



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

Vol 27 No. 2

2026

February 14th Camp 21 Meeting



Pictured in front of Sgt. William Pittenger's Church (L-R)

Tom Helmantoler PCC, John May Secretary/Treasure, Mark Goodman PCC, Larry Stolinski SVC, Dimas Lovato, Clay Hoffman-Camp Historian, Jerry Sayre PDC, Dr. Wayne Eder-6th Military District Commanding Major, Wayne Eder II, Guest Herb Dackeramann, Ron Sheehan-Newsletter Editor, Ethan Maxon, Doug Wright PSVC, and Fred Hall CC.

2025 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander Fred Hall, CC
fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Sr. Vice Commander..... Larry Stolinski, SVC
Navychiefmn@yahoo.com

Jr. Vice Commander..... Jerry Sayre, PDC
cod26ia@icloud

Secretary/Treasurer John A. May, PCC
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cbadjohnny@gmail.com

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Councilman John Keenan, PCC
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Councilman Jerry Sayre, PDC
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Eagle Scout Coord..... John Keenan PCC
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Newsletter Editor..... Ron Sheehan
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 \$5.00. Interested SUVCW Brothers should contact the SVP Rep Fred Hall, CC
fghall4sd@hotmail.com

Camp 21 Calendar for 2026

APRIL

11th - Big Day of Fun "Everything Pittenger Tour" at 9:00
Tour starts at the Fallbrook Historical Society - Pittenger House.
1730 South Hill Ave. Fallbrook, CA 92028

11th -12:00 noon "Meet and Greet Luncheon With Bran Quinlin"
followed by Camp Meeting.
Fellowship Hall

MAY

23rd MEMORIAL DAY (TBD)

JUNE

13th CAMP MEETING 10:00 am
VFW Post 3788, 7785 Othello Ave, San Diego, CA 92111.

JULY

4th Independence Day 250 Anniversary
July 4th - 149th Anniversary of the Fort Moore flag raising at 10 AM.
(Formally Camp Benning)
451 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

18th USS BENNINGTON MEMORIAL
Rosecrans National Cemetery
1700 Cabrillo Memorial Dr, San Diego, CA 9210

30th – Aug 2nd National Encampment, Gettysburg, PA

AUGUST

8th MEETING 10:00 am
VFW Post 3788, 7785 Othello Ave, San Diego, CA 92111.

BLUE/GRAY BBQ (date to be decided)

SEPTEMBER

5th-6th Huntington Beach Civil War Days Pittenger Camp 21 Has A
Booth. HB Central Park - On Gothard between Slater and Talbert.

OCTOBER

10th Camp Meeting & Officer Elections 10:00 am
First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 318 West Fig St. Fallbrook,
CA

NOVEMBER

7th @ 9:00 am Joint Camp Veteran's Day Ceremony
Camp 18 & Camp 21
Evergreen Memorial Park: 4414 14th St, Riverside, CA 92501

14th REMEMBRANCE DAY, Saturday, at 1:00
Fallbrook Pittenger House, 1730 South Hill Ave
Fallbrook, CA 92028

DECEMBER

5th Camp Meeting and Officer Installation/Dinner To Follow.
1pm Location to follow.

February 14th Camp 21 Meeting Continued:

140th Department Encampment

The Department of CA & Pacific has just ended their 140th Department Encampment.



The Camp presented Mark with a beautiful plaque with thanks for his outstanding job as Camp Commander from 2023-2025.

Photo: Mark Goodman PCC.



Congratulations to your new Department Commander, Dr. Wayne Eder!! Also a Camp 21 member.

New Member

The Brothers in the Camp welcomed Ethan Maxon as their newest Camp Brother.

Fun fact, Jerry Sayre PDC and Ethan Maxon are 8th cousins once removed!!



Pictured (L-R)
Jerry Sayre PDC, Ethan Maxon, Fred Hall CC.



Fred Hall CC (Camp 21), Dr. Wayne Eder DC (Camp 31/21), Jimmie Bodenhamer PCC (Camp 31), Robert Mayer PCC/DJVC (Camp 24), Scott McKee PCC (Camp 17), David J. Perdue CC (Camp 25).

