

*Newstetter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Volume X Number 4

2003 "Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation"

July 19, 2004



#### **Badges of our Order**

Each month we will feature a different badge of our Order to familiarize our members with their look and meaning.

This month we are highlighting the membership badge of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR).

The SVR is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Originally called the "Cadets", the SVR served as an active reserve unit until the early part of WWII. Now celebrating its hundredth anniversary, it functions as a ceremonial and educational organization.

Any member of the SUVCW may apply for membership. Annual dues are \$6.00.

## **Vista Civil War Reenactment**

Once again our intrepid crew manned a booth at Vista's Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum during the 2-day reenactment held July 10-11, 2004. We were much more comfortable this time with the addition of our newly expanded tent fly, which allowed a larger display and shielded us from the burning sun. Many thanks and a tip of the old kepi to Sister Rosemary Lowe who sewed the reinforcing panels and Bro. Al Hodges who designed, gathered the material and constructed it.

Civil War era weapons, equipment and Gay Allyn's musical instruments were able to be



viewed, explained and handled, with a variety of literature available to promote interest in the SUVCW and ASUVCW. As always, our distribution of hard candy was appreciated.

As a special treat our Auxiliary Sisters handed out small bubble blowing containers and red, white & blue "I Love The USA" necklaces to the children. The Allyn's, Tisches, Sayres, Lowes and Al Hodges deserve recognition for giving up their weekend to promote our cause. Other Brothers and Sisters dropping

by to say hello were Ernie Powell, Mike Schooling, Brian Bingham, Shea Musgrave, David Wall, Colin & Linda McKim.

## **Multi Camp Social Planned**

Civil War Days at Central Park in Huntington Beach will take place on September 4-5, 2004. This annual event has grown bigger and better with each passing year. The battles, sutlers, civil war camps, music and food make this event fun and educational for the entire family. In 2003, in the tradition of our Grand Army of the Republic ancestors, a picnic type social was established for SUVCW and Auxiliary members and their families. It was highly successful, bringing together all three Southern California Camps in an informal atmosphere.

This year, the social will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 5, 2004 after the last battle. Although the cost has yet to be determined, the food will be catered to eliminate transportation and storage difficulties. Bro. Dave Allyn has been appointed the Pittenger Camp coordinator for this event. Please contact Dave at [Allynde2@cox.net](mailto:Allynde2@cox.net) or (619) 561-8581 for details. Also let Dave know if you plan on attending so an accurate head count may be obtained for the caterer.

For a truly enjoyable day of fun and camaraderie, make plans to attend this event.

Camp Website - <http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/pittenger21.html>

**CAMP OFFICERS**

Commander ..... Jerry Sayre  
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Sr. Vice Comdr..... Will Tisch  
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Treasurer ..... Gene Armistead, PDC

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(760) 765-2719 TomCIF88@san.rr.com

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Patriotic Instructor ..... John Finch

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Color Bearer ..... Colin McKim

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**THE GENERAL** is the official newsletter of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It is 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 should be sent to the Newsletter Editor listed above with the understanding that space limitations may require editing.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be mailed to Camp Secretary at the address listed above. Failure to notify the 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 Pittenger Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to Bob Lowe at Cavalry21@cox.net.

**SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR)** is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. In-

**Carpenter Knows "The General" Well**

I found the following information on our Lockheed Martin intranet site and thought it would be of interest to the camp. I also wondered if our Camp could put together a letter of congratulations, a certificate or something of the sort. I don't know if Mr. England has a Union ancestor, but he is surely a kindred spirit.

