



Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*



Standing in front of Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. William Pittenger's Church are: L-R

Steve Circo, Herb Dackermann, Vance Osterhout, PDC Jerry Sayre, Michael Schooling, PCC/Chaplain Tom Helmantoler, John May Secretary/Treasure, Marcus Holt, Richard Holt, Wyatt Roose, Kirby Hitt, SVC Larry Stolinski, Newsletter Editor Ron Sheehan, Dimas Lovato, CC Fred Hall.

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
2001 Lee Ct. Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

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

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

Councilman..... Jerry Sayre, PDC
cod26ia@icloud

Chaplain.....Thomas E. Helmantoler, PCC
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Patriotic Instructor.....Kirby Hitt
jhitt@gmail.com

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

Graves Registration.....John A. May, PCC
cbadjohnny@gmail.com

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

SVR Commander.....Mark Goodman
goodman.csmr@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Ron Sinclair
ronald.e.sinclair@pm.me

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:

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

Commander's Corner

When I was sworn in as CC last December, our Camp had 46 members.

We are halfway through our Camp year, and our PDC-JVC Jerry Sayre has brought in FORTY-ONE new, dues paying members.

In August, we voted in ELEVEN new members, an all-time record high new-member month!

We sincerely welcome our new members. There are many local events in which to become involved.

Camp 21 is very active. We participate in a Civil War meeting or an event almost every month.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Fred Hall, Camp Commander

From the Newsletter Editor



I am Ron Sinclair, our new Newsletter Editor! I must first thank our Camp Commander, Fred Hall, for this amazing opportunity and our previous Newsletter Editor, Ron Sheehan, for the hard work he put into every issue of The General during his tenure!

A little about me: Originally from Miami, FL, I spent a large portion of my youth not far from Kennesaw, GA. I am a retired (as of July 2025) U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps NCO and Afghanistan veteran, and I currently serve as a Department of the Army Civilian.

My family (wife, and our 11- and 9-year-old sons) and I live in Hawaii. I joined the SUVCW in honor of my ancestor, Pvt. Albert Granby, who served with the 30th Illinois Infantry. I hope to help preserve and promote the history and legacy of the Union veterans who came before us.

Best regards,
Ron Sinclair, Camp Newsletter Letter

Sgt. William Pittenger's Camp 21 Calendar – 2026

Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00 - 4:00

Sunday, October 4th. 10:00 - 2:00

Rendezvous in Poway 2026

Old Poway Park - 14134 Midland Road, Poway, CA 92064

Saturday, October 10th @ 11:00 am

Camp Meeting & Officer Elections

First Christian Church - Fellowship Hall

318 West Fig Street, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Saturday, October 24th @ 9:00

Joint Headstone Cleaning Project/Brunch at Katy's Diner/Tour Fallbrook Historical Society

Fallbrook Odd Fellows Pioneer Cemetery

1300 Alturas Rd, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Saturday, November 7th @ 9:00 am

Joint Camp Veteran's Day Ceremony - Camp 18 & Camp 21

Evergreen Memorial Park: 4414 14th St, Riverside, CA 92501

Saturday, November 14th @ 1:00 pm

Remembrance Day

Fallbrook Historical Society - Pittenger House

1730 South Hill Avenue, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Saturday, December 5th @ 1:00 pm

Camp Meeting - Officer Installation/Dinner To Follow

First Christian Church - Fellowship Hall

318 W. Fig Street, Fallbrook CA 92028

Same Day: Following the Camp Meeting...

Saturday, December 5th @ 5:00 pm (Line Up at Parade, 4:00 pm)

