

# 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 16, No.2, March, 2025*

### Attention Company! A Message from the Camp Commander

Brothers of Camp 18, hello!

Brothers Rudy Velasco, Brian Stephens, Matt Crowder, Steve Doyle and I attended our 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment in Bakersfield, CA, on 7-8 March. I wish to thank all of you for your attendance.

I want to thank Brother Steve Doyle for his outstanding leadership as the Commander of the Department of California and Pacific for the past two years. His dedicated service to all of our camps and camp members, love for our order, and life-long commitment to honoring the memory of our "Boys in Blue" is deeply appreciated. Thank you, Brother Steve!

We were honored to have SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin and his wife, National Auxiliary President Rosemary Martin, attend the encampment, and were able to take a camp picture with CinC Martin.

On Saturday, we accomplished our annual elections. The following senior personnel were elected by the membership and Installed into office by CinC Martin:

Department Commander: Owen Stiles  
Department Senior Vice Commander: Gary Hormel  
Department Junior Vice Commander: Robert Mayer

If any of you are interested in attending the National Encampment in August, please let Rudy and I know.

I look forward to seeing some of you

on Saturday morning, 22 March, for our Camp headstone cleaning project at Evergreen Memorial Park and all of you at our Camp meeting in April.

VR,

John Morris  
Camp Commander

### Tentative Camp Calendar

**Saturday, March 22** – Headstone cleaning project at the G.A.R. circle in Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Recommended that you wear gloves while cleaning. We will have some rubber gloves but if you have some, please bring them.

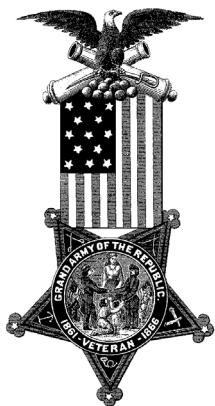
**Tuesday, March 25** – Medal of Honor Day – Place Camp Wreath at the grave of Col. Cornelius Cole Smith, MOH recipient at Evergreen Cemetery.

**Wednesday, April 9** – 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. We'll place a wreath at the base of the G.A.R. Monument at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

**Saturday, May 24** – Camp 18 Memorial Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, start time 11:30 a.m. Flag placing begins at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 21** – Camp meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall, Corona.



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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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## Camp 18 to Celebrate 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

General George Stoneman, Camp 18 began business in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War when Department Brother and then Commander-in-Chief, D. Brad Schall signed the Camp Charter on March 4, 2011.

We will be celebrating the Camp's 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cake at the April 19<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting. We hope to see you there.

## 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment of the SUVCW

In part;

Congrats to Brother Mike Emmett, who was nominated for and received the following awards at the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of California and Pacific Encampment in Bakersfield, California on 7-8 March 2025:

Major General Montgomery C. Meigs Graves Registration Award for registering 660 new union civil war veteran graves in 2024 and for reaching a lifetime milestone of registering over 8,000 soldiers with the National data base.

President Abraham Lincoln Exemplary Dedication Award for his extensive research done on the union soldiers who were present during the Fort Sumter bombardment of April 1861.

Brother Mike, on behalf of the entire camp, we thank you for your tireless efforts, long hours of research, and personal commitment to find and officially register the graves of our lost brothers, giving our "Boys in Blue" the final recognition they deserve for their dedicated service and personal sacrifices for the Union Army during the Civil War. Thank you again for a job well done! HUZZAH!

JOHN M. MORRIS  
Commander, Camp 18

### More about the Encampment,.....

Most of the 43 who registered to attend the 139<sup>th</sup> encampment arrived at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Bakersfield on Friday, 7 March and spent the evening at the annual "Camp Fire" gathering held in

the Mojave meeting room close to the bar area for fun and fellowship. I am sure a lovely time was had by all.



*Above, Camp 18 Delegates to the Department Encampment, from the left; Matt Crowder PCC, Camp Commander John Morris, Past Department Commander Steve Doyle, Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin, Dept. Commander Elect Owen Stiles, Brian Stephens PCC & Rudy Velasco PDC.*

Saturday Morning began with a short "Opening Ceremony" and introductions of National Officers and Past Department Commanders. This year's special guests were Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin and Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans National President Rosemary Martin.

The annual Memorial Service remembering our Brothers who had passed in the last year followed.

After a short break Camp Reports were received from 11 of the Department's 14 Camps. Department Officer reports followed.

Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin was asked to address the Encampment and he mentioned "Real Son" William Pool.

Brother Pool is the last remaining son of a Union Soldier, Charles Pool who saw service with the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Volunteers during the Civil War.

We were reminded that Brother Pool who just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 13<sup>th</sup>, really enjoys receiving cards and letters from fellow Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in other words, All of us!

*Continued on page 3, see Encampment, ...*

**Encampment continued,**

If interested, you can mail a card to:

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

**Back to the Encampment,.....**

Reports, Reports, Reports were the theme of the morning session of the Encampment. After Department Committee reports Department Commander handed out Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers who filled in for absent Department Officers at last year’s encampment in Laughlin, NV.

After the certificates presentation and with no “unfinished business” to attend to, the meeting broke for lunch at a little passed noon. I understand that the chicken salad, turkey and vegetarian sandwiches with sides served for lunch were very good.

With lunch finished, the business meeting resumed with Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans National President Rosemary Martin addressing the Encampment, informing all of the well being of the Auxiliary. After hearing of the financial situation of our sister organization, a donation was suggested and the Brothers at the meeting “passed the hat” to collect some funds for the Auxiliary and we later learned that \$590.00 had been collected through the donations.