Yours in F. C. & L, Bro. Dan Nation

*Richard England Jr., a carpenter on Air Mobility programs in Marietta, Georgia started knocking nails into anything he could as a child and can't remember a day since when he wasn't working with wood.*

*"I don't know where it came from," Richard says smiling. "My father didn't know one end of a hammer from the other."*

*Recently, Richard finished a six-year long project building a wooden 66-inch-long, 60-pound working replica of the "General," a famous steam locomotive used by the Confederate army during the Civil War.*

*"I have driven by the 'General' for the past 42 years coming to work," Richard says. "When a friend gave me a blueprint of the train, I jumped at the chance to build it. Unfortunately, after I started, I discovered the plans were very elementary. I had to make so many trips to the museum on fact-finding missions that they quit charging me admission. I've climbed over every inch of that train and have the lumps on the back of my*

*head to prove it."*

*Using different types of wood from all over the world, Richard was able to finish the project without the use of any paint or any stains.*

*"Most of the wood was 25 to 30 years old," Richard says. "I used more than 10 different varieties of trees to get the colors I needed for the bell, fire box, control panel, gages, and the different sections of the train."*

*It was a real challenge he says, but he would do it again given the same opportunity despite the headaches and burnouts he went through.*

*"I know more about trains now than I ever wanted to know," Richard says. "I just hope it doesn't take me another six years to build the case to display the train."*

Since the above article originally appeared, the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History which houses "The General", has indicated they are looking for space to permanently display Mr. English's model.

On behalf of Bro. Nation, who resides in Texas, the Pittenger Camp approved a motion to prepare and present Mr. English a letter and certificate of commendation citing his contribution to perpetuate the memory of "The Great Locomotive Chase" and its participants. The Camp also commends Bro. Dan Nation for his past and present contributions to our Camp and Order.



## Brother and Sister Tisch Renew Vows

To celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, Camp Brother Will and Auxiliary Sister Eileen Tisch renewed their vows in a Civil War themed wedding held at MCAS Miramar on July 18, 2004. With many of the wedding party and guests dressed in Civil War uniform and period attire, the ceremony was officiated by Department Chaplain Ernie Powell. The wedding ceremony itself was taken from the 1842 Book of Common Prayer. After the happy couple was officially pronounced "husband and wife" (again), they proceeded through an 8-man arch of sabres where Major Dave Allyn gave Eileen the traditional "tap of luck" to the rearside with the flat of his blade. (See more photos page 5)



The groom wore his new Civil War Naval uniform in

memory of his ancestor, Andrew Jackson Mattison, while the bride was resplendent in a rose-accented, off-white gown with a flounced skirt, ruffled bodice, emerald green sash created by Rosemary Lowe. The matching flowered headpiece was artfully made by Kim Sayre.

During a fine reception that followed the wedding, the "old" newlyweds received a surprise when Private Will was promoted to Corporal of Co. G, 5th CVI, SVR. Capt. Allyn presented the new Corporal with his NCO Warrant and Stripes.

The Pittenger Camp wishes Will and Eileen continued happiness and looks forward to their next renewal of vows during their 50th wedding anniversary in 2029.

## Remembrance Day 2004

On Saturday, November 20 at 12 noon, our Camp will hold our annual observance of Remembrance Day at the gravesite of Sgt. William and Winnie Pittenger. Remembrance Day is a time when we celebrate the anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered on November 19, 1863 at the dedication of the National Cemetery on the Gettysburg battlefield. As it was in our ancestors' time, this is also a time to remember those who have fallen in defense of our country.

Highlighting our observance this year will be our featured speaker, John Baca, who in 1970 displayed extraordinary heroism in combat and was awarded the Medal of Honor. Fittingly, he will be speaking at the grave of one of the first group of Medal of Honor recipients, our camp's namesake, William Pittenger. Sergeant Pittenger received his medal from Secretary of War Edwin McMasters Stanton in 1862 for his daring participation in the Andrews Raid and his subsequent imprisonment by confederate authorities.

Please plan on attending this meaningful event with your friends and family. A good turn out by all camp brothers will demonstrate that we truly do remember and honor the "boys in blue" and all of those who have served our country so valiantly.

