

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 17, No.3, May - June, 2026

Attention Company!

A Message from the Camp Commander

Brothers of Camp 18:

I would like to say thank you to all of our camp members who were available to attend our annual Memorial Day Ceremony. It was a very busy morning!

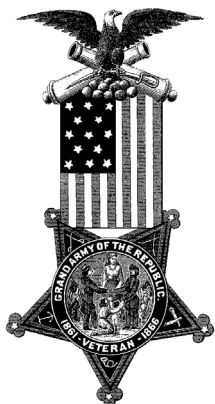
We organized and led roughly 70 volunteers in placing American flags on the graves of over 1,000 veterans interred in our cemetery, honoring their military service to our great nation.

In conjunction with Sophronia Bucklin Tent #97, Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, we organized and conducted an outstanding Memorial Day Ceremony program, as evidenced by the praises we received from all of the attendees, to include our new Department Commander, Brother Wayne Eder.

We provided the Color Guard for The National Anthem; had several speeches commemorating the true meaning of Memorial Day; honored our fallen Camp 18 Brothers by reciting their names during the ceremony; provided the honor guard as Department Commander Eder placed a wreath at the base of the GAR monument; provided the escorts for the wreath layers for the six military service flag poles and the POW/MIA flagpole, and fired three volleys of musket fire in conjunction with TAPS.

At the end of the ceremony, Leo Melonson of Southern California White Doves accomplished a white dove release at the end of TAPS, a first-ever event for our Camp Memorial Day ceremonies.

Continued on page 2, see Memorial, ...



*Happy Father's Day to all
from
Camp Commander John & Josie Morris*

Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, June 20 – Camp Business meeting. American Legion Post 216, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

July 30 – August 2 – 145th National Encampment of the SUVCW, Gettysburg, PA. If you are planning to attend the Encampment, **you need to make your reservations now.** Lodging and pre-registration deadlines are fast approaching. More information at: <https://suvvw.org/national-encampment>

Saturday, August 15 – Camp Business meeting. American Legion Post 216, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 17 – Camp Business meeting, American Legion Post 216, Corona. 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 7 – Camp 18's Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Memorial Historical cemetery. More info to follow as we get closer to the date.

Saturday, December 5 – Camp Holiday meeting at 10:00 a.m. with Toys for Tots collection. American Legion Post 216, Corona

----- Trivia -----

Who accompanied President and Mrs. Lincoln to the theatre on April 14, 1865?

----- Answer on top of 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*





Above; Memorial Day participants, from the left, Camp 18 Brothers Bodie Crowder, Larry Duncan, Brian Stephens PCC, Wayne Eder II (Camp 21), Rudy Velasco PDC, Matt Crowder PCC, Department Commander Wayne Eder, Camp Cmdr. John Morris, Benny White, Camp 18 JVC Gene Justin and Brother Cameron Quinn.

Memorial continued,

Distinguished Visitors included Toni Rosales, the field representative for Assemblywoman Leticia Castillo, California State Assembly District #58; Riverside City Ward 1 Council Member Phillip Falcone; Riverside City Ward 4 Council Member and Air Force veteran Chuck Conder and Department of California and Pacific Commander Dr. Wayne Eder.

Our next Camp meeting is on Saturday, 20 June, and the following day is Father's Day. My wife, Josie, and I plan to attend the National Encampment at Gettysburg from 30 July to 2 August, and be back in time for our camp meeting in August. In early September is the Huntington Beach Civil War Days, which we will discuss at our June camp meeting.

In October, we have officer elections and at our camp meeting in December we have our officer installation ceremony, which will be conducted by Department Commander Wayne Eder.

Thank you to all of you for all you do for Camp 18 and the SUVCW! Our camp could not accomplish the great things we do without your active support and the support of your family.

VR,

John M. Morris
Commander, Camp 18

----- Also, at the Memorial Day Service -----

Many Thanks to the following;

Brother Bodie for keeping the ceremonial music playing on time.

Color Guard Rudy Velasco, Matt Crowder PCC, Brian Stephens PCC, Benny White.

