

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.3, May – June, 2025

Attention Company!

A Message from the Camp Commander

To my Camp 18 Brothers, hello!

We have had a busy five months so far in 2025, conducting two camp meetings in February and April; attending the 2025 Department of California and the Pacific Encampment in Bakersfield; accomplishing our camp community service project in March whereby we cleaned all 92 headstones in the GAR/SAW Circle as well as the GAR/SAW monument itself; celebrating the 14th Anniversary of our camp's charter; organizing & leading the annual Memorial Day flag detail and conducting our annual Camp 18 Memorial Day Ceremony at Evergreen Memorial Park. We could not have accomplished these activities without the support and dedication of all of you, the brotherhood of Camp 18! I deeply thank all of you for your time, hard work and dedication to make all of these events so highly successful!

We still have several events on the books for the remainder of the year, to include our camp meetings in June, August (maybe), October and December; officer elections in October; our Veteran's Day ceremony in November, and participating in Wreaths Across America as well as our toy collection for Corona's "Spark of Love" toy drive for children in December.

I hope to see all of my Camp 18 Brothers at our next Camp meeting on Saturday, 21 June!

Josie and I wish all of you a Happy Father's Day in advance on Sunday, 15 June.

VR,
Brother John



Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, June 21 – Camp meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall Post # 216, Corona.

August 7 – 10 – 144th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Houston, TX. Website: <https://suvvw.org/national-encampment>

Saturday, Aug. 16 – "possible" Camp meeting, same time, same location. Decision to be made at the June Camp Meeting. Please stand by for email updates.

Saturday/Sunday, Aug 30 & 31 – Civil War Days reenactment at Huntington Beach Central Park.

Possible Camp display?

Saturday, October 18 – Camp meeting and Officer elections, 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post #216, Corona.

Saturday, Nov. 8 – Camp's Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Details to follow.

Saturday, Dec. 6 or 20 – Camp meeting & Holiday lunch and Spark of Love toy drive. Date will be set at the June Camp meeting.

Saturday, Dec. 13 – Camp participation for Wreaths Across America Ceremony with Evergreen Cemetery.

Trivia

#1) Which baseball commissioner was named after a Civil War battle?

#2) Which Union General has been falsely credited with the early development of baseball?

Answers on page 5,...



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



Quick Notes

Just a heads up,...

Possible Camp meeting in August? For the first 12 years of the existence of Camp 18, because of the summer heat or family vacations, nobody really wanted to have a camp meeting in August. In the past few years there has been more interest in getting together for a meeting in August and lessen the four month gap between meetings, June – October.

Civil War Days reenactment at Central Park, Huntington Beach, August 30 & 31, 2025. Camp 18 is interested in setting up a display booth and at this time waiting for set-up instructions from Huntington Beach. We will need a couple of volunteers to help at the display. If you are interested, please contact the Editor. The reenactment will be located behind the library in Huntington Beach Central Park, on Gothard between Slater and Talbert streets. More reenactment information can be found at: www.hbhistory.org/civilwar

Veterans Day Service is in the planning stage. The Service is set for Saturday, 8 November and our **Wreaths Across America Ceremony** is set for Saturday 13 December, both at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. The Camp is looking for participants for both of these events.

December's Camp meeting – Because of our Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 13, the camp is considering having the December Meeting a couple of weeks earlier than scheduled (December 6) so we can go over the final plans for the Wreaths service. Usually, the Camp meeting would be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, in this case December 20th.

We should have the answers to all of the above worked out at the June 21st Camp meeting. If you are available and would like to participate in any of the above events, please let Secretary Rudy know.

Headstone Cleaning at Evergreen

Earlier this year, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War do, Camp 18 Officers were looking forward to Memorial Day. In a proper way to honor our Union Ancestors, the Camp Commander gathered up a few Camp 18 Brother Volunteers to clean the 92 headstones and monument at the Grand Army of the Republic Circle at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside,

where Camp 18 holds our Memorial Day services.

On Saturday, 22 March, the Camp 18 volunteers arrived at Evergreen Cemetery at 8:00 a.m. dressed in comfortable clothes, overalls and rubber gloves, ready to wash, scrub and generally clean all of the 92 stones and the G.A.R. monument.