Fraternally, John May, Remembrance Day Chairman (760) 434-9601 Email: JMMay@sdcoe.K12.ca.us

### Schedule of Coming Events/Activities

\* denotes Co. G, 5th Calif. Infantry, SVR participation

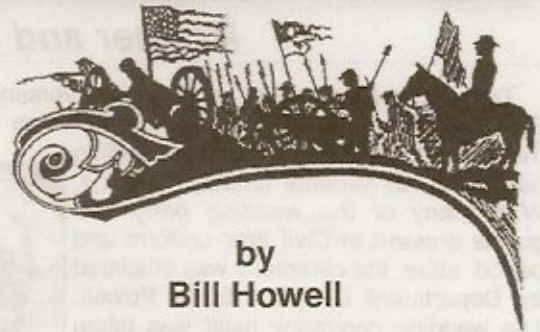
### Contact for details

*Present Colors - Padres Ball Game, Petco Park, San Diego	July 26, 2004	Will Tisch, Dave Allyn
Allied Orders National Encampment, Cedar Rapids, IA.	August 11-15, 2004	Jerry Sayre, Bob Lowe
Pittenger Camp Meeting - Bro. Al Hodges Home, El Cajon, 4 PM	August 14, 2004	Will Tisch, Al Hodges
*Present Colors - Social Security Office, Kearney Mesa, CA	August 26, 2004	Dave Allyn
Civil War Days, Reenactment & Social, Huntington Beach	September 4-5, 2004	Dave Allyn, Jerry Sayre, Bob Lowe
Civil War Revisited, Kearney Park, Fresno, CA	September 25-26, 2004	Jerry Sayre
*Tiller Days Parade, Tustin, CA. (color guard meets 9:30 AM)	October 2, 2004	Dave Allyn
Pittenger Camp Meeting - Location TBA - 4 PM	October 9, 2004	Any Camp Officer
*Veterans Day Parade, San Diego	November 11, 2004	Dave Allyn, Bob Lowe
*Remembrance Day Ceremony, Pittenger Gravesite, Fallbrook	November 20, 2004	John May, Jerry Sayre
*Mother Goose Parade - El Cajon, CA.	November 21, 2004	Dave Allyn, Will Tisch
Victorian Days - Drum Barracks, Wilmington, CA	December 4-5, 2004	Jerry Sayre, Bob Lowe

NEXT  
→  
MEETING



# MY UNION ANCESTOR



by  
Bill Howell

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of our Camp. We are delighted to have you among our ranks.

**Jack L. Winner** of Indian Wells, CA. whose ancestor, Pvt. Samuel Winner served the Union cause in the 118th Illinois Infantry.

We have applications, recruiting newsletters, brochures and several other recruiting tools available to assist you in gaining new members for our Order. These items can be obtained through Cmdr. Jerry Sayre, JVC Ernie Powell, Newsletter Editor Bob Lowe or any elected Camp Officer. You can help us grow in 2004.

Think of the increase to our Camp and Order if each of us recruited one new member.

Often people don't know who we are or what we do. Many are also hesitant to make the first move and just are waiting to be asked.

The San Diego Civil War Round Table meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the John D. Spreckles Masonic Lodge, 3858 Front Street, San Diego and is open to the public. For further information contact President Dave Tooley at (858) 672 - 2593.

## Private Nathan P. Howell, Co. F, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reg. Cav., Indiana Volunteers

My great-great grandfather was a day laborer and farmer in Huntington County, Indiana when the "war of 1861" began. He was born in North Carolina in 1827 and brought north by his parents in 1832. The family lore story is that his parents were Quakers and there was a northward migration about that time out of slave states into free states.

On July 25, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Captain Thomas Moffitt's 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Cavalry (45<sup>th</sup>. Regiment Volunteers) of the Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. The Regiment was officially organized at Madison, Indiana, on August 22, 1861, almost immediately moved to Washington D.C. and attached to Hooker's Division, Army of the Potomac and did duty at Budd's Ferry, Md.

The Regiment was moved about as needed and attached to several commands until moving south in 1862. They saw their first action at Wardensville on May 28 and moved on to more action at Mt. Carmel Church on July 23.

