

Stoneman Dispatch

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Of the Inland Empire, Department of California and Pacific

Recipient of the Joseph S. Rippey award, "Best New Camp" 2011

Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award, "Best Camp Level Newsletter" 2026

Email: camp18@suvpac.org Web: www.suvpac.org/camp18.html

Volume 17, No.5, September, 2026

Attention Company!

A message from the Camp Commander

To my Camp 18 Brothers!

The past three months have been very busy. Brother Rudy Velasco, Brother Larry Duncan and I participated in the 4th of July Flag-Raising Ceremony at Fort Moore in Los Angeles, commemorating the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence! Thank you Rudy and Larry for a job well-done!

From 30 July to 2 August, Brother Gene Justin and I, along with my wife, Josie, attended the 145th National Encampment at Gettysburg, PA. It was a great experience for me, and Josie and I thoroughly enjoyed the tour of the Gettysburg battlefield on 30 July. Josie and I plan to attend the 146th National Encampment in 2027 which should be held in Nashville, TN.

On 5 September, Brothers Rudy Velasco, Gene Justin and I, along with my wife, Josie, set-up our camp booth at the Huntington Beach Civil War Days event. We had great interaction with the crowd, showing them our displayed items and weapons and educating them on the military service of our ancestors, "The Boys in Blue!" We also enjoyed the Civil War battles accomplished by the Union and Confederate reenactors. Brother Larry Duncan was also present, setting up his medical booth as "Dr. Malarkey" and educating the

public on the medical issues experienced by both Union and Confederate armies in the Civil War. Great job, Larry!

Continued on page 2, see Commander

Tentative Camp Calendar

Saturday, October 10 – Camp Cmdr. John Morris' presentation on the Underground Railroad at the **Sophonria Bucklin Tent 97**, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War business meeting at the **A.K. Smiley Public Library, 125 W. Vine St, Redlands. More info on page 2- "See Bucklin Tent 97."**

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

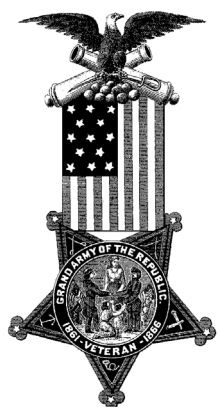
Saturday, October 24 – Headstone cleaning with Pittenger Camp 21 at Fallbrook Odd Fellows Pioneer Cemetery – **1300 Alturas Rd. Fallbrook, CA. 92028. 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Saturday, November 7 – Camp 18 Veterans Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside. Service begins at 10:00 a.m. Participants please arrive by 9:00 a.m. for a quick run-through. More info at the October Camp meeting.

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

Saturday, Feb. 7 – Camp 18 display at the Lincoln Shrine Open House in Redlands, 10:00am – 4:00 pm.

Saturday, Feb. 20 – Camp 18 business meeting, American Legion Post 216, Corona. 10:00 a.m.



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

Commander, continued from page 1

The next three months will be busy as well. For the month of October, we will conduct our annual officer elections on Saturday morning, 17 October. The following Saturday, 24 October, we will join Camp 21 to clean 16 Civil War headstones in Odd Fellows Pioneer Cemetery in Fallbrook. In November, we have our annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday morning, 7 November, in conjunction with Camp 21 and Sophronia Bucklin Tent #97, DUVCW. In December, we have our camp meeting on Saturday morning, 5 December. Department Commander Wayne Eder will attend our meeting and install our newly elected camp officers. We will also collect and turn-in our toy donations to the Corona Fire Department to help needy families as part of the Corona City "Spark of Love" Christmas donation campaign as well as have our annual Christmas luncheon during our camp meeting. Brothers, please do not spend more than \$25.00 on the gifts for donations, as everything these days is getting more expensive, do only what you can. Thank you!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your selfless commitment in participating in our camp activities. We have a very active camp and are able to accomplish a lot of important events and ceremonies because of all of you. Josie and I are very grateful to be part of Camp 18 and it has been an honor serving as your Camp Commander for the past two years.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

John M. Morris, Commander
Gen. George Stoneman Jr., Camp 18

Sophronia Bucklin Tent 97 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War

We have been invited to attend the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Tent 97 meeting next month on **Saturday, October 10th**, at the AK Smiley Library next to the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands, featuring Camp 18 Commander John Morris speaking about his GGG Grand Parents who were conductors in the Underground Railroad. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. **Period attire welcomed!**

Please email RSVP to Tent 97 Secretary Susan Davalos at: susandavalos@icloud.com
by Thursday, October 1, 2026.

-----Annual Membership Dues-----

Don't panic, this is just an advance notice or a "Heads Up" that membership dues notices will be mailed out to all members in November and hopefully have everyone paid up by January 31, 2027.

Oh My **Gosh!** Did I really say 2027? Where does the time GO?-----



Welcome New Brother!

Welcome to Camp 18 Brother Randall Evans of Murrieta who was Initiated at the Camp's August 15th meeting.

Brother Evans joins Camp 18 and the Sons of Union

Veterans of the Civil War honoring the Union Army Civil War service of his Great-Great Grandfather Lewis C. Evans, Private in the 8th Kentucky Cavalry, Company M.

Private Evans served from 28 July, 1862 to Muster out on 17 September 1863 and Honorably discharged from Union service.

Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah!



Brother Randall Evans, above right, during his Initiation with Camp Chaplain Matt Crowder.



Constitution Day Commemoration

Report submitted by Camp Commander John Morris

On 17 September, Company A, 1st California Cavalry (dismounted) Headquarters Guard, 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve provided a Color Guard team and the guest and main speakers for the Constitution Day Ceremony at the Hemet San Jacinto Masonic Lodge #338 in Hemet, CA.