**Sons of Veterans Reserve
6th Military District
General Order 2026-04
Officer & Senior NCO Promotions
March 10, 2026**

The Commanding Major of the 6th Military District SVR has the honor to authorize the promotion of the following 6th MD Officers and Senior NCO's..

1. ***1st Sergeant Jerry Sayre PDC (Retired Captain/Unit Commander) of Co. G, 5th CA Infantry*** is hereby reinstated to the rank of ***Captain*** as a 6th MD SVR ***Staff Officer - Medal of Honor Coordinator***. This is a new position, based on the needs of the 6th MD SVR. In this capacity, ***Captain Sayre*** will coordinate and assist in documentation of ***ALL*** Medal of Honor recipients within the 6th MD SVR. Captain Sayre will report directly to the Commander of the 6th MD SVR, and work closely with District Staff Officers and Unit Commanders as the district honors all Medal of Honor recipients. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.
2. ***1st Lt. John Morris of Co. A, 1st CA Cavalry (Dismounted) Headquarters Guard***, is hereby promoted to the rank of ***Captain***. This promotion is pursuant to the Sons of Veterans Reserve Regulations, (2025) Article V - *Company Headquarters*, Section 6 - Rank Distribution (Over 31 Members). ***Captain Morris*** will coordinate all ***Headquarters Guard*** activities as directed by the Commander of the 6th MD SVR.
3. ***Corporal, Glenn Martin of Battery H, 3rd US Artillery*** is hereby promoted to the rank of ***2nd Lieutenant*** effective this date. This promotion is pursuant to the Sons of Veterans Reserve Regulations, (2025) Article V - *Company Headquarters*, Section 6 - Rank Distribution (Over 31 Members). ***2nd Lieutenant Martin*** will serve both with his unit, and have separate staff duties based on his experience and the needs of the district. ***2nd Lt. Martin*** will serve as the 6th MD SVR ***Artillery Coordinator***, and is hereby assigned to coordinate artillery activities, safety testing of battery members, and other related duties as assigned by the Commander of the 6th MD SVR. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.
4. ***Private James "Kirby" Hitt of Company A, 1st CA Cavalry (Dismounted) Headquarters Guard*** is hereby promoted to the rank of ***2nd Lieutenant*** effective this date. This promotion is pursuant to the Sons of Veterans Reserve Regulations, (2025) Article V - *Company Headquarters*, Section 6 - Rank Distribution (Over 31 Members). ***2nd Lieutenant Hitt*** will have separate staff duties based on his experience and the needs of the district. ***2nd Lt. Hitt*** will serve on *Detached Service* as the 6th MD SVR - ***Liaison Officer*** and is hereby assigned to coordinate all joint unit activities within the Department of California & the Pacific. In this capacity, 2nd Lt. Hitt will report directly to the 6th MD SVR Commander. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.
5. ***Corporal David Perdue of Battery A, 3rd US Artillery*** is hereby promoted to the rank of ***2nd Lieutenant*** in that company. This promotion is pursuant to the Sons of Veterans

Reserve Regulations, (2025) Article V - *Company Headquarters*, Section 6 - Rank Distribution (Over 31 Members). **2nd Lieutenant Perdue** will command the Batteries Section "B", located in Reno, NV. He will report directly to the Commanding Officer of Battery A, and manage all artillery activities in Northern Nevada. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.

6. **1st Sergeant, Jimmie Bodenhamer of Battery A, 3rd US Artillery** is hereby promoted to the rank of **Master Sergeant - Assistant PIO, 6th MD SVR Staff**, effective this date. This promotion is pursuant to the needs of the district due to a large increase in the number of members (in excess of 250). Master Sergeant Bodenhamer will report to the existing **PIO, 1st Lieutenant Randy Fletcher**. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.
7. **Corporal Rudy Velasco of Co. A, 1st CA Cavalry (Dismounted) Headquarters Guard**, is hereby promoted to the rank of **1st Sergeant**. This promotion is pursuant to the Sons of Veterans Reserve Regulations, (2025) Article V - *Company Headquarters*, Section 6 - Rank Distribution (Over 31 Members). **1st Sergeant Velasco** will serve as Second in Command of the Company, reporting directly to the Captain as the 2nd Lieutenant is on detached service to the 6th MD Staff. He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.
8. **Private Lawrence Stolinski of Company G, 5th CA Infantry** is hereby promoted to the rank of **1st Sergeant - Recruiting/Advertising** effective this date. This promotion is pursuant to the needs of the district due to a large increase in the number of members (in excess of 250) and the district goal of reaching 300 members by the 2027 reporting period. **1st Sergeant Stolinski** will report to the existing **PIO, 1st Lieutenant Randy Fletcher** and will specifically be responsible for supporting the district's advertising, recruiting, and social media campaign(s) He will serve in this capacity through March 2028.