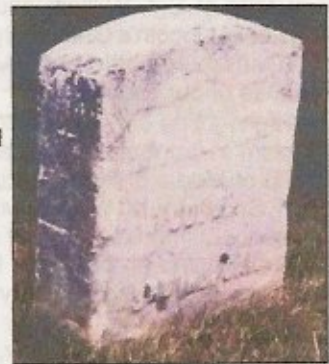
They were involved in the Battle of Bull Run August 29-30 and Antietam September 16-17. They pursued Stuart into Pennsylvania October 9-12.

According to Pvt. Howell's Declaration for Invalid Army Pension dated in 1869, "on October 28, 1863, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, while engaged in battle, his horse became frightened and in attempting to escape, fell upon him greatly injuring his shoulder and breast". Apparently the injuries were so severe that he was not capable of cavalry service any longer, so he joined Co. K, 154 Infantry Regiment. He was honorably discharged on September 25, 1864.

The Regiment lost 1 officer and 62 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 1 officer and 130 enlisted men by disease for a total of 194.

Grandpa returned to Majenica, Indiana, where he survived until September 28, 1896. His obituary reads "He was a soldier of the late war.... he died of disease contracted in the service and has been gradually going down for the last year...he was scarcely able to walk and his death a year ago would not have been a surprise to any one...he was the father of five children".

I have been fortunate enough to visit grandpa's gravesite in Indiana. A white stone issued by the government marks his resting place. I was proud to stand next to it.



## Pittenger Camp Scrapbook



Camp Brothers pose for photo after Memorial Day ceremony held at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego.



Bros. Brian Bingham and Larry Fillhard present colors at Paredes Memorial Day Pre-Game Show. Will Tisch (r) represented the SAR.



(above) Eileen and Will Tisch proceed through Arch of Sabres and cut cake at their renewal of vows reception, while (below) period attired Auxiliary Sisters dance to "Wild Will" swinging on his modern version of the Sax Horn.



Sponsor Bob Lowe presents new Brother Bill Daley with his SUVCW membership pin at June Camp meeting.



Camp Brothers & Auxiliary Sisters gather for photo at gravesite of Sgt. Pittenger during Memorial Day Ceremony.

## June Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Camp was called to order by Cmdr. Sayre at 4:17 PM Saturday 10 June 2004 at the Staff NCO Club, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA. There were 15 Brothers (Dave Allyn, Gene Armistead, Jerry Cady, George Cavanagh, Bill Daley, John Finch, Al Hodges, Bob Lowe, John May, John Pollard, Ernie Powell, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Tom Stinson & Will Tisch) and 7 guests (Gay Allyn, Ann Beinert, Angie Daley, Rosemary Lowe, Richard Musil, Kim Sayre & Eileen Tisch) for a total of 22. The opening prayer was offered by JVC Powell and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave Allyn.

JVC Powell reported there were no new applications for membership to be voted upon. He then introduced new member Bill Daley, who received his SUVCW Membership Pin from Bob Lowe who recruited him. Upon a motion (Allyn/Hodges), minutes of the April meeting as published in the May newsletter were approved unanimously. Bob Lowe introduced guests Angie Daley and Richard Musil.

Secretary Gene Armistead reported 3 items of correspondence: (1) Bro. May has sent a survey regarding the proposal of a Camp library, (2) Bro. Dan Nation proposes the Camp recognize Richard England of Marietta, GA, who has made a large, working wooden replica of "The General", and (3) the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History has sent a nice thank you letter in response to the Camp's recent \$100 donation. Treasurer Armistead reported income of \$126.50 at and since the April meeting, expenses of \$240.89 since the April meeting, and a balance of 1,574.93.

**Activites** were reported. Will Tisch reported 6 Brothers and spouses attended the CW Spring Cotillion at the El Cajon Community Center and learned Civil War period dances. Kim Sayre reported that the 05/22 Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance was well attended and included a military planes "fly over". Al Hodges reported that the 4/22 rededication of a CW grave marker at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale was very well done and attended. Patriotic Instr. John Finch reported Camp participation in 7 Memorial Day observances: at Pittenger's gravesite in Fallbrook and at El Cajon Cemetery on 5/30 and at Honolulu, HI; Rosecrans National Cemetery, Mt. Hope Cemetery, in San Luis Obispo and at a San Diego Padres Baseball Game on 5/31. An SVR report by Dave Allyn indicated future events as Tustin Tiller Days Parade in October, San Diego Veterans Day Parade on 11/11 and the Mother Goose Parade in El Cajon on 11/21. Cmdr. Sayre advised that the Eagle Scout recognition program continues to go well.

