



*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Vol 26 No. 1

First Quarter 2025

## **December Meeting**

Today was the Camp Meeting and the Officers were Installed for 2025. We had the honor of two very special guests, Department Commander Stephen Doyle and PCinC Tad Campbell.

Following the Meeting, we all enjoyed a wonderful meal together.



L-R:  
Back Row. Steve Unwin, PCC John Keenan, Doug Wright, CC Mark Goodman, PCC/Chaplain Tom Helmantoler, DC Stephen Doyle, PCinC Tad Campbell, Tina Campbell, PDC Jerry Sayre, SVC Fred Hall, Dimas Lovato.  
L-R: Front Row. Jack Bruzas, Christine Keenan, Colleen Keenan.



CC Mark Goodman awarding SVC Fred Hall a Certificate of Commendation.



L-R:  
PCC/Chaplain Tom Helmantoler, CC Mark Goodman, DC Stephen Doyle, PCinC Tad Campbell, PDC

## 2024 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander ..... Mark Goodman  
mark.goodman@gcccd.edu

Sr. Vice Commander ..... Fred Hall  
(619) 890-4500 fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Jr. Vice Commander ..... Tim Sapanara  
timsapanara@hotmail.com  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... John A. May  
2001 Lee Ct. Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763  
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

Councilman ..... Tom Helmantoler  
thelmantoler@gmail.com

Councilman ..... John Keenan  
keenanja@aol.com

Councilman ..... Mike Schooling  
suvmike@yahoo.com

Chaplain ..... Thomas E. Helmantoler, PCC  
E-mail: thelmantoler@gmail.com

Counselor ..... Vacant

Patriotic Instructor ..... Vacant

CW Mem. Officer ..... Vacant

Eagle Scout Coord ..... John Keenan PCC  
keenanja@aol.com

Graves Registration ..... John A. May  
E-mail: cbadjohnny@gmail.com

Color Bearer ..... Vacant

Guide ..... Vacant

Guard ..... Vacant

Historian .... Clay Hoffman: clay.hoffman312@gmail.com

Quartermaster ..... Vacant

Signals Officer ..... Vacant

SVR Rep. .... Fred Hall  
(619) 890-4500 fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor ..... Ron Sheehan  
619-990-3527 ronsheehan@me.com

THE GENERAL is the official newsletter of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It's published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It's also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from The General with attribution. Brief articles are invited and most appreciated: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space

CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of The General and The Banner.

CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY. If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to John A. May  
2001 Lee Ct. Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763  
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE(SVR) is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You need not be a re-enactor to join. Annual dues are \$10.00. Interested SUVCW Brothers should contact the SVP Rep Fred Hall  
(619) 890-4500 fghall4sd@hotmail.com

## April Meeting At William Pittenger Church

Today, Pittenger Camp 21 held their Camp Meeting at the Church where Sgt. William Pittenger, Medal of Honor Recipient preached in Fallbrook.

Originally the Church was a Methodist Episcopal and now it is the First Christian Church of Fallbrook.

Great Meeting today with 9 Brothers in attendance.  
Doing it for the "Boys in Blue" and you too!!



Pictured L-R  
Brother Dimas Lovato, Newsletter Editor Ron Sheehan, Secretary/Treasurer John May,  
Chaplain/PCC Tom Helmantoler, Camp Historian Clay Hoffman, Jerry Sayre PDC,  
SVC Fred Hall, John Keenan PCC, Camp Commander Mark Goodman

# Burial Ceremony of Charles Schroeter.

Dear Brothers,

At the most recent Department Encampment, SVR Commanding Major, Wayne Eder, spoke to a problem that may need our attention. There is a sad fact that few know about. There are Veterans whose cremains are left on a shelf when no one picks them up to be buried. The case of Charles Schroeter is illustrative.

Schroeter, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, was forgotten and left on a shelf for more than 90 years, and was only found when a search for him in a cemetery was unsuccessful. Pittenger Camp 21 was involved in his burial ceremony at Mira Mar National Cemetery in 2015.

Dozens of Veterans are forgotten each year in crematoriums across the country. It may be because they were the last of their family or no immediate family at all.

