General Order No. 11, in part;

Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic.

Camp 18 Guide Bodie Crowder read the 18th century war poem "How sleep the Brave," and Camp 18's Final Muster Roll, the names of our Camp Brothers that have passed.

Next, while Dept. Commander Doyle presented a wreath to the Grand Army of the Republic monument, (see photo on page 1), Camp Commander Crowder reminded all what the colors of our flag represent;

The color Red is emblematic of our Order, and in the name of friendship, is a symbol of the blood of our soldiers who have fallen, shed in defense of our Country.

The color White is representative of Charity and for the purity of purpose, which should prompt each of us to so live so that when our summons comes, we shall be ready to enter into our reward.

The color Blue represents our loyalty to our Country, to serve it in both peacetime and wartime and if need be, give our lives in its defense.

The Service continued with floral wreaths being presented to each of the country's military service branch flags; Army Veteran Brother Rick Gay escorted by Brother Benny White delivered a wreath to the U.S.

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Service, continued from page 2,...

Army flag, Marine Veteran Brother Bill & Angie Daley escorted by Brother Rich Foy delivered a wreath to the U.S. Marine Corps flag, Susan Velasco escorted by Brother Rudy Velasco delivered a wreath to the U.S. Navy flag, Josie Morris escorted by Air Force Veteran Brother John Morris delivered a wreath to the U.S. Air Force flag, J.J. Cadkin escorted by Brother Bodie Crowder delivered a wreath to the U.S. Coast Guard flag and Dept. Commander Steve Doyle escorted by Brother Steve Matthews delivered a wreath to the POW/MIA flag.

Brother Chaplain Bill Daley began to close the ceremony by offering the Benediction. Camp 18 Musket squad fired three – 3 round volleys followed by the playing of *Taps* to end the proceedings.

An invitation was given to all to decorate the graves with flowers.

Thank you to all participants and the Camp 18 Color/Honor Guard and Musket Squad; Rudy Velasco, John Morris, Rich Foy, Benny White and Steve Matthews.



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

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Camp Commander, | Matt Crowder PCC |
| 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 |



Camp 18 participants, from the left are SVC John Morris, DC Steve Doyle, Benny White, Rich Foy, CC Matt Crowder, Rudy Velasco PDC, Bodie Crowder, Steve Matthews, Gene Justin, Bill Daley PCC and Rick Gay. What a Great Bunch of Guys!
S. Velasco photo

Eagle Scout & JROTC update

The award season has been kind of slow for Camp 18 this year, but we do have a report;

The Camp issued an Eagle Scout Commendation to Edward Melendez, Troop 421. Edward’s Court of Honor was held on 28 April 2024 at the American Legion Post 216 in Corona. His Eagle Scout project was building and painting 2 garden boxes for Coronita Elementary school’s kindergarten and special needs kids. Congratulations to Eagle Scout Edward Melendez. Thank you to Brother Burt Hogue for helping with this.

Continued on page 4, see Awards,...

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



Awards, continued from page 3,...



*Above; Eagle Scout Edward Melendez (center) with his mom Maylynn and dad Edward at the Court of Honor.
J. Brantley photo*

Camp 18 issued only one JROTC award this year and that was to Murrieta Valley High School MCJROTC Staff Sergeant Christopher Doolittle. Brother Benny White attended the school’s Change of Command Ceremony, representing Camp 18 and the SUVCW, to present Cadet Doolittle with the award on 27 April 2024. Thank you, Brother Benny White, for representing Camp 18.



*Above; MCJROTC Cadet Staff Sergeant Doolittle (left) with Camp 18 Brother Benny White (center).
B. White photo*

Carney, continued from page 1,...

carry it to the fort’s parapet. When he saw the Union forces fall back, he returned to them with the flag, though he was severely wounded.

June 2, 1865 – After four years of domestic bloodshed, the Civil War was widely regarded to have officially ended when the commander of the final viable Confederate army in the U.S., Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby

Smith signed terms of surrender for the Trans-Mississippi division aboard the USS Fort Jackson in Galveston Bay, Texas.

June 19, 1865 – Of course *Juneteenth* follows. The day when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control and to inform enslaved people that they were free and that the Civil War was officially over.

Did You Know?

Hiram Maxim, the inventor of the automatic machine gun, became deaf from test-firing his weapons so much. As a result, his son became the inventor of the silencer.



Civil War Vet Memorialized with New Grave Marker

USA Today Network 10 May 2024

Pontiac, Ill. – A little bit of what had been forgotten history is now carved in stone.

Charlie Robbins and his sisters knew that they had a great-grandfather named William Clark but until Robbins delved into genealogical research about his family, knowledge of Clark was limited.

Robbins found out his great-grandfather was a Civil War veteran whose gravesite was not marked. With the help of Pontiac Township High School environmental science teacher Paul Ritter and his students, a headstone was obtained and a ceremony held on April 25th to commemorate Clark’s life and service.

“Every veteran is entitled to a headstone,”

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Ritter said after the ceremony. “Today is a day that has been coming for a long time. For us to be able to help his family, for what ever reason, we don’t know why he didn’t get a tombstone. But we were able to fix that today.”

Ritter told the audience that his students had worked on the project for about a year and a half after the family had discovered there was no tombstone marking the grave.

Kyah Brogan-Shawback, a student in the environmental science class and master of ceremonies, read the obituary of Clark that appeared in the Pontiac Daily Leader in 1919.

She also recognized three of Clark’s great-grandchildren who were in the audience – Robbins, of Champaign, Illinois; Pam Lewis, of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois; and Lynn Ingold, of Paxton, Illinois – who were presented with a wreath.

Pontiac Mayor Bill Alvey thanked Ritter and his class, noting this is a well-deserved acknowledgment for Clark.

“We would like to thank Mr. Clark for his service, not only to the Union and to the Country, but for his dedication to his community over the years.” Alvey said. “Being honored in this way is just a small tribute for all the years he put into his job and his work here. Veterans deserve our thanks from here and beyond. We really appreciate all the work that they put in. The City and the entire community thank you for your attendance and his memory.”

The family members received a flag, a military honor guard provided a 21-gun salute and “Taps” was performed by students Lauren Russow and Sam Murphy.

“It hurts to know we visited gravesites here, never knowing our great-grandfather lied nearby,” Lewis said in her address at the ceremony. She noted that with her father’s passing 50 years ago, and with none of his siblings still alive, the family lost a bit of history until her brother, Robbins, started his genealogical research.

In his closing remarks, Ritter said, “I want to personally say thank you to William Clark and his family for entrusting us to take this on and get the job done. I know my students will never forget it.”

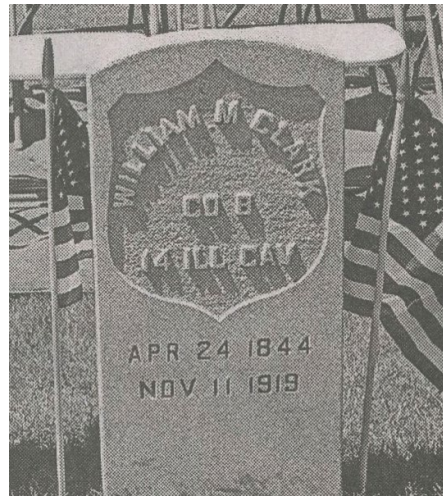


Photo right; a new Military headstone marks the final resting place of Civil War Veteran Pvt. William Clark whose grave had been unmarked.

Keeping Green the Memory of the Boys in Blue.

2024 Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

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 – 8:00 a.m. Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

May 25th – 11:00 a.m. 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.

Saturday -17 – Camp Meeting

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
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