**Future events** were reported. Al Hodges will host a Drill & Social at his home on 6/19. Bob Lowe reported that the Camp will have an information/recruiting table 7/10-11 during the Civil War reenactment at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum in Vista. Will Tisch said the Camp will furnish a color guard for the Padres baseball game on 07/26. The annual picnic with Camps 2 and 17 will be on Sunday, 5 Sept. at Central Park in Huntington Beach and will again be catered.

There were 4 items of **"Old Business"**. Bob Lowe displayed a proclamation from the City of El Cajon (which had been accepted by SVC Tisch) commending our Camp for Loyalty Day. JVC reported on a huge turnout for the HUNLEY Burial Ceremonies in Charleston, SC, in which he participate. John May reported that he's obtained a Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient to speak at Remembrance Day in Fallbrook on 11/20. John also said he has had some encouraging responses to the "Camp Library" survey.

There were 8 items of **"New Business"**. (1) A motion (Lowe/Hodges) was passed unanimously to expend \$40.74 for a new scrapbook and related items. (2) A motion (Lowe/Powell) was passed unanimously that the Camp prepare and present a Certificate of Appreciation to Richard England of Marietta, GA, for his work in preserving the memory of the Great Locomotive Chase. (3) Rosemary Lowe of the ASUVCW reported that the organizer Phyllis McAlpin of the Mt. Soledad CW Plaque dedication had donated \$83.00 to each of the groups participating in the event. The Auxiliary Sisters then donated their \$83.00 to the Camp's 10th Anniversary Fund. (4) Kim Sayre reported that Pittenger ladies had decided on a "No Bake, Bake Sale" to raise money for the Camp and presented \$95.00 raised so far with the suggestion that it be used for a tent fly to cover the Camp's informaton tables. (5) Patriotic Instr. John Finch reported that the Kearney Mesa branch office of Social Security has requested the Camp to provide a color guard for the opening of their new office on 8/26. Dave Allyn volunteered to coordinate. (6) Bob Lowe announced that the SVR members would use the \$83.00 (their share of the Mt. Soledad event) toward the purchase of a period correct National Flag. Will Tisch advised this will make \$250.00 of the almost \$300.00 needed for the flag. (7) John May advised tha a group of Carlsbad High School students are helping raise monry for a North County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A motion (May/Lowe) that the Camp donate \$100.00 to this fund passed without objection. (8) A motion (Tisch/Powell) that the San Diego Padres Baseball Club be presented a Certificate of Appreciaton for color guard prior to games passed unanimously.

Twelve of those present had comments under **"Member Minutes"**. Jerry Cady was interviewed by a high school girl about his Vietnam War experiences on a Naval Hospital Ship. Bill Daley said he served in the 1st Marine Division during the Vietnam War. Richard Musil said his GG- Granduncle was Major Levi Chase, one of the founders of the El Cajon area. John May will be visiting Gettysburg this summer. George Cavanagh said his Civil War ancestor served in the U.S.M.C.

(continued on page 7)

Dave Allyn "plugged" for membership in the SVR and told about a bumper sticker offered by the SUVCW Dept. of

## Some Thoughts

Now that the Pittenger Camp has completed another successful Memorial Day, it is time to turn our thoughts to other areas of responsibility. We need your help! Whether employed or retired, we all live busy lives and it seems like there is never enough time to complete all we would like to accomplish. But to continue our Camp's successful history into the future and expand its effectiveness, the assistance of all is required. Like most organizations, 95% of the work is spread among 5% of its members. Unfortunately, over the course of years, this situation causes stagnation and can create "burnout" of the dedicated few. If the workload could be spread among many, our goals could be easily accomplished.

