

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. 5, November, 2025

To all of our Veterans, Thank you for your service and sacrifice which is remembered with great appreciation, especially on Veterans Day, November 11th

!!!----Quick Notes----!!!

Camp 18 Veterans Day Ceremony: 8 November 2025.

All participants please show up no later than 7:45 am for an 8:00 dry run practice. Ceremony starts at 9:00.

Camp 18 Dry Run practice for Wreaths Across America: 29 November. **All Camp participants** - Saturday morning, starting at 9:00 at the GAR/SAW Circle.

Camp 18 meeting on 6 December: 10:00 am at the American Legion Hall. **Toy Donation Drive:** Keep cost to no more than \$25; presents unwrapped.

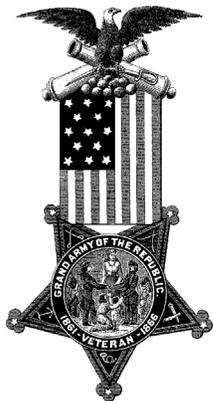
National award presentation to Brother Mike Emett.

Annual Christmas luncheon: If possible, all camp members are requested to bring at least one side dish for lunch. We will need a head count of all who plan to attend so we can make sure we order enough sandwiches for everyone. Please email secretary Rudy if you will be attending the meeting/luncheon. rev03@dc.rr.com

Camp 18 participation in **Wreaths Across America Ceremony** on 13 December: All camp participants must show no later than 7:45 am for an 0800 final dry run practice. Ceremony starts at 9:00.

Evergreen Cemetery; 4414 14th St.
Riverside, CA. 92501

American Legion Hall Post #216
1024 S. Main St. Corona, CA. 92882



Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, Nov. 8 – Camp 18's Veterans Day Service. Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

Saturday, Dec. 6 – Camp Business meeting & Holiday lunch, American Legion Post 216, Corona.

Saturday, Dec. 13 – Wreaths Across America ceremony, Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026 – Camp Display at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine Open House, Redlands, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Saturday, Feb. 21 – Camp Business meeting, American Legion Post 216, Corona, 10:00 am.

Trivia

What were they doing before the war?

- 1) Joshua L. Chamberlain the hero of Little Round Top.
- 2) Confederate President Jefferson Davis.
- 3) Union General U. S. Grant.
- 4) Clara Barton.
- 5) Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston.

...Answers on page 4...



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





Welcome New Members!

Welcome to new Camp 18 Brothers Ethan Heckman from Corona and Rick Luginbill from Helendale who were initiated at the October 18th Camp meeting.

Brother Heckman joins us honoring the Civil War service of his G-Great Grandfather Jacob Emerick – Private, Company A, 148th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and Brother Luginbill joins us honoring the service of his G-Great Grandfather Flavius Sypherd – Private, Company I, 124th Illinois Infantry.

**Welcome Brothers Heckman and Luginbill
Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah!**



Above; Before the Initiation Oath, standing at the altar are Brothers Luginbill (left) and Heckman (right).

Camp Officer elections were also held during the October meeting. All elected Officers were re-elected to serve another year. Appointed Officers remain the same with one change; Brother Matt Crowder PCC has been appointed to Camp Chaplain. Thanks to all for keeping Camp 18 running smoothly!

Annual dues reminder

Annual dues notices will be mailed to you later this month and hopefully we can have everyone paid up by early January 2026.



I am a S. O. B. - Son of Both

On Sunday, September 21, Camp 18 Sr. Vice Commander Steve Matthews presented information about a book/manuscript he is putting together about his family history and unexpected discoveries he has made along the way. The manuscript is nearly six years' worth of work and includes two trips south.

The presentation was sponsored by the Inland Empire Civil War Roundtable and held at the A.K. Smiley Library in Redlands across from the Lincoln Memorial Shrine.

The following is a short excerpt of the presentation;

In her later life my mom found out that she was adopted. My older sister endeavored to find out more about our mom's earlier life and how she was adopted but found out very little.

In 2019, my younger daughter gave me a 23 and me genealogy test kit for Father's Day and then proceeded to insist that I send it in to 23 and me and search for answers. At first reluctant, with my daughter's prodding, I began the search which took me on an amazing journey to search for answers in multiple states, meeting previously unknown family and encountering history and in particular Civil War History, family search and current day USA politics meshed together.

I was born and lived most of my life, till my early 40's in the Boston area. I never thought half of my ancestors would be from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The Journey showed my mom's family's Confederate past and history of Enslaving African Americans. To say I was surprised and affected by these discoveries would be an understatement.

