

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 16, No.1, January, 2025

! Happy New Year 2025 !

Greetings Camp 18,

The 2024 year-end holiday celebrations are winding down and we are getting ready to usher in the New Year, 2025.

Camp 18 ended the year with a flurry of ceremonies, ceremony practices and a business meeting/holiday lunch with a “Spark of Love” toys for tots’ collection. More on that to follow.

With Camp Commander John Morris at the helm, plans for Camp 18 activities are being made and all are invited to attend and participate.

Stay tuned for activity updates as they develop and we are sure you will enjoy participating in the Camp’s activities this new year.

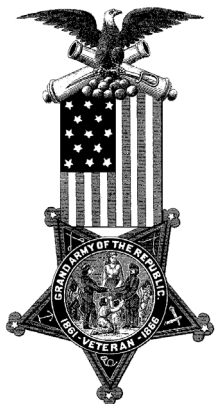
There is still plenty of time to be jolly!

Annual Membership Dues

We are at that time of the year again, collecting annual membership dues.

As in years past, we have used the 31st of January as the collection cut off date. That gives the Camp enough time to get the required form and paperwork together and in the mail to Department & National headquarters by their deadline.

We have done fairly well receiving dues from our members as we are only waiting for a few more to be received. Please let the Camp Secretary know if there are any issues.



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

Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 1 – Camp Display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine Open House, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Saturday, Feb. 15 - Camp meeting, 10:00 am at the American Legion Hall, Corona.

Fri/Sat, March 7 – 8 – 139th Annual SUVCW Department Encampment in Bakersfield, CA. More information on page 2.

Saturday, March 22 – Headstone cleaning project at the GAR Circle in Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Start time 8:30 am. More on page 2.

Tuesday, April 9 – wreath placement at GAR monument at Evergreen Cemetery in observance of the 160th anniversary of Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Saturday, April 19 – Camp meeting, 10:00 am at the American Legion Hall, Corona.

Real Son & Brother William Pool approaching his 100th Birthday

Real Son and SUVCW Brother William Pool will celebrate his 100th birthday on Monday, January 13, 2025.

Brother Pool of Bolivar, MO. is the son of Charles Pool who served in Company D of the 6th West Virginia Volunteers.

Brother Pool, a World War II veteran is the last remaining son of a Union Civil War Veteran who holds membership in our Order.

Continued on page 2, See William Pool ,...



William Pool Continued;

Camp 18 Brother Burt Hogue has mailed Brother Pool a Birthday card. If you wish to send Brother Pool a Birthday wish, you can mail a card to;

Brother William Pool
Parkview Health Care Facility
119 W. Forest St.
Bolivar, MO. 65613-1316

139th Annual Dept. Encampment info

Final information for the March 2025 Department Encampment is being prepared and we should be getting the paperwork any time, but here is what we know;...

The Encampment will be held at the 4 Points by Sheraton hotel in Bakersfield, 5101 California Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93309.

You can make your room reservations, now, if you like by calling (661)-325-9700. Just mention that you are with the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" and would like to be in our "Room Block". If you have any ambulatory issues, you are encouraged to reserve early and request a Ground Floor room as the two-story hotel does not have elevators. Room Rates are \$125/night, with Service Charges/Taxes to be added, and includes buffet breakfasts for two Guests per room for those wishing to share.

Registration and meal prices are still to be determined and will be announced as soon as we receive the information.

Headstone Cleaning Project

The headstone cleaning project at the GAR Circle in Evergreen Cemetery that has been postponed several times is now scheduled for Saturday, 22 March, 8:30 a.m. start time.

All of the cleaning solutions are on site. We may need to bring a 100-foot water hose to get rinse water to the stones. If you plan to attend and help with the project, bringing some rubber gloves might be a good idea.

We will be finalizing the details at the Camp's February meeting.

Camp 18 Veterans Day Service 2024

Camp 18's Veterans Day Service was carried out on Saturday, 9 November at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside. The audience was small but the service was carried out in the finest SUVCW fashion with not only Union Civil War Soldiers in mind but ALL of America's Veterans.