Camp Officer elections and appointments this December seem like a long way off, but really they're just around the corner. None of the positions are difficult and most take only a few hours per month. Much of the work can be done in your home. Could a person's hesitancy be, "I don't know what I'm getting into or if I can do it"? If that's the case, there are many Brothers willing to explain these duties to you in detail before you commit. To be honest, which of us couldn't spare a few hours to move our Camp forward and honor the memory of our ancestor's sacrifice to the Union? There is a place for your talent and available time!

By looking at the Camp Officer listing on page 2, you will see that there are eight elected and nine appointed positions. What you don't see is the several committees that are available to you. There is something for everyone. Please give these comments serious consideration and contact Commander Sayre, myself or any one of the Camp Officers. We would be happy to discuss any aspect of the Pittenger Camp operation with you and, hopefully assist in making an informed decision. You will find the effort most rewarding.

## HELP US "COME ALIVE IN 2005"

Fraternally,  
Bob Lowe PDC (619) 588 - 9148 Email: Cavalry21@cox.net

## June Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 6)

BACK HOME - AIR FORCE

Massachusetts. John Finch said he was a Vietnam veteran and that his oldest son is now serving in Uzbekistan. Mike Schooling said he flew Marine Corp helicopters in Vietnam. Rosemary Lowe said she had available 5 more raffle ticket books at \$5.00 for the AUVCW Patriotic Instructor Fund. Bob Lowe showed an old GAR Post Medal that he purchased at a reenactment last weekend in Perris. Ernie Powell told that there is an excellent GAR Museum in Philadelphia. Jerry Sayre showed an award ribbon from the Prado Regional Park reenactment.

The book raffle raised \$59.00 for the Camp. 1st winner John Pollard chose a copy of Frassinito's Gettysburg: A Journey in Time. 2nd winner Bill Daley chose a paperback copy of Sheridan's Memoirs. 3rd winner Jerry Cady chose a copy of McPherson's Battle Cry of Freedom. 4th winner Al Hodges chose a paperback collection of "spook stories" set in the Civil War. 5th winner John May chose a copy of W.C. Davis' The Orphan Brigade about Confederate infantry from Kentucky. 6th winner Bill Daley received copies of recent historical magazines.

SVC Tisch introduced the speaker, Ann Beinert, who presented a photo essay on the life of Abraham Lincoln using slides of sites associated with Lincoln. Afterwards, she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Camp by SVC Tisch.

The closing prayer was offered by JVC Powell. Cmdr. Sayre adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gene Armistead PDC, Secretary

## Stars, Stars, Stars

From 1858 through 1865, the number and configuration of stars on our National Flag were modified five times. The progression is as follows; 32 stars on July 4, 1858 with entry of Minnesota (5/11/58), **33 stars on July 4, 1859 with entry of Oregon (2/14/59)**, **34 stars on July 4, 1861 with entry of Kansas (1/29/61)**, **35 stars on July 4, 1863 with entry of West Virginia (6/20/63)** and 36 stars on July 4, 1865 with entry of Nevada (10/31/64). Those above in bold type were used during the Civil War. The standard Flag for Infantry during that period measured 6 x 6.5 feet and was carried on a staff 9 feet, 8 inches in length. Source: *The Stars and the Stripes* by Boleslaw and Marie-Louise D'Otrange Mastai (1973)

## NEXT CAMP MEETING

**August 14, 2004 - 4 PM**

### Meeting Location

**508 Alderson Street  
El Cajon, CA. 92019  
(619) 579 - 4981**

### DIRECTIONS

From I-8, take the 2nd Street exit in El Cajon. Travel south on 2nd St past Main St to Washington Avenue. Right on Washington Avenue to Alderson St (about a half mile). House will be on your left.

*Bro. Al Hodges and wife Cindy have graciously offered their home for our August meeting. Due to renovation of the Staff NCO Club at Miramar, we will be unable to meet there for the next several months.*



SONS OF VETERANS POSTCARD - Ca 1910

### AUGUST PROGRAM

Brother Tom Helmantoler will present a program titled "Jan Mitchell's Story: A Vietnam Widow"

The General

## The General



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