



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XIII Number 1

"Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation" ~ 2004 & 2006

Jan 27, 2007

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch

Brothers, The passing of President Ford is heartfelt for our Nation and we hope there is sincere condolence for the Ford Family. This edition is bordered in black to mark the President's passing. This past December Holiday meeting was fruitful and enjoyable. Congratulations to Brother Jerry Sayre for receiving the 'Almey Hodges Memorial, Brother of the Year Award' for his outstanding work and deep commitment to our SUVCW and our Camp. We conducted the business of elections of Officers and instituted plans for three different functions regarding the Last Soldier Project, Minter's Ranch, and Civil War Essay contest for school children in our area. Afterwards we enjoyed dinner together in a festive atmosphere decorated for the occasion with avid conversation and pleasant service rendered by the personnel of the NCO Club at Miramar. Your elected officers are carrying over their positions from last year and Congratulations to each for their future dedication this coming year. Preliminary estimate for the time-frame of "The Last Soldier" project ceremony to occur is Memorial Day. We have permission from David Lugo, Director of Mt. Hope

Cemetery, to complete this endeavor, including a plaque and presentation stone to the memory of Captain Thomas Shelly, USA, the last, living Union Veteran in San Diego and a Grand Army of the Republic member. Sr. Vice Commander Tom Helmantoler is heading up this project. Minter's Ranch is the site near Lake Henshaw where the only Civil War "engagement" took place in California and we are committed to placing a memorial there to commemorate this action. Brother Gene Armistead has studied this engagement and offered pertinent information as to the whereabouts and appropriate nature and interpretation of this monument. Brother Dave Shaffer, our Memorials Officer is heading this project. The School Essay contest offered exciting interaction at December's meeting and generated interest from our members as to the conditions of the contest. Ideas included subject matter on the *Grand Army of the Republic* and the *Civil War* in general. Other ideas included offering the contest to advanced placement students in the eleventh and twelfth grade, fourth and fifth graders, or high school students in general. (Cont on Pg. 7)



Camp Commander Will Tisch looks on while PCC Jerry Sayre receives our applause as he is presented with the 'Almey Hodges Memorial Brother of the Year' award by Cindy Hodges for his exemplary service to our Order

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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 should be sent to the Newsletter Editor listed above: space limitations may require editing.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at 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 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. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

The 121st Department Encampment Features

The 121st Department Encampment in San Luis Obispo, CA promises to be the most exciting & lasting fellowship in recent history. This is a weekend of both education & fun. Put March 23rd and 24th on your **Positive Things To Do**. For those of you who arrive Thursday the 22nd, SLO has a really great street fair that many have enjoyed in the past. This is an event worth attending. First, we have our traditional Friday Night Fellowship. The Beautiful San Luis Obispo Elk's Lodge has again opened its door to us. The Elks have acted as our proud hosts & look forward each year to our encampment. Dinner is served at 6:30 followed by our 'Campfire'; a time for getting reacquainted with old friends & brothers. There is great fun in the fellowship both with new and old friends. RV Parking at the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge is available on a first come, first serve basis. The cost: \$15.00/night - What a bargain and what a beautiful place to stay! Safe, comfortable and friendly are words that define this RV experience. Saturday, all day, is our Department Encampment meeting. If you are a delegate, then you will have the opportunity to vote for and support our own Jerry Sayre as candidate for Department Commander. Whether a delegate or not, we can all give Jerry a boost just being there to hail and support him. After the Encampment Meeting and Elections, we will Honor our Fallen Brethren. Saturday evening will be our opportunity to **Honor our Commander-In-Chief, The Honorable James Pahl**. Senior Vice Commander Sayre will announce the dining location soon. Excellence is SVC Sayres' minimum standard. This will be a must attend event for no other reason than its' excellence. Sunday is open as there are no further Encampment activities planned. Beautiful San Luis Obispo offers numerous sites. They include, but are not limited to, The SLO Mission, the Madonna Inn (A Must see from this writ-