Opening remarks from Evergreen Historical Cemetery President Don Teagarden and Department Commander Wayne Eder and the Memorial Address from Camp Commander John Morris.

DUVCW Sister Meredith Teague and Brother Cameron Quinn for reciting Memorial poems.

Wreath presentations to the US Armed Forces Service flags;

US Army flag – Tent 97 Sister Sara Cochran, escort Brother Benny White.

US Marine Corps flag – Tent 97 Sister Cheryl Farris, escort Brother Larry Duncan.

US Navy flag – Susan Velasco, escort Rudy Velasco.

US Air Force flag – potential camp member Dave Jackson (US Air Force Vet), escort C. C. John Morris.

US Space Force flag – Tent 97 Sister Terrilee Wyatt, escort Brian Stephens PCC.

US Coast Guard flag – J.J. Cadkin, escort Matt Crowder PCC.

POW/MIA flag – DV Toni Rosales, escort Dept. Cmdr. Wayne Eder & Larry Duncan.

Continued on page 3, see Memorial Service,...

Memorial Service,...

The 2026 Camp 18 Memorial Day service concluded with the Benediction from Camp Chaplin Matt Crowder PCC and a Musket salute from Brothers Benny White, Matt Crowder PCC, Brian Stephens PCC and Larry Duncan.

Thank you to Everyone involved for this successful Camp 18 Memorial Service in front of an audience of about 40 guests.

April Camp Meeting

On April 18, this year, Stoneman Camp 18 held its 85th meeting since receiving our Charter in March 2011 and officially becoming a Camp within the SUVCW and the Department of California & Pacific.

The Charter was signed on March 4, 2011 by Commander-in-Chief and California’s own D. Brad Schall and signed again on March 12th by Department of California and Pacific Commander Charlie Mabie and issued to the Camp in 2011 at the 125th Department Encampment held in San Luis Obispo.

Camp Commander John Morris brought a cake to the April meeting to commemorate and celebrate 15 years of General Stoneman Camp 18’s existence.

Eight Camp Brothers attended the meeting and enjoyed some of the Camp’s birthday cake. Also attending the meeting and enjoying the celebration were Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Sophronia Bucklin Tent # 97 President Meredith Teague, Tent



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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Camp Commander, | John Morris |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr, | Steve Matthews |
| Jr. Vice Cmdr, | Joseph (Gene) Justin |
| 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 PDC |
| Graves Registration | Michael Emmett |
| Newsletter Editor | Rudy Velasco III |
| Patriotic Instructor | Benny White |
| 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



Photo above, from the left; Camp Cmdr. John Morris, Wayne Eder II, Dept. Cmdr. Wayne Eder, Rudy Velasco PDC, Burt Hogue, Larry Duncan Matt Crowder PCC, Bodie Crowder, Benny White (blue shirt & cap), Gene Justin, Tent 97 Sister Terrilee Wyatt and Tent President Meredith Teague.

Continued on page 4, see Celebration, ...

Celebration continued,

Treasurer Terrilee Wyatt, Department Commander Wayne & Suzette Eder and Camp 21 Brother Wayne Eder II.

During the celebration Department Commander Eder addressed the membership about recently becoming the Department Commander and talked about Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) officer promotions within the 6th Military District.

All in all, I believe a splendid time was had by all at the Camp's 15th birthday celebration.



JROTC Report

Camp 18 issued 3 JROTC award packages this during the 2026-year end ceremony season. We were not able to have any Camp members attend the ceremonies to help present the awards but the Unit Instructors are happy to present in our place.

Receiving SUVCW JROTC awards from Camp 18 this year were;

Marine Corps JROTC Cadet 1st Sgt. J. Glaser, Murrieta Valley High School.

Navy JROTC Cadet A. Gonzalez, West Valley High School.

Marine Corps JROTC Cadet Sgt. Major J. Martinez, Fontana High School.

Camp 18 is looking forward to awarding more deserving Cadets next year.

Over at the Sutler's Tent A Little Civil War Fiction? Or not?