All officers and NCO's will continue in their assigned roles in the 6th MD, serving the fifteen (15) Western States and eleven units in the district with in excess of 250 members. Each Officer and NCO serves at the pleasure of the Commander of the 6th MD SVR.

By Order of:

Wayne L. Eder DC

Dr. Wayne L. Eder DC
6th MD Commanding Major

Attest:

Fred Hall
Fred Hall PCC
Captain, 6th MD
Adjutant

Notes from our Historian
Clay Hoffman

Major General Matthew Calbraith Butler

Born in Greenville, South Carolina on March 8, 1836, Matthew Butler was both an American and Confederate military officer, an attorney, and a prominent South Carolina politician. Both his father and paternal grandfathers were U.S. Congressmen, and his mother, Jane Tweed Perry, was a sister of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and Matthew Calbraith Perry, both historic naval officers of the War of 1812. Among Matthew Butler's first cousins was U.S. Congressman Preston Brooks, who infamously assaulted Senator Charles Sumner with a cane in 1856 on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

As a young man, Matthew Butler studied law at South Carolina College and was admitted to the bar in 1857. Elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1860, he resigned when the Civil War began, and served in the cavalry of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. He was promoted to the rank of captain on June 12, 1861, and to colonel a year later. At the Battle of Brandy Station in June 1863, he lost his right foot to an artillery shell, and was subsequently appointed a brigadier general.

In 1864, General Butler led a brigade in Wade Hampton's division of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. When Hampton took command of that corps, Butler became division commander. He later was transferred to the Carolinas and was wounded at the Battle of Bentonville in March 1865.

Following the Civil War, a financially bankrupt Butler resumed his legal career, and was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. A member of the Democratic Party, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor of South Carolina in 1870. After the end of Reconstruction, the Democrats regained control of the state, and the South Carolina legislature elected Butler to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1877 to 1895.

He practiced law in Washington, D.C. for a few years, before being named a major general of volunteers during the Spanish-American War in 1898. He was among a small number of Confederates --- including Fitzhugh Lee, Thomas Rosser and Joseph Wheeler --- to serve in the U.S. Army during the war. He later supervised the evacuation of Spanish troops from Cuba.

In 1899, Butler became a Companion of the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States. He was also vice president of the Southern Historical Society, and later moved to Mexico, where he served as president of a mining company. General Butler died in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1909 and was buried at the Willow Brook Cemetery of Edgefield, South Carolina.

(By Clay Hoffman)

**“Everything Pittenger Tour”
and “Meet and Greet Luncheon”
With Camp Brother and Guest Speaker
Brad Quinlin.**

I have placed two maps below to help you navigate the “Everything Pittenger Tour” which starts promptly at 9:00 at the Fallbrook Historical Society.

Everyone will meet in the parking lot and will be split into smaller groups by the Docents to be shown both the Pittenger House and Museum with Pittenger’s items.

When driving on Rocky Crest up to the Fallbrook Historical Society, there is a short stretch of road that is not maintained and has big pot holes, just drive slow and around them.

While we all will be following one another in cars after leaving the Historical Society, I want to be sure you have a map in case you get stopped at a red light.

We would like to keep everyone in one place at a time and I am excited to take lots of photos to remember and share our day together. □

Dress is comfortable and casual. Please wear flat shoes, because the Cemetery is dirt and uneven ground in some spots. Also, watch out for any gopher holes.

*****If you haven’t already done so...*****
PLEASE-RSVP-ASAP if you will be joining us so I can add you name to the ever growing Guest List before I have to cap it off...

We are getting very close to maximum capacity now... It is so wonderful the amount of interest for our wonderful day together!!

Remember, there are 3 Parts to this fun day... You select which option works best for you... 1, 2, or 3.