It falls to us to be an advocate for forgotten Veterans. A small bit of research may make the difference for our Veterans to see to it that they receive the honors they deserve.

Major Eder has challenged us to contact local crematoriums and check for forgotten Veterans, and do the research necessary to confirm that they are a Veteran. Then when found, contact local cemeteries and military to move forward on this important work to lay them to rest.

I remain, your Obedient Servant, in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Jerry Sayre PDC



# 139th Annual Department Encampment of the SUVCW

I would like to first start out by Thanking and Honoring your National Commander in Chief Kevin Martin and his lovely wife, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the SUVCW Rosemary Martin for traveling all the way across the country from Maryland to attend the Department Encampment of CA & Pacific. Having them here was such a special treat.



I would like to first start out by Thanking and Honoring your National Commander in Chief Kevin Martin and his lovely wife, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the SUVCW Rosemary Martin for traveling all the way across the country from Maryland to attend the Department Encampment of CA & Pacific. Having them here was such a special treat.



Following the Banquet Dinner, the Department had a Guest Speaker get off the train, straight out of the 1860's... Major General John G. Foster, who came to address the Ladies and Gentlemen in attendance.

I for one, found his entire speech to not only be extremely moving, but also the most unique in how he addressed a number of the Brothers in the Department.

Major General Foster brought messages directly from the Brother's Union Ancestors in Heaven, to the Brothers in attendance... It was so touching, I just loved the uniqueness he brought in his words and actions. Certainly the most thought out speech I have seen and enjoyed so much!!

Thank You Commanding Major General Wayne Eder of the 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Your Leadership is inspiring... It is my sincere hope that Major General John G. Foster will be able to grace Pit-tenger Camp 21 with an appearance and some words to the Camp sometime in the near future when time allows.

# Medal of Honor Day Oddfellows Cemetery

Wow, what an incredibly awesome Medal of Honor Day Ceremony!! Photo below...

Today Pittenger Camp 21 came together at Sgt. William Pittenger's gravesite to Honor all the Men and one Woman who received the Nations highest Award, the Medal of Honor.

The Camp had the added pleasure of welcoming guests Phil Cains PCC from General W.S. Rosecrans Camp 2 and his wife Melinie Cains, Department Auxillary President of CA & Pacific of the SUVCW.

My heart is touched by the 14 Pittenger Camp Brothers who attended this Ceremony on a Tuesday!! What an absolute outstanding turnout!!

Thank you to our dear friends Phil and Melinie Cains for making the drive down from LA to be a part of this special day... You two made it Super Special by joining us!! Thank you...

Thank you also to Brother Garrett Keenan for flying in all the way from New York to attend...

Thank you to Brother Tom Anderson, Brother Garrett Keenan, and Brother Dimas Lovato for wearing your Proud Descendent of a Union Veteran Tee Shirts. You look great!!

Thank you Kevin Leahy for once again singing your beautiful rendition of God Bless America...

Thank you Jack Bruzas for always showing up, even at your tender age of 94... You Sir are such an inspiration on how to stay young.

Thank you each and every Brother who put together such wonderful speeches filled with heroic stories of these brave men and why they received the Medal of Honor.

How nice it is to be with such a great group of Men who know how bring honor to all those who have worn the uniform, and keeping Alive the Memory of the "Boys in Blue".

Today was a good day filled with friendship and camaraderie...

A job well done...



PSVC Doug Wright, Dimas Lovato, Terry Moxley, Tom Anderson, CC Mark Goodman, PCC Phil Cains, Department Auxillary President of CA & Pacific Melinie Cains, PDC Jerry Sayre, Jack Bruzas, SVC Fred Hall, Newsletter Editor Ron Sheehan, Clay Hoffman, Kevin Leahy.

# Service for Major O'Donovan at Mira Mar National Cemetery.

Dear Brothers,

I'm thrilled to share the great news that my grandfather's long-lost remains have been identified. As a descendant of two Union veterans, he would have enjoyed the fellowship of the SUVCW.

We will be holding a committal service with military honors, and I would be honored by your presence.