Fallbrook Christmas Parade

HISTORY LIVES ON

SUVCW

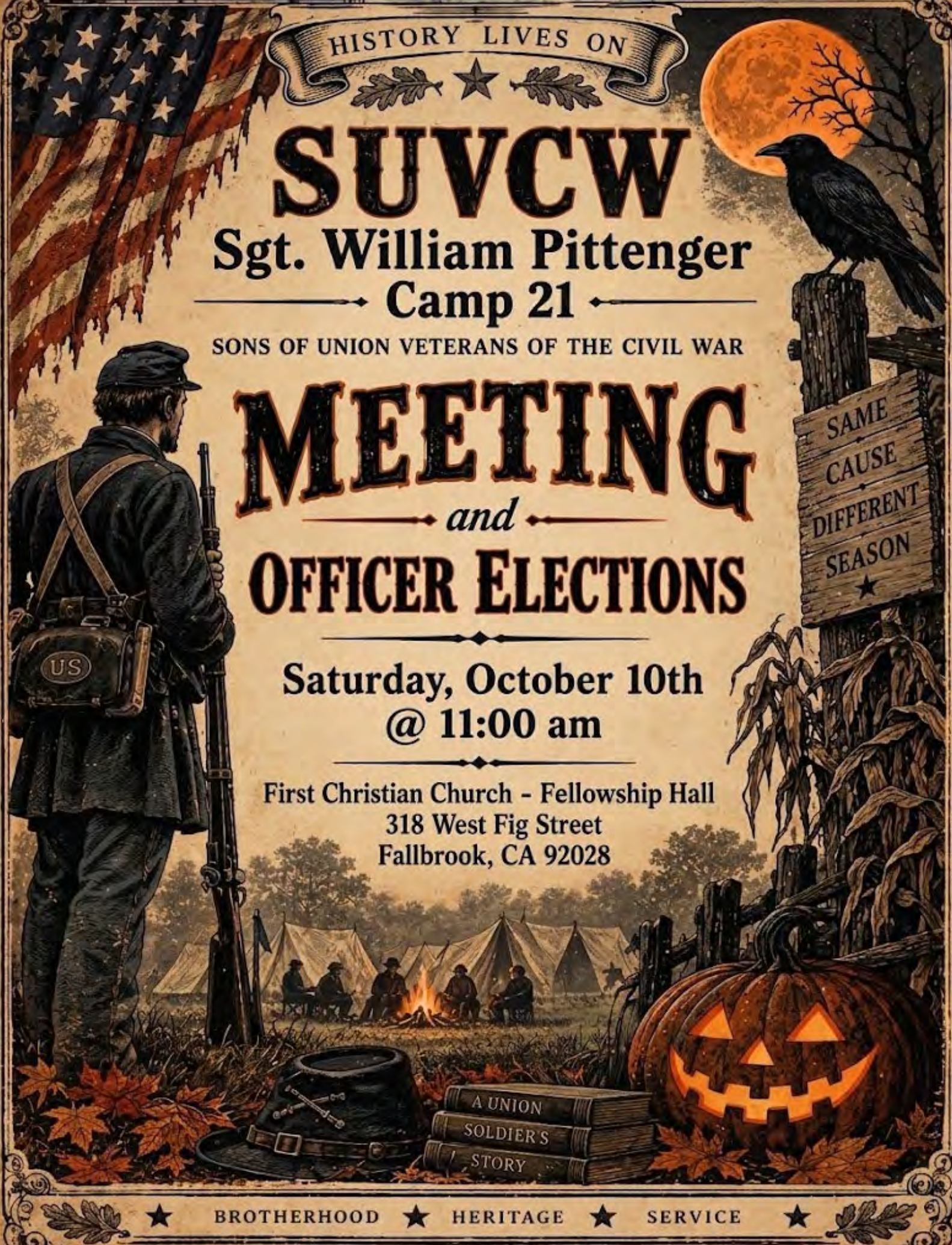
Sgt. William Pittenger
— **Camp 21** —

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

MEETING
and
OFFICER ELECTIONS

Saturday, October 10th
@ 11:00 am

First Christian Church - Fellowship Hall
318 West Fig Street
Fallbrook, CA 92028



★ **BROTHERHOOD** ★ **HERITAGE** ★ **SERVICE** ★

Camp 21 Mourns the Passing of Past Camp Commander John Finch

Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 mourns the passing of Past Camp Commander (PCC) John Finch on September 17, 2026. A U.S. Navy veteran, Brother Finch served Camp 21 with distinction in numerous leadership roles. In honor of his dedicated service and memory, Camp Commander Fred Hall has declared an official 30-day period of mourning for the Camp.

- Memorial Service: Saturday, February 27, 2027, at 12:30 PM at the Chapel of Roses.
- Committal Service: Monday, March 1, 2027, at 12:30 PM at Miramar National Cemetery.

The specific street address details for the Chapel of Roses and information regarding Camp 21's official participation will be shared as the service dates approach.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be directed to Silverado Hospice. Members and friends wishing to make a contribution may send donations to:

Silverado Hospice
5471 Kearny Villa Rd, Suite #30
San Diego, CA 92123

John was visited on August 20, 2026 by a part of Camp Officers, who presented him with the Congressional Commendation and flag flown over the capital.



(L-R) Camp Historian Clay Hoffman, Camp Commander Fred Hall, Past Camp Commander John Finch, Past Camp Commander John Keenan, Past Camp Commander Tom Helmantoler.