#1. Attending just the “Everything Pittenger Tour” - Begins at 9:00 At The Fallbrook Historical Society, Then Pittenger’s Gravesite, Then Pittenger’s Church.

#2. Attending the “Everything Pittenger Tour” and “Meet and Greet Luncheon” With Camp Brother and Guest Speaker Brad Quinlin. 12:00 - Fellowship Hall at Pittenger’s Church.

#3. Attending just the “Meet and Greet Luncheon” With Camp Brother and Guest Speaker Brad Quinlin.

Thank you all so much for your prompt replies... So appreciated!!

1st Stop: Fallbrook Historical Society - 1730 S Hill Ave, Fallbrook, CA 92028

2nd Stop: Fallbrook Odd Fellows Pioneer Cemetery - 1300 Alturas Rd, Fallbrook, CA 92028 (Entrance Gate is on West Clemens Lane.)

3rd Stop: Fallbrook First Christian Church - 318 W Fig St, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Brad Quinlin



Brad was born in Monmouth Illinois. Moved to Indianapolis, Indiana at age 6. At 13 years of age moved to Massachusetts. In 1982 he moved with his family to Georgia. Brad has always loved the study of American History. Moving to Georgia he took the path to study the American Civil War. He has been a reen-

actor for 33 years, worked on 32 movies and TV Shows. He was a background artist in Glory, Gettysburg, Andersonville, and an actor in the TV show Perfect Tribute. On the TV show "Who do you think you are" he showed the actor Matthew Broderick the last three days of his gr-gr-grandfathers life. Robert Martindale of the 20th Connecticut infantry was killed July 23, 1864 near Atlanta. Brad showed Matthew where Robert is buried in the Marietta National Cemetery. Brad also was the research advisor on 3 more Who do You think you are shows. Brad was the lead researcher and advisor for the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield film called "One last mountain" the film has now received 3 awards. Brad was a researcher on the TV documentary "The untold story of the Civil War". He also worked as an advisor for the National Geographic show "Diggers" Brad is a master volunteer for the National Park Service with over 10,000 hours of Volunteer work..... His research is being used in the new exhibits for the new Cyclorama building of the Atlanta History Center and Brad has researched 2 new way-side exhibits for Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield National Park.

For 12 years Brad worked with Ron Shadrack, and for 4 years with General B.B. Bell to get the Medal of Honor for Perry Shadrack and George Wilson of Andrews Raid 1862, and they were approved and presented to the families on July 3, 2024.

Brad has written or co-written 25 books on the American Civil war. By the end of 2021 Brad and 2 of his friends will have 5 historical books finished for the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage center. Brads work is being used in 5 museums across the United States. Brad gives tours of Americas battlefields to people from across the world.

Brad has been on the Marietta Cemetery Memorial committee for 8 years and has worked on the Wreaths across America programs for Marietta National Cemetery for 19 years. Brad has been Married for 50 years and has two boys and now 7 grandchildren.

Medal Of Honor Day

Pittenger Camp 21 held their Annual Medal of Honor Day Ceremony at Sgt. William Pittenger's gravesite.