To help the Camp community service project, Tim Roche, board member with Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery, graciously allowed us to use the monument cleaning materials left over from his son's Eagle Scout project of September 2021 and joined us to help accomplish the service project. Thank you, Tim.



Photo left, Cemetery Board Member Tim Roche with a bottle of cleaning solution in his right hand. Photo right, Josie Morris dressed for success at cleaning headstones.

In addition, both Steve Simpson and Greg Quintana from the Board of Directors for Evergreen Memorial Park voluntarily joined us to help clean all the headstones and monument. A BIG Thank You to Greg and Steve! Thank you both.

We started our project at 8:00 a.m. and finished around 10:30. We sprayed each headstone and the GAR/SAW monument with a final coat of the D-2 cleaning spray before we finished, so it will soak into each monument and continue to clean them over the next couple of weeks. Because of the cleaning and light soaking of the cleaning solution the GAR/SAW Circle headstones and monument looked really nice two months later at our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday, 24 May.

Continued on page 3, see "Headstones"....

Headstones continued...



Photo above, from left; Rudy Velasco PDC, Steve Doyle PDC, Cemetery Board Member Tim Roche, Camp Commander John Morris, Cemetery Board Member Greg Quintana, Camp Brothers Cameron Quinn & Larry Duncan and Cemetery Board Member Steve Simpson.

The following personnel participated in our community service project.

- Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery Board:** Tim Roche.
- Evergreen Memorial Park Board:** Steve Simpson, Greg Quintana.
- Stoneman Camp 18 participants:** Camp Commander John Morris, Josie Morris, Rudy Velasco PDC, Steve Doyle PDC, Larry Duncan and Cameron Quinn.

Thank You All for your valued participation!

**Memorial Day Ceremony
at Evergreen Cemetery 24 May 2025**



Photo above, from left; Rudy Velasco PDC, Brian Stephens PCC, Matt Crowder PCC, Camp Sr. Vice Commander Steve Matthews, USAF CMSgt Timi Bilal, Camp Commander John Morris, Camp Chaplain Bill Daley PCC & Brother Gene Justin, participants in the Memorial Service.

Please see the story continued on page 4, see Memorial,...



**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



Memorial continued,

Camp 18’s 2025 Memorial Day service actually began on Friday, 23 May when Camp Commander John and Josie Morris placed American flag on the Veteran’s graves in the Grand Army of the Republic Circle at Evergreen Cemetery.

At 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning, 24 May, Commander Morris met groups of volunteers and gave instructions and flags to them and they proceeded to place flags on more than 900 plus veterans interred at Evergreen.

The Memorial Service began at 11:30 with Opening remarks from Master of Ceremonies Commander John Morris followed by the Posting of the Colors. Camp Chaplain Bill Daley PCC gave the Invocation.

Commander Morris greeted the audience of about 50 and special guests, Ward 4 Council Member Chuck Conder, CMSgt. Timi Bilal, 452d Air Mobility Wing, Evergreen Cemetery Board President Don Teagarden and Riverside Mayor Locke Dawson.

In her Memorial address, Mayor Dawson (photo at right) acknowledged the value of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War taking care of the Civil War Veterans, our ancestors, interred at the historical cemetery.

Evergreen Memorial Historical Cemetery Board President & Navy Veteran Don Teagarden explained some of the background of the historical part of the cemetery. How the cemetery fell into a state of

disrepair and neglected for years and of course, the later renewed interest and rebuilding of recent years.

Logan’s **General Order #11** is always a “must” read to the audience to explain the origins of Decoration Day.

Diane Stephens, representing the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War read the poem “**Only a Private Killed**”. Past Camp Commander Brian Stephens followed by reading the poem “**How Sleep the Brave**”.

In Fond Remembrance, each year at our Memorial Service we read aloud the names of our Camp 18 Brothers that have passed away while in service to their Camp.



In Honor of the Grand Army of the Republic, Diane Stephens and Josie Morris placed a wreath at the G.A.R. monument.