Camp Meeting August 8

We had our regular bimonthly meeting; as you can see from this picture, it was one of the best attended events ever including a number of new members.



Standing in front of Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. William Pittenger's Church are: L-R

Steve Circo, Herb Dackermann, Vance Osterhout, PDC Jerry Sayre, Michael Schooling, PCC/Chaplain Tom Helmantoler, John May Secretary/Treasurer, Marcus Holt, Richard Holt, Wyatt Roose, Kirby Hitt, SVC Larry Stolin-ski, Newsletter Editor Ron Sheehan, Dimas Lovato, and CC Fred Hall.

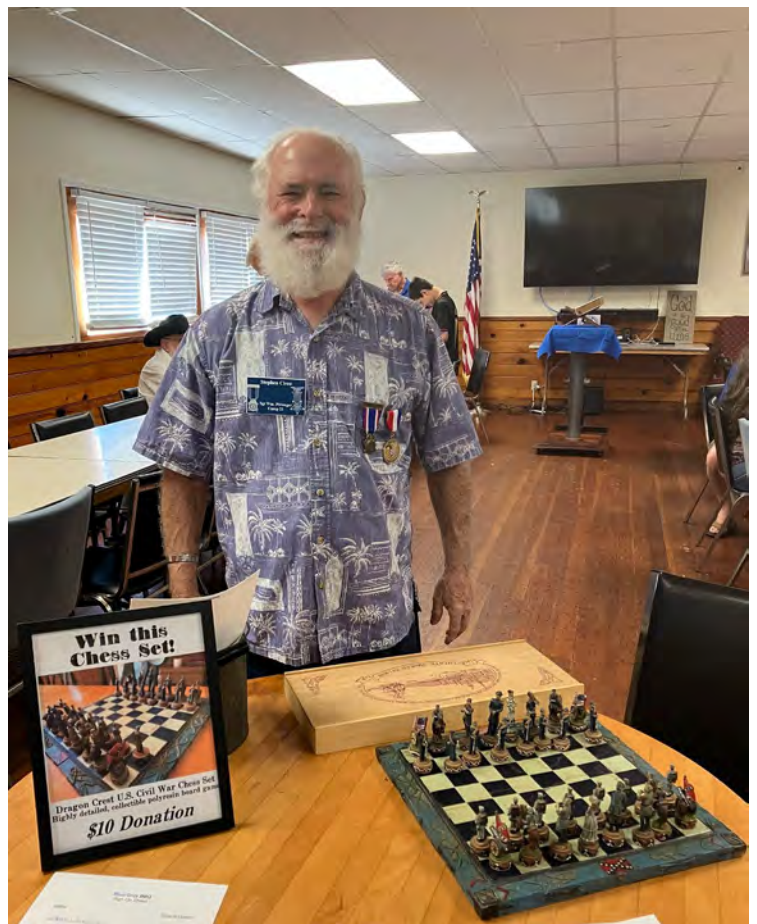
Initiating new Brothers into the Camp!



Pictured L-R:

CC Fred Hall, new Brother Richard Holt, new Brother Marcus Holt, SVC Larry Stolin-ski, new Brother Vance Osterhout, and PDC Jerry Sayre.

Camp Brother John May Secretary/Treasurer, donated his Civil War Chess Set to help raise money for Pittenger Camp 21. The winning Ticket was pulled and Camp Historian Clay Hoffman won!



Pictured here in front of the Chess Set receiving donations is Brother Steve Circo.

Brother Dimas Lovato participated in the Coronado Parade celebrating America's 250th.



Brother Dimas Lovato (L) being recognized by CC Fred Hall (R).

Brother Wyatt Roose provided a most interesting program today entitled: *From Carnage to Compassion - The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain*.



Brother Wyatt Roose (L) receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from CC Fred Hall (R).

Pittenger Camp voted to donate \$100 to A.J. Ryan Camp #302 toward the Blue/Gray BBQ expenses. Vance Osterhout generously covered the Camp's donation. His first day with Pittenger Camp 21—and he was already giving back!



Brother Vance Osterhout

CC Fred Hall received his Adjutant Commission for the SVR from DC and 6th Military District SVR-Commander, Lieutenant Colonel DC Dr. Wayne Eder.



CC Fred Hall (R) receiving his Adjutant Commission from DC Dr. Eder (L).

PDC Jerry Sayre Honored with Three National Awards

At the Camp Meeting on August 8, Past Department Commander Jerry Sayre was recognized with three National awards for his outstanding service to the Order. He received the *National Aide Award* for recruiting five or more new Brothers and the *David R. Medert Award* for having the most recruits in the Nation.