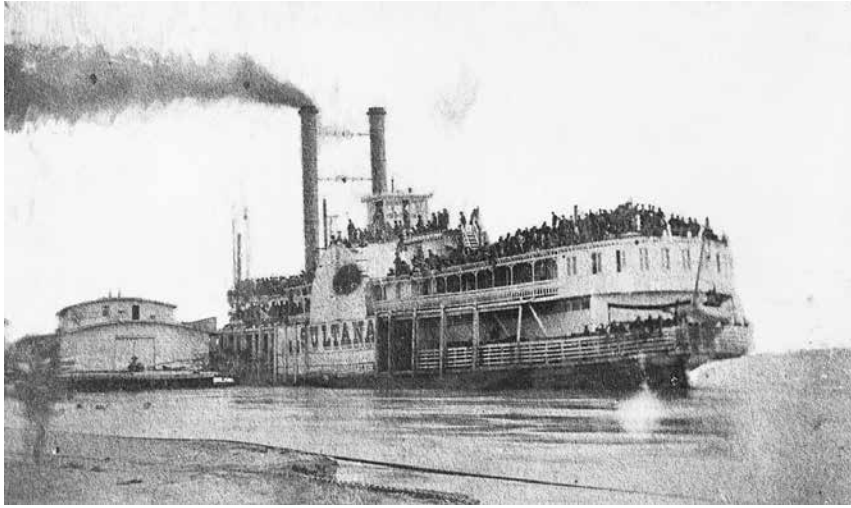


Pictured (L-R)
Brian Bingham, Stephen Circo, Kevin Leahy, Mark Goodman PCC, Doug Wright PSVC, Tom Helmantoler PCC/Chaplain, Nathan Apodaca, Kirby Hitt PI, Jerry Sayre PDC, Commander Tim Kirk Retired USMC VFW Post 1924, John Keenan PCC, Dimas Lovato, Clay Hoffman Camp Historian.

The Titanic of the Mississippi

On April 27, 1865, the side-wheel steamboat *Sultana* exploded and sank on the Mississippi River, taking the lives of 1,164 souls, with the majority being Union Army soldiers. The tragedy was overshadowed in the press by the events surrounding the end of the Civil War, including the killing of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, the previous day.

Under the command of Captain James Cass Mason, *Sultana* left St. Louis on April 13, 1865. On the morning of April 15th, she was moored at Cairo, Illinois, when word of the shooting of Abraham Lincoln began spreading.



Later, when *Sultana* reached Vicksburg, Mississippi, Captain Mason learned that thousands of newly freed Union soldiers from the Confederate prisons at Cahaba (Alabama) and Andersonville were now being held at a small parole camp outside of Vicksburg, awaiting release to the northern states.

At the time, the U.S. government paid \$2.75 per enlisted man and \$8 per officer to any steamboat captain who would transport such passengers north. Needing money, Captain Mason agreed to bring aboard the *Sultana* an excessive number of prisoners, primarily from the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and West

Virginia. The ship also carried approximately seventy cabin and deck passengers and a small amount of livestock, along with a crew of 85.

When *Sultana* backed away from Vicksburg on the night of April 24th, she was severely overcrowded with 1,950 paroled prisoners, 22 guards from the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, plus fare-paying passengers and crew members, for a total of 2,127 people. Many of the paroled prisoners had been weakened by their incarceration and associated illnesses. The men were packed into every available space and the overload was so severe that decks began to creak and had to be reinforced with heavy wooden beams.

Sultana spent two days traveling upriver, in the midst of one of the worst spring floods in the Mississippi's history. On April 26th, she stopped at Helena, Arkansas, and subsequently arrived at Memphis, Tennessee that evening when the crew began unloading 20 tons of sugar from the hold. Near midnight, *Sultana* left Memphis, leaving behind about 200 men. She then went a short distance upriver to take on a new load of coal from coal barges, before starting northward again.

At about 2 am on April 27th, *Sultana* was about seven miles north of Memphis when her boilers exploded violently. First one boiler exploded, followed a split-second later by two more. The hot steam tore through the crowded decks above and destroyed the pilothouse. Without a pilot to steer the vessel, *Sultana* had become a drifting, burning hulk with her two smokestacks gone. The upper deck had collapsed onto the middle deck, killing and trapping hundreds of passengers.

Passengers who survived the initial explosion were forced to risk their lives in the icy spring runoff of the Mississippi or burn with the *Sultana*. Many died of drowning or hypothermia, while some survivors were plucked from the tops of semi-submerged trees along the Arkansas shore. Bodies of victims continued to be found downriver for months, and many others were never found. Most of *Sultana*'s officers, including Captain Mason, were killed in the disaster.

Many of the dead soldiers were interred at the Fort Pickering Cemetery, located on the south shore of Memphis. A year later, when the U.S. government established the Memphis National Cemetery, the bodies were moved there. Today, the *Sultana* Disaster Museum, located in Marion, Arkansas, commemorates what was the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history.