Escorted by the Camp Honor Guard, Camp 18 family members helped with the wreath placements to the military branch flags:

U.S. Army Flag wreath presentation by **Sarah & Jason Chao**.

U.S. Marine Corp presentation by **Angie Daley**.

U.S. Navy presentation by **Susan Velasco**.

U.S. Air Force presentation by **Josie Morris**.

U.S. Space Force presentation by **Diane Stephens**. **U.S. Coast Guard** presentation by **J.J. Cadkin**. **POW/MIA** presentation by **Mayor Locke Dawson**.

Chaplain Bill Daley PCC, began the closing of the ceremony with the Benediction followed by a three-volley musket salute from Camp 18 Honor Guard and the playing of **TAPS**.

We would like to Thank the visiting Dignitaries, Camp 18 participants and their family members who helped drive the Camp to another successful Memorial Day service.

Recognizing the 160th Anniversary of Lee’s Surrender at Appomattox

On Wednesday, 9 April, 2025 Camp Commander John Morris (pictured below) placed a wreath at the G.A.R. monument in Evergreen Cemetery to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the victory of Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant.



While this was the most significant surrender to take place during the Civil War, Gen. Robert E. Lee, the Confederacy’s most respected commander, surrendered only his Army of Northern Virginia. The rest is history.



Trivia answers from page 1

Answer #1: Kennesaw Mountain Landis (1866 – 1944) was named for the battle where his father, as a Union soldier, was wounded in 1864.

Answer #2: General Abner Doubleday. He may not have invented baseball, but as a Captain at Fort Sumter in 1861, Doubleday commanded the gunners that fired the first Union shots in retaliation.

Yes, it is baseball Season!

General Stoneman Camp 18 Celebrates 14th Anniversary

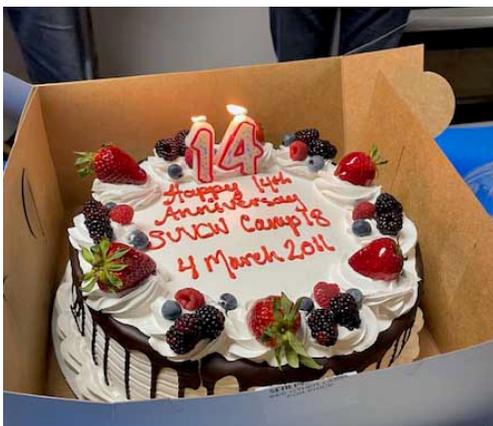
Let's back up just a little,... In 2010 General Rosecrans Camp 2 in Los Angeles had a group of members that lived east of Los Angeles County that never went to Camp 2 meetings because of the distance members had to travel to get to them. The same type of situation was going on with Sgt. Pittenger Camp 21 in San Diego where a few members lived a way north and east and had to travel a good distance to Camp 21 meetings.

In May 2010, Camp 2 Commander Loran Bures had found a enough members of the Camp living in Riverside County that would end up starting a new Camp and this would become Camp 2 Division 7.

Division 7 advertised that a new Camp was forming in the Inland Empire and a few members of the San Diego Camp and a handful from Los Angeles Camp transferred to fill the ranks of Division 7.

On March 4th, 2011 the Charter was signed by Commander-in-Chief (Calif. & Pacific Brother) D. Brad Schall bringing General Stoneman Camp 18 into existence.

Camp 18 celebrated its 14th anniversary as a Camp in the Department of California & Pacific at our April 19th 2025 Camp meeting with a cake and soft drinks at the Legion Hall in Corona. HUZDAH!



Camp Annual Calendar
general idea/dates may change

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

Wednesday, 9th – 160th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Saturday 19th – 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 21st – Camp meeting. American Legion Hall, Corona. 10:00 a.m. start time.

July**August**

7 – 10 National Encampment, Houston, TX.

Saturday 16th – possible Camp meeting, Corona

September**October**

Saturday 18 – Camp meeting, American Legion Hall, Corona. Officer elections. 10:00 a.m. start time.

November

Saturday 8 – Camp Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. More info to follow.

December

Saturday 13 – Wreaths Across America Ceremony, Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Plans are in the works.

Saturday 20 – Camp Holiday meeting/lunch & Toys for Tots collection.





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