These proceedings actually began on Friday, November 8th with Camp Commander John and Josie Morris installing American flags at the graves of the Veterans in the Grand Army of the Republic Circle at the Cemetery.

As mentioned, the audience was small but it was great to have family, Camp members and cemetery personal attending.

Continued on page 3, see Service,...



Photo above, Camp 18 Veterans Day service participants, from the left; Matt Crowder PCC, Larry Duncan, Cameron Quinn, Camp Commander John Morris, John Beall, Bill Daley PCC, Department Commander Steve Doyle, Rudy Velasco PDC & Benny White.

Service continued,

Brother John Morris was the Master of Ceremonies and greeted the audience before asking the Camp Color Guard to post the Colors.

Color Guard Brothers Benny White, Matt Crowder, Larry Duncan and Rudy Velasco displayed the flags during the National Anthem, then posted the Colors at the conclusion of the Anthem.

Camp Chaplain Brother Bill Daley was called upon to give the Invocation.

Continuing the program, Brother John Beall read aloud to the audience the poem “In Flanders Fields” and Brother Cameron Quinn read the poem “The best on Earth.”

Camp 18 Brother and Department Commander Steve Doyle presented a floral wreath at the monument dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic and expressed our gratitude as Sons of Union Veterans, for their service in helping preserve a united country during the Civil War.

The Service concluded with the Camp Musket Squad, Benny White, Matt Crowder & Rudy Velasco firing a 3 volley musket salute to our Veterans which was followed by TAPS.

Special mention shout out to Brother Cameron Quinn who was our “D.J” handling the CD player with the National Anthem and TAPS.

Camp 18 has participated at Evergreen Cemetery putting out the American flags for the Veterans since 2017, but this year’s Veterans Day ceremony was the Camp’s 3rd annual complete service, thanks to Commander John Morris putting the ceremony script together.



Josie Morris posting American flags on November 8th.



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

Camp Commander,	John Morris
Sr. Vice Cmdr,	Steve Matthews
Jr. Vice Cmdr,	Steve Doyle PDC
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	vacant
Camp Guard	Steve Doyle PCC
Graves Registration	Michael Emmett
Newsletter Editor	Rudy Velasco PDC
Patriotic Instructor	Steve Doyle PDC
Eagle Scout & JROTC Coordinator	Rudy Velasco III

**Spark of Love Toy Collection
and the Camp Holiday Lunch Meeting**

This year’s Camp Holiday Lunch meeting (2nd annual) was held on December 7th, 2024. As last year, deli sandwiches were served along with cold salads, pies, cookies and soft drinks supplied by some Camp personal. Really, a good time was had by all...honestly.

In the past few years Camp 18 has collected some gifts for the annual Toys for Tots drive and delivered them to the Camp’s December Holiday meeting. Last year we collected 18 toys for that collection which was picked up for distribution by the Corona Fire Department and Corona Fire Truck “Old No. 1.”

Continued on page 4, see Collection, ...

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





Photo left & from the left: Camp Commander John Morris, Chaplain Bill Daley PCC, Glen Roosevelt PDC (Post 216 adjutant), James Bowman (Post 2nd Vice Cmdr); Camp 18 Brothers Dave Green, Burt Hogue, Gene Justin, Rudy Velasco PDC, Matt Crowder PCC, and Steve Matthews. Front row, kneeling; Post 216 member Robert Young, & 2 Corona Fireman.

Collection, continued from page 3,...

This year (2024) members of American Legion Post 216, where we have our bi-monthly Camp meetings in Corona, held a gift collection of their own and added them to Camp 18’s collection. Together we were able to donate 50 toys to the “Spark of Love” gift distribution where Riverside County’s Firefighters turn into Santa’s Elves helping families in need knock off a few items from their Christmas lists.

Once again, we called upon Corona Fire Department to send out “Old No. 1” to show up and pick up our donations for distribution.

Photo at right shows the toys & gifts collected by Camp 18 & Post 216.