(By Clay Hoffman)

NEXT MEETING: April 11th Camp Meeting at First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall, 318 West Fig St. Fallbrook, CA 10AM

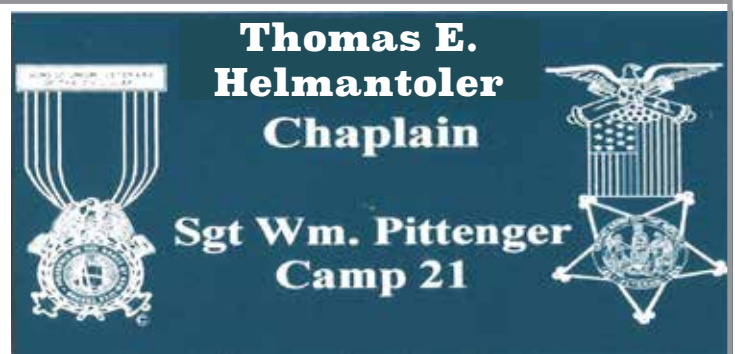
Membership Badge

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.



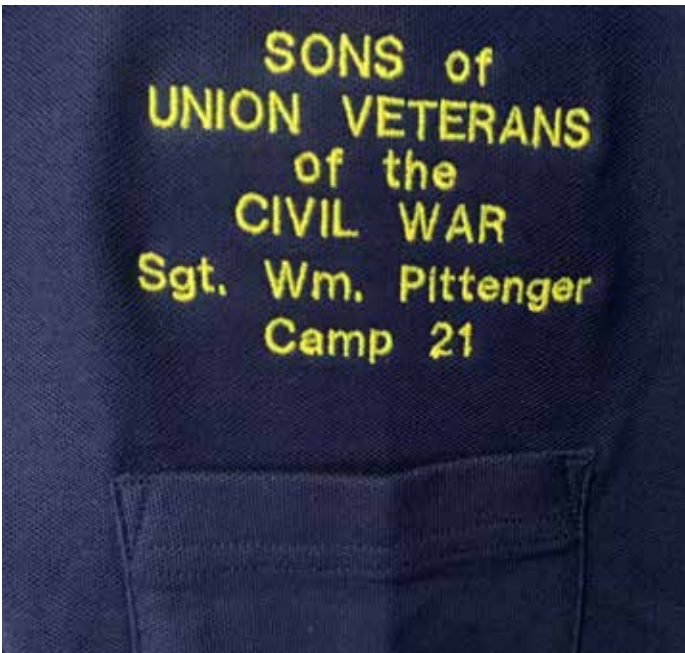
Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue" 1861-1865



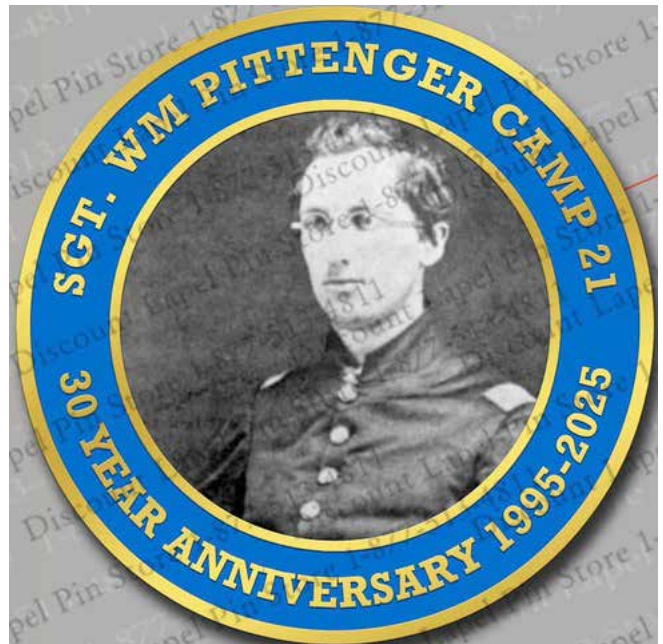
Name Tag

If you would like to order a Pittenger Camp 21 Name Badge, please email Jerry Sayre PDC at: 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 \$20.00. Checks should be made out to Jerry Sayre, PDC.



If you wish to order a Camp 21 shirt, \$40, Shipping included, please contact Camp Commander Fred Hall at fghall4sd@hotmail.com



If you wish to order a 30 Year Anniversary pin, please contact Camp Commander Fred Hall at fghall4sd@hotmail.com Price \$10

Are you a Sons of Veterans Reserve member? If not, you should be. It is very easy to do. Contact Mark Goodman (goodman.csmr@gmail.com) for more information.