Department Commander Doyle continued the meeting with awarding more Appreciation Certificates and awards for this year’s Department Officers, one of which was Camp 18’s own Graves Registration Officer Michael Emmett. Camp 18 Commander Morris mentioned his awards earlier in the article. Department Officer of the Year award went to Department Counselor and Department Council Chair Dan Earl PCC of Sheridan Camp 4 in San Jose, CA. HUZDAH, HUZDAH!



*Above, Auxiliary National President Rosemary Martin and Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin.*

New Business was the next item on the agenda and Dept. Commander Doyle asked if there was any interest in placing an ad in the National



**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 III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Steve Doyle PDC  |
| 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)



*Continued on page 4, see More Encampment, ...*

**More Encampment *continued,***

Encampment program scheduled for August 7 – 10, 2025 in Houston, TX. Price to place a full-page ad is \$50.00. The Encampment voted to place the ad.

Last of the business session of the meeting was Department Officer elections in which Department Jr. Vice Commander Owen Stiles challenged Department Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Eder for the office of Department Commander. Election results are as follows; Dept. Commander Owen Stiles, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Gary Hormel, and Dept Jr. Vice Commander is Robert Mayer.

All election results can be found on line at;

<https://suvpac.org/officers/>

Good of the Order – to end the meeting – the Encampment voted to return to Bakersfield and the Four Points by Sheraton hotel for the 140th Department Encampment in 2026.

Throughout the afternoon, as time permitted, and during the Social Hour before dinner, tickets were being sold for a raffle, and silent auction to be held during dinner arranged by Past Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Eder and son – Wayne II. This Fund raiser netted the Department \$700 and will help pay the bills of the encampment.

139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of California & Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War concluded with a pretty darn good dinner buffet with entertainment from Major General John G. Foster highlighting his military career, performed by Brother Eder.



*Above from the left, Camp 18's Past Dept. Commander Steve Doyle, Dept. Commander Owen Stiles and Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin at the Encampment, March 8, 2025*

**2025 Lincoln Shrine Display**

Camp 18 set up the annual display at the Lincoln Shrine Open House in Redlands on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a great day to be outdoors talking with the public about the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Mayor of Redlands was present as President Lincoln was escorted to the front steps of the museum just before the Raising of the Colors by local Boy Scouts.

Helping with the display year was Camp Commander John & Josie Morris, Camp SVC Steve Matthews, Department Commander Steve Doyle & Rudy Velasco PDC.

Early in the afternoon the Camp 18 display was joined by Generals Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 Commander Scott McKee and Camp Secretary Terry Shaw PCC, who stayed with the display until the Open House closing, about 3:30 p.m.

Camp 17 is planning to set up a display along side of Camp 18 at the next Lincoln Shrine Open House in 2026.



*Above from the left; SVC Steve Matthews, CC John Morris, Terry Shaw, Scott McKee, DC Steve Doyle & Rudy Velasco PDC*

It was great to see other members of the SUVCW at the Open House, Rosecrans Camp 2 JVC Brandon Villardi was working with the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Light Artillery firing their cannon every hour on the hour, setting off a few car alarms and Camp 18 Brother Rich Foy in uniform with the 71<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Yes Sir, it was a great Saturday!

**How to order  
Proud descendant of a Union Veteran  
Tee Shirts**

Hello All Brothers of the Department of CA & Pacific,

My Husband Jerry Sayre PDC and I got back from the Department Encampment of CA & Pacific and wanted to let you all know how the "Quick Turn Around Fundraiser" went for the Department. With the number of shirts you Men ordered, minus the cost of the shirts and the printing, Jerry was able to hand Department Treasurer



Randy Dhindsa, a check for \$185.08 to help offset the costs of the Department Encampment. Thank you to everyone who ordered a shirt.

At the Encampment, a number of Brothers who saw the shirts being worn and had not ordered one, wanted to know how they could also order one, and so here is how you can do that. No one will be left out. Just follow the simple steps below...

The tee shirt is the Light Weight Navy Blue, brand name, Gildan. The price per shirt is \$30.00, no matter the size or amount ordered. Please note that the fabric is cotton and it may shrink a little, so you may want to order one size larger:

To place an order email Kim Sayre at;  
[gardenladie@icloud.com](mailto:gardenladie@icloud.com)

Include the following information:

1. Your Name and Address.
2. Your **Camp Number**.
3. How many shirts.
4. Size. S. M. L. XL. 2XL. 3XL. 4X. 5X.
5. How you would like to receive your order. Options listed below...

Please mail your check or money order and drop in mail asap,

Make Check out to **Jerry Sayre** and mail to:

Jerry Sayre  
540 West Fig Street  
Fallbrook, CA. 92028

We are looking to place orders on **Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**, once all the checks arrive in the mail. That means everyone who wants to participate in this order of t-shirts needs to move quickly.

How to receive your order

- 1) Brothers attending Pittenger Camp 21's April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting can pick their shirts up there.
- 2) We can mail the shirt to you if you add \$10.00 for shipping (Thus making your check out for \$40.00.)

Camp 18 members can contact Secretary Rudy with any questions, all others please contact Kim Sayre directly.

**Camp Annual Calendar**  
general idea/dates may change

**2025 Calendar**

**January**

**February**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** - Lincoln Shrine Display, Redlands.  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** - Camp Meeting. 10:00 am, Corona.

**March**

**7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Friday & Saturday** – 139<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment, Bakersfield Calif.

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Headstone cleaning at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside

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

**April**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>** – 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Camp Meeting.

**May**

**Saturday, May 24** - Memorial Day Service & Flag Detail at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Flag detail begins at 8:00 am and the Service begins at 11:30am.

**June**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Camp meeting.

**July**

**August**

**7 – 10** National Encampment, Houston, TX.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** – possible Camp meeting, Corona





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