Brother Sayre also received the *Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star* for his extensive work tracing the 21 Medals of Honor awarded to members of Andrews Raiders.

The awards were presented by Department Commander Dr. Wayne Eder.

(Photos on following page)



Past Department Commander Jerry Sayre, receiving the National Aide Award for recruiting 5 or more, from Department Commander Dr. Wayne Eder.



Past Department Commander Jerry Sayre, receiving the David R. Medert Award for the most recruits in the Nation.



Past Department Commander Jerry Sayre, receiving the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star for his extensive work on tracing the 21 Medals of Honor awarded to the Members of Andrews Raiders.

Huntington Beach Civil War Days

Brothers from Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 attended Huntington Beach Civil War Days alongside Brothers from fellow Camps 2, 17, and 18 of the Department of California & Pacific. Huntington Beach Civil War Days is an annual event that Camp 21 has proudly attended for more than 20 years.



Camp 18 Commander/Department Junior Vice Commander John Morris (L), Ethan Maxon (Camp 21) (C), and JVC Gene Justin (Camp 18) (R).



Pictured from L-R: From Pittenger Camp 21. Dorothy Hinshaw, Merri Naples (Sgt. William Pittenger's GG Granddaughter) Brother Tom Hinshaw (Sgt. William Pittenger's GG Grandson), and Brother Ethan Maxon.



Pittenger Camp 21 Brother, PSVC Doug Wright, pictured on the far right.



Ethan Maxon and PSVC Doug Wright.

Constitution Day

A Constitution Day photograph was shared with Pittenger Camp 21 and Friends on September 18, 2026. The photograph was provided by PCC Mark Goodman.

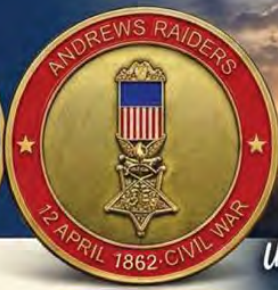


Pictured from left to right were: Mark Goodman, Camp 21; Ethan Maxon, Camp 21; John Morris, Camp 18; Gene Justin, Camp 18; Ben Goodman, Camp 21; Wayne Eder II, Camp 21; Wayne Eder, Department Commander; Larry Duncan, Camp 18; Benny White, Camp 18; Steve Circo, Camp 21; and Rudy Velasco, Camp 18.

Medal of Honor Recipient
SGT. WILLIAM PITTENGER
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FRONT



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This special challenge coin features the portrait of Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. William Pittenger, making it the only coin in the series with a photo.

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Blue/Gray BBQ

The event brought together Pittenger Camp 21 and A.J. Ryan Camp 302 for a large gathering of Brothers, old friends, and new friends.



Pictured L-R:

Steve Smith, PCC Jeff Malone, Gary Gauger, Ben Goodman, PCC Mark Goodman, Wyatt Roose, Wayne Eder II, DC Dr. Wayne Eder, PDC Jerry Sayre, SVC Larry Stolinski, Nathan Apodaca, Vance Osterhout, CC Fred Hall, Ethan Maxon, PI Kirby Hitt, Dimas Lovato.

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Camp 21**

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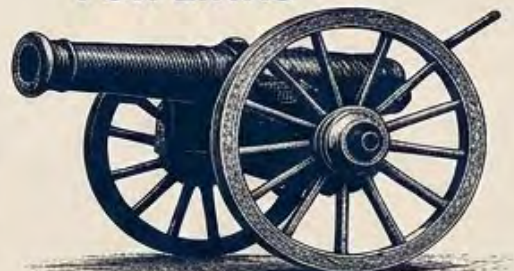
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OCTOBER 10 CAMP MEETING

UPCOMING OFFICER ELECTIONS

Eight Positions Will Be Voted On:

Camp Commander
Senior Vice Commander
Junior Vice Commander
Secretary
Treasurer
Three Council Members

How to Participate

Any Brother in good standing may nominate himself for an elected position at the October election. Members who would like to run are asked to make their interest known prior to the vote. The incoming Camp Commander will appoint the remaining Camp offices after the election.

Who Has Indicated an Interest

The September election update identified the following Brothers for the principal elected positions:

Camp Commander:

SVC Larry Stolinski

Senior Vice Commander:

Ethan Maxon

Junior Vice Commander:

PDC Jerry Sayre encourages anyone to run and is willing to continue if elected.

Secretary:

John May is willing to continue if elected.

Treasurer:

John May is willing to continue if elected.

Council:

Jerry Sayre, PDC; Fred Hall, CC; one position remained open in the September update.