The Book I am writing will bring

you to meet my southern relatives, the fight to get my mom's birth record opened and at each step, civil war history marking my every step.

What do I do with this knowledge I will share with you, what would you do?



Camp SVC Steve Matthews speaking at Smiley library.

Continued on page 3, see S.O.B.

S.O.B. continued,

We then searched for my dad’s family history to find amazing information as well in the Boston, MA. area.

Millions of our USA country men and women do their ancestry search, some find similar information. This is my families search and our discoveries. I know now that I may be genetically a “SON OF BOTH” but my try commitment to my Union Soldier Relatives who were liberators and stayed faithful to our country.

The above was part of a presentation at the Smiley Library in Redlands. I was honored to have some of our Camp 18 brothers there to show support.

Camp Commander John & Josie Morris, PDC Steve & Ellen Doyle, Gene Justin and Rudy Velasco were able to attend the presentation and support Brother Steve Matthews.



**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 | Matt Crowder 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



Camp 18 Brother Barry Opdyke poses with the newly installed monument at Desert Memorial Park, Cathedral City, CA.

America 250 Monument Dedication

On October 23rd Camp 18 members SVC Steve Matthews, Larry Duncan and Rudy Velasco PDC traveled to Veterans Plaza at Desert Memorial Park to attend the unveiling and dedication of an “America 250 Monument” commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The monument, shown in the photo above is dedicated to our Founding Fathers and Colonial Patriots and sponsored by the Coachella Valley Chapter – Sons of the American Revolution.

The Monument stone was installed on October 2, 2025.

Continued on page 4, see Monument,



Monument continued,

Camp 18 Brother and SAR member Barry Opdyke, who helped move the monument project to completion briefly explained the process as follows;

“The original idea was for a smaller bronze statue, like the impressive nine-foot bronze statue in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, but would cost \$110,000 for a four-foot version. Once we placed the order for the granite monument, it took about four months for the stone to arrive in California and for the granite company to engrave it. The granite monument cost approximately \$9,000. Fortunately, a number of our members made donations to offset the cost.”

A few of the guest speakers included President General SAR Michael Elston, State President SAR John Ferris, Coachella Valley Chapter President Christopher Cerillo & Daughters of the American Revolution Cahuilla Chapter Regent Noma Bruton.

SAR State Color Guard included our own Camp 18 Past Camp Commander Brian Stephens and SUVCW General Rosecrans Camp 2 Brother Brandon Villardi.

We met Ben Hobbins who is Camp Commander of Col Henry Harden Camp 2 in Madison, and Wisconsin Department Officer and a member of the SAR who lives in Palm Desert. Maybe we will see him at some of Camp 18’s festivities.



Above left, Camp SVC Steve Matthews, Brother Ben Hobbins (Dept. of WI.), Rudy Velasco PDC & Larry Duncan at the monument dedication. Hobbins photo.

**-----Trivia answers-----
from page 1**

- 1) Chamberlain – Rhetoric professor at Bowdoin College, Maine.
- 2) Davis – Senator from Mississippi.
- 3) Grant – Harness-maker’s clerk.
- 4) Barton – Patent office clerk.
- 5) Johnston – Quartermaster-general of the U.S. Army.

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

2026 Calendar

January

February

Saturday, 7th - Lincoln Shrine Display, Redlands. **Saturday, 21st** - Camp Meeting. 10:00 am, Corona.

March

Possible Department Encampment. More info as it becomes available.

Wednesday, 25th – Medal of Honor Day

April

Appomattox Day observance, info to be announced.

Saturday 18th – Camp Meeting.

May

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

June

Saturday 20th – Camp Meeting

July

August

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment. Date and location to be announced.

Saturday 15th – possible Camp meeting.

September

October

Saturday 17 – Camp Meeting.

November

Veterans Day Service

December

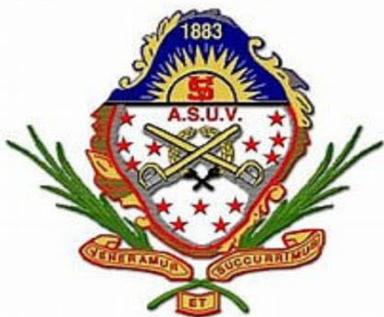
Camp meeting – date to be announced
Wreaths Across America





**Committed to perpetuating
the memory of
those who honorably
served the Union, 1861-1865**

-America 250 Partners-



ASUVCW



DUVCW
1861-1865



LGAR



WRC



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