Wreaths Across America 2024

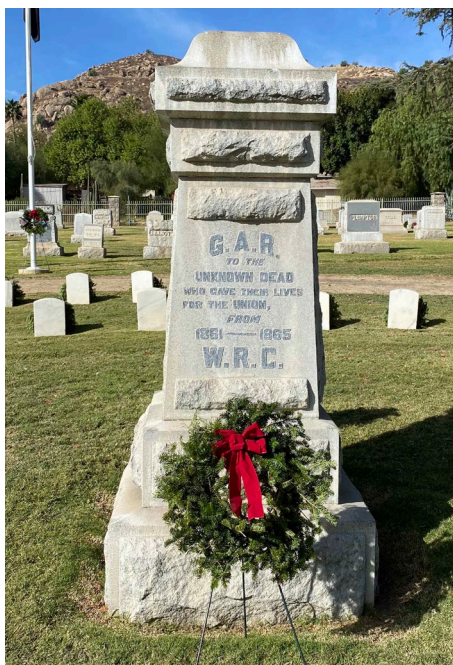
On Thursday, 12 December 2024, Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside was waiting for the delivery truck from Wreaths Across America. When the truck arrived in the late morning, Camp Commander John Morris, Evergreen Cemetery Board Member Justin Ruff and some cemetery personal proceeded to unload 90 boxes of wreaths for a grand total of 1,080. In the photo to the left, you can see one of the wreaths attached to the G.A.R. monument in the cemetery.

For the 2nd year in a row, enough wreaths were donated to decorate all of the Veterans interred at Evergreen... 100 %.

The 2024 Wreaths ceremony was the 7th consecutive year that Camp 18 has participated in this ritual with Evergreen cemetery.

The ceremony began at exactly 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 14 December with an introduction by Commander John Morris.

General Stoneman Camp 18 provided the Color Guard and



Continued on page 5, see Wreaths,...



Above; Camp 18 participants and members, From the left; Matt Crowder PCC, Brian Stephens PCC, Rudy Velasco PDC, Camp Commander John Morris, Department Commander Steve Doyle, Bill Daley PCC, Brother Steve Matthews and Brother Gene Justin.

Wreaths continued,

Presentation of the Colors, followed by the Invocation given by Lt. Col. David Sarmiento.

Riverside Mayor Patricia Locke Dawson was a Distinguished guest speaker. Don Teagarden, Evergreen Historical Cemetery Board member and Justin Ruff, Evergreen Cemetery Board Director were also speakers at the ceremony and all praised the work provided to the Historical portion of the cemetery, keeping it out of disrepair.

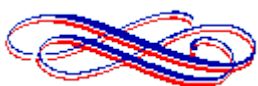
Current Military branch representatives were on hand to present a wreath to their respective service branch flags, flying above the ceremony area. Each Service branch member was escorted to deliver a wreath to the flags by uniformed Camp 18 personal.

The Wreaths Service concluded with the Camp 18 musket squad (Rudy Velasco, Brian Stephens, Matt Crowder & Steve Matthews) firing 3 volleys and the playing of TAPS.

Commander Morris gathered and instructed all volunteers for wreaths placement.

Thank you to Camp 18 members and families for attending the Wreaths ceremony and to the Camp Color Guard, Rudy Velasco, Steve Doyle, Steve Matthews & Brian Stephens.

ALSO, Thank you John Morris for planning and coordinating these ceremonies and services that we all enjoy participating in.



Tentative 2025 Calendar

February

Saturday 1st - Lincoln Shrine Display, Redlands.
Saturday 15th - Camp Meeting. 10:00 am, Corona.

March

7th - 8th Friday & Saturday - 139th Department Encampment, Bakersfield Calif.
Saturday, 22nd - Headstone cleaning at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside
Tuesday 25th - Medal of Honor Day

April

Sunday - 158th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.
Saturday 19th - Camp Meeting.

May

Memorial Day weekend Flag Detail and Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. More information to follow.

June

Saturday 21st - Camp Meeting

July

August

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment. Date and location to be announced.
Saturday 16th - possible Camp meeting.





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