Officer Responsibilities

Commander

The Camp Commander directs and provides oversight of Camp operations, presides at meetings, appoints officers and committees, ensures reports are submitted, represents the Camp, keeps members informed, and serves as liaison between the Camp and Department.

Senior Vice Commander

The Senior Vice Commander assists the Commander, presides in the Commander's absence, promotes Camp activities, schedules informative programs, and publishes the Camp newsletter except when the Camp has a designated Newsletter Editor, such as in the case of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21.

Junior Vice Commander

The Junior Vice Commander assists with recruitment and retention, follows up with prospective Brothers, tracks applications, and presides when both the Commander and Senior Vice Commander are absent.

Secretary & Treasurer

The Secretary maintains minutes and correspondence and handles required membership and reporting records. The Treasurer maintains financial records, presents financial reports, safeguards Camp property and funds, and completes required financial reporting.

FROM THE PITTENGER CAMP HISTORIAN – CLAY HOFFMAN

Battle of San Pasqual

Occurring during the Mexican-American War, the Battle of San Pasqual took place in 1846 in what is now the San Pasqual Valley community of San Diego County. The series of military skirmishes ended with both sides claiming victory, and the victor of the battle is still debated.

In early December of 1846, Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny, along with a force of several hundred men, reached Warner's Ranch of San Diego County. They were exhausted from their march that originated in Santa Fe, which today remains as one of the longest marches in U.S. Army history. In need of remounts, they began rounding up mules and half-broken horses.

On December 6th, Kearny's U.S. Army of the West, along with a small detachment of the California Battalion, led by Archibald H. Gillespie --- the namesake of current-day Gillespie Field in El Cajon --- engaged a small contingent of Californios and their Presidial Lancers who were known as the Greyhounds, and led by Major Andres Pico.

With the American attack at San Pasqual in 1846 being disorganized, the Californios repulsed two charges by American dragoons, and being armed with long lances, they mounted a countercharge. The Americans lost one of their two cannons before using their remaining howitzer to scatter the enemy. Despite suffering heavier losses, the Americans held the field.

On December 7th, the American Army continued on to San Diego, despite facing considerable harassment by the enemy. That night, they encamped on Mule Hill, which was located about five miles south of present-day Escondido and near the northern edge of present-day Rancho Benardo.

For several days, the Californios blocked the march of the Americans until 200 U.S. Marines and sailors arrived. The

Californios withdrew and Kearny's force eventually reached San Diego without further incident. During the Battle of San Pasqual, 18 Americans were killed, while approximately five Mexicans lost their lives.

Major Andres Pico was a Californio who later became a successful rancher and negotiated promises of post-war protections for Californios in the 1847 Treaty of Cahuenga. After California became a U.S. state, he was elected to the assembly and state senate, and during the American Civil War, he was appointed brigadier general of the state militia.

Today, the San Pasqual Battlefield Monument is a bronze relief sculpture, located at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. The monument commemorates the Battle of San Pasqual of 1846, part of the U.S. Conquest of California.

Kearny Mesa, an area of present-day San Diego, was named for General Stephen Watts Kearny. Kit Carson Park, a 285-acre municipal park in present-day Escondido, was named for Christopher (Kit) Carson, the famous scout who led John C Fremont over the Sierra Nevada. Carson was also a participant in the Battle of San Pasqual. Some of the American soldiers who died in the Battle of San Pasqual were later re-buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

(By Clay Hoffman, Pittenger Camp Historian)



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HONOR ★ PRESERVE ★ REMEMBER ★

*Keeping the memory of the Union soldier alive
through Education, Fellowship, and Service.*

★ FOLLOW & SHARE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

**f SUVCW SGT. WILLIAM f
PITTENGER CAMP 21**

The Camps's Work Continues

Remembering the Union Cause

Across the recent events documented in this issue, Pittenger Camp 21 continued to bring Brothers together around Civil War history, the memory of Union veterans, community observances, and the fellowship of the Order.

History in the Community

From Huntington Beach Civil War Days to Constitution Day and the Annual Blue/Gray BBQ, members participated in activities that connected the Camp with other Brothers, families, descendants, and the public.

Looking Ahead

The next major Camp business highlighted in the source material is the October 10 Camp Meeting, where the elected officers for the coming year will be selected. Officers elected in October are scheduled to be installed at the Year End Camp Meeting in December.

A Place to Serve

Members interested in an elected office are encouraged to make their interest known before the vote. Appointed positions will be filled by the incoming Camp Commander after the election.



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THEY SERVED. WE REMEMBER.