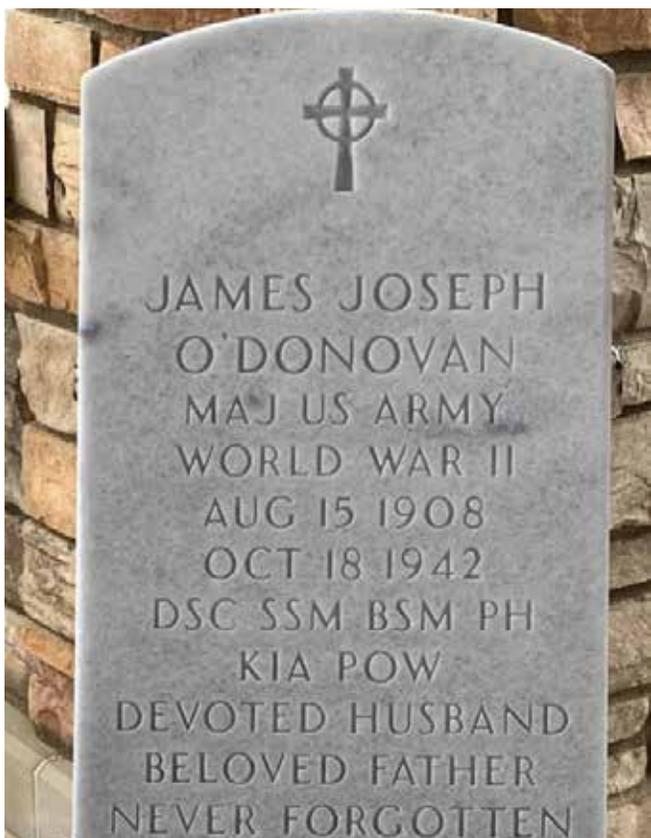
Respectfully,  
Steve Unwin



Brother Dimas Lovato, PDC Stephen Doyle (Camp 18), PCC/Chaplain Tom Helmantoler, Newsletter Editor Ron Sheehan, SCV Adjutant/SVC Fred Hall, Secretary/Treasure John May, PDC Jerry Sayre, PSVC Doug Wright, Brother Terry Moxley, PCC John Keenan.



(Above) Army honor guard at Major O'Donovan funeral. (Below) Tombstone and Brother Steve Unwin.

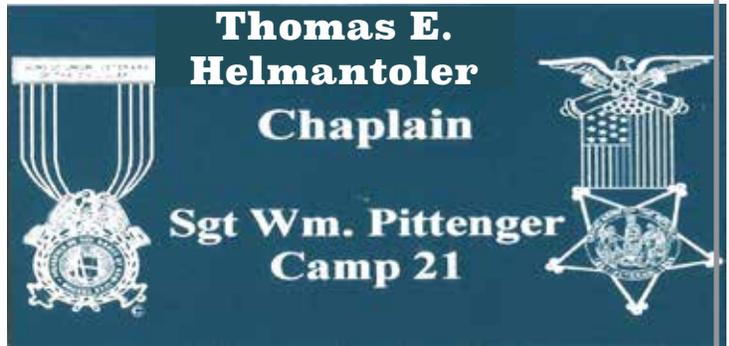


**NEXT MEETING: June ?, at 9:30am**  
**VFW Hall 7785 Othello Avenue, San Diego 92111**

### Membership Badge

If you have not yet ordered your SUVCW Membership Badge, now is a good time to do so if you are able.

This Membership Badge along with your Camp Name Tag, are encouraged for All to wear at every Camp Meeting and all Camp Events.



### Name Tag

If you would like to order a Pittenger Camp 21 Name Badge, please email Jerry Sayre PDC at: [cod26ia@icloud.com](mailto:cod26ia@icloud.com) with the following information:

- 1) Your Name as you would like it engraved.
  - 2) Camp Office title added if you are holding an Office Position and would like that on your Name Badge. (This could change from year to year).
  - 3) Specify if you prefer a Pin Clasp or Magnet on the back.
- Once this information is received, you will get a return e-mail with information on where to mail your check for \$15.00.  
Checks should be made out to Jerry Sayre.

## The General



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21  
Ron Sheehan, Newsletter Editor  
2867 Dove St.  
San Diego, CA 92103

Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue" 1861-1865