Over at the Sutler's tent, I heard an infantryman telling a story about a group of giants. Well, feeling kinda low and thinking I could use a chuckle, I moved a little

-----Trivia answer -----

from page 1

In place of several cancellations, Major Henry Rathbone (an administrative officer) and his fiancée, Clara Harris (a senator's daughter) were Lincoln's companions.

When John Wilkes Booth entered the box to shoot the President, Rathbone attempted to stop him but was severely slashed in the arm with a dagger.

Rathbone survived his wound but was burdened by immense guilt, believing he should have done more to prevent Lincoln's death. He spent his later years in a German asylum after murdering his wife, Clara, in 1883. Consumed by guilt, he lived out his days institutionalized until his death in 1911.

closer to get a good listen.

Hoping it wasn't the Rotgut talking, I heard him say that Peter Kopp, a shoe cobbler from Bloomington, Indiana was over six feet tall.

Mr. Kopp had served in the French regular army, so he was already an experienced infantryman.

According to the story, in June of 1861, Peter was walking down the street when he met another monster of a man. David Van Buskirk was six feet, ten and one half inches tall and weighed three hundred and eighty pounds.

Kopp approached Buskirk with the idea of creating a company of only very tall soldiers to join the rapidly expanding Union Army and by the middle of July they had taken an ad in the Bloomington newspaper. "Raising a Company of Grenadiers for United States Service" the ad said.

They admitted no recruits under five feet, ten inches tall. We pity the poor Rebel upon whose neck the foot of Big Pete shall come down on with a vengeance.

The Company was composed of the largest men from every section of the state. Buskirk, the Second Lieutenant was a whale and most of the others were whales also, but a trifle smaller.

The Company quartermaster had a bit of trouble supplying clothes and shoes for the men, but he met the challenge by bundling up the issued articles which were too small and going around to

Continued on page 5, see Buskirk,

Buskirk continued,

neighboring units to try and exchange them for larger sizes.

On September 12th, 1861 the company of giants was mustered into the Union Army as Company F, of the soon to be famous 27th Indiana Infantry Regiment.

Company F and the 27th Indiana fought throughout the war and found themselves in critical battlefield positions on numerous occasions.

On the last day of the battle of Gettysburg, the regiment lost one third of its men in a glorious but suicidal charge up Culp's Hill.

The story came to an end with the "Big One" Buskirk being captured and spending four months in Richmond's Libby prison. Instead of losing weight while confined, he left prison weighing more than four hundred pounds.

Heads up

A couple of notes to keep in mind.

We will be discussing these items and more at the Camp's June 20 meeting at the Legion Post in Corona.

Huntington Beach Civil War Days Living History & Reenactment will take place on September 5 & 6 with early set up on Friday afternoon, Sept 4th. Maybe we can set up a Camp 18 display for Saturday 9/5/2026?

Camp Officer elections will be taking place at the Camp's October 17th meeting. The Camp is always looking for good and steady men to help run the Camp. On the job training available.

Camp 18's Veterans Day service will be held on Saturday 7 November at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside. This is shaping up to be a great joint service with Brothers from Camp 18 & Camp 21 participating along with some of our Daughters of Union Veterans Sisters from Sophronia Bucklin Tent 97.

Saturday, 5 December, Camp 18 will once again be collecting Toy for Tots and have some sort of Holiday lunch. Department Commander Wayne Eder will attend to install newly elected Camp Officers.

Avoid Conscription and Volunteer now

Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

2026 Calendar

June

Saturday 20th – Camp Meeting, Corona.

July

August

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

Saturday 15th – Camp meeting, Corona

September

October

Saturday 17 – Camp Meeting & Officer elections, Corona.

November

Saturday 7th -Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

December

Saturday 5th - Camp Holiday meeting & Toys for Tots & Officer Installation.

2027 Calendar

January

February

Saturday 6th - Lincoln Shrine Display, Redlands.

Saturday 20th - Camp Meeting. 10:00 am, Corona.

March

141st Annual Encampment, Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW. More info as it becomes available.

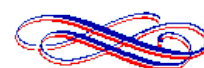
April

Sunday, 9th – 161st Anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Saturday 17th – Camp Meeting.

May

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





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