The Color Guard team consisted of the following members: from Camp 18 were Brothers Rudy Velasco and Benny White armed with muskets and providing the armed escort for the flag carriers of Brother Larry Duncan, carrying the American Flag Brother Gene Justin carrying the Department of California and Pacific Flag. Wayne Eder II carried the 6th Military District SVR flag.

The Color Guard presented the Colors for The National Anthem, then posted the Colors and then I led the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, I introduced Maj Gen John Gray Foster (portrayed by Department of California and Pacific Commander Dr. Wayne Eder) who gave an outstanding presentation on how the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution were tied to the Civil War and the courageous role and service of the U.S. Colored Regiments in the Civil War.



Department Commander Wayne Eder as General Foster at the ceremony.



In the photo above, attending Brothers of both General Stoneman Camp 18 and Sergeant Pittenger Camp 21 are, from the left; Mark Goodman Camp 21, Ethan Maxon Camp 21, John Morris Camp 18, Gene Justin Camp 18, Ben Goodman Camp 21, Wayne Eder II & Dept. Cmdr. Wayne Eder Camp 21, Larry Duncan Camp 18, Benny White Camp 18, Steve Circo Camp 21 and Rudy Velasco Camp 18.



*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 left; Brother Gene Justin and Camp Commander John Morris at the Encampment in Gettysburg. Above Center, from the left; Out Going Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker, Josie Morris and CC John Morris. Above right; Brother Rudy Velasco PDC holding the Marshall Hope Newsletter award certificate while Camp Commander John Morris holds the accompanying award ribbon at the August 15th Camp meeting.

145th National Encampment Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

A report by Camp Commander John Morris

Brother Gene Justin and I, along with my wife, Josie, attended the 145th National Encampment at Gettysburg, PA. from 30 July to 2 August.

Gene, Josie and I went on the guided bus tour of the Gettysburg battlefield on the morning of 30 July and were able to see all three major areas of the battlefield as it was fought over by the Union and Confederate forces from 1-3 July 1863. The actual encampment began on Friday morning, 31 July with the opening ceremony and memorial service, followed by a full day of meetings and discussions.

On Saturday morning, 2 August, Gene and I attended the SVR breakfast where Brother Wayne Eder was promoted by Brig Gen Darby to the rank of Lt Col as Commander of the 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Later that morning, during the awards ceremony, Camp 18 was selected for the Marshall Hope Award as having "The Best Camp-level Newsletter in the Order from 2025-2026". As the author and editor of our camp newsletter, Rudy Velasco was truly the award winner! Congratulations and most well-deserved, Brother Rudy!

The rest of the encampment meeting that afternoon was national elections. That evening, Brother Gene, Josie and I attended the National Encampment dinner. We had a very nice time! Josie and I look forward to attending the 146th National Encampment at Nashville, TN, next year.

There were approximately 275 SUVCW Brothers attending the 145th National Encampment this year and 15 from the Department of California and Pacific. Our Department usually has a pretty good turn out at the annual National Encampments.

Newly elected Top National officers are, Commander-in-Chief Daniel Murray from the Department of New Hampshire, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Robert Payne Department of Michigan and Junior Vise Commander-in-Chief Dave Hann Department of New Jersey.

Huntington Beach Civil War Days Camp Display

On Saturday, September 5th, Camp 18 set up an information table and GAR/SUVCW display at the Huntington Beach Civil War reenactment in Central Park.

John Morris and Rudy Velasco met at the park on Friday afternoon to pick out a spot for the Camp's display and dropped off a few big items needed for the display. Both arriving early Saturday morning to finish the setup, everything was in place for the park's opening at 9:00 a.m. Brother Gene Justin arrived about that time to help with the display.

Continued on page 5, see Display

Display continued,

Next to Camp 18's setup were displays by SUVCW Rosecrans Camp #2 (Los Angeles), Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 (Orange County), Auxiliary to SUVCW Tent #2, also the Drum Barracks and Inland Empire Civil War Round Table had displays at the reenactment. Camp 18 Brother Larry Duncan (a.k.a. Dr. Malarky) had his Civil War medical tent set up to impress the public. As usual, there were many interested people asking questions about the GAR & Civil War items and a few inquiries about SUVCW membership were made.

There was a lot of interest generated by our poster advertising the Special Edition Henry 1860 SUV Eagle 44-40 rifle. More about this new collectable rifle from the SUVCW/Henry Firearms at the October meeting and in the next issue of the Stoneman Dispatch.

At the end of the day, Camp 18 closed the display and packed everything up as rain was forecast for all day Sunday. We had such a good time, I believe we will be back to Huntington Beach Next year.



Above from the left; Camp Cmdr. John Morris, Camp Jr. Vice Cmdr. Gene Justin and Rudy Velasco at the reenactment display

Camp Officer Election Meeting

We will hold Camp Officer elections at the October 17th meeting in Corona. Please come and vote. We may have to start soon with a New Slate of Camp Officers so if you are interested in becoming an officer of the Camp, please let your intentions be known.

Ask not what your Camp can do for you – ask what you can do for your Camp.

Camp Annual Calendar

general idea/dates may change

2026 Calendar

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.

Possible headstone cleaning event at Evergreen Cemetery, Riverside.

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.

June

Saturday, 19 – Camp Business meeting, Corona.

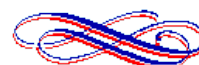
July

August

146th SUVCW National Encampment.

Saturday 21 – Camp Business meeting, Corona

September





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