ers view) & much more. Brochures and pamphlets will be available soon in order for you to plan your trip to The Big Sur Area. Nearby is the world famous Hearst Castle. "The Enchanted Hill," as Hearst named it, has attracted millions of visitors. It is truly worth the drive & spending an extra day viewing this marvelous site. As a side note, I have visited the Castle over 20 times & always have discovered new & exciting things. The Docents of the Castle give you wonderful insights to a time that has passed, when Hearst hosted Presidents, Kings, Potentates, Hollywood Celebrities & more. Your trip to The Encampment can be an adventure as well as seeing how beautiful California really is. After you leave I-5, we take Historic 101. Santa Barbara is a great stop for lunch & relaxation. Take your time - make this a fun & enjoyable trip. Solvang is just up the road from Santa Barbara an hour or so. What a beautiful little town. Again, take some time for shopping and maybe ice cream. Have fun! Not far from Solvang is Beautiful Morro Bay. Bring your camera! Shopping, snacking & some great hiking & picture taking are at one of California's most photographed sites. Again, fun is the key word here. I have mentioned the Madonna Inn. Boy, this is truly one of San Luis Obispo's great sites. In my opinion, this is a necessary visit. **The men's restrooms are world famous.** The architecture is fantastic & each room is decorated in a different style or period. The restaurants offer excellent menus & Sunday breakfast is a real treat. **Your trip to The Department Encampment should be fun, entertaining and educational.** Many of our Camp 21 Brothers stay at the Motel 6, San Luis Obispo South, 1625 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401, 825-541-6992. Lady Barbara & I look forward to seeing and getting to know each of you.

"Where Eagles Fly"

George Van Valkenburg

In November, a new monument was dedicated commemorating Union Camp Latham in Culver City. Taking part in the ceremony was Capt. Bob Lowe PDC, Adjutant & Chief of Staff of the 6th Military District, SVR. At Right, Bob and Sgt. Glen Roosevelt of Co. G, 5th Cal. Inf and Commander of Camp 17 of Santa Ana, the local Camp who assisted with this historical achievement



Left: Bob & Rosemary Lowe at the 'Living History' event presented by the Genealogical Society of Temecula in November. Their program on Civil War and GAR history & memorabilia was well received

Let's remember all of our Armed Forces serving in harm's way - keep them and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Right now, please pray for Brother Darin Redmond, recently deployed to Afghanistan with the USAF for a couple of months

Schedule of Coming Events/Activities	* denotes Co. G, 5th Calif. Infantry, SVR participation	Contact for details
* Lincoln Pilgrimage, Redlands, CA.	10:00 AM, Feb. 10, 2007 (Transiting to Miramar at conclusion)	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Regular Camp meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar	4:30 PM, Feb. 10, 2007 (Arriving from Redlands Pilgrimage)	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* "Massing of Colors," Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, CA. (this event is largest massing of Colors on West Coast)	3:00 PM, Feb. 18, 2007 (Color Guard be there by 2 PM)	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park	11:00 AM, Feb. 24, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Reenactment, Antique Steam Engine & Tractor Museum, Vista, CA. (Information & Recruiting booth)	8 AM - 4 PM, Mar. 10 & 11, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
SUVCW Dept. Encampment, Elk's Lodge, San Luis Obispo, CA	Evening Mar. 23 & 24 all day, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
CW Reenactment, Prado Park, Chino, CA. (Information & Recruiting booth)	8 Am - 4 PM, Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar	4:30 PM, Apr. 14, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park	11:00 AM, Apr. 28, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Memorial Day Ceremony, IOOF Cemetery, Fallbrook, CA. (at William & Winnie Pittenger's graves)	11 AM, May 26, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day Ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery, El Cajon, CA. (ceremony in concert with Elk's Lodge 1812)	10 - 11 AM, May 27, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego, CA. (includes Camp 21 "Last Soldier Project" Dedication)	2 PM, May 28, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar	4:30 PM, Jun. 9, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park	11:00 AM, Jun. 23, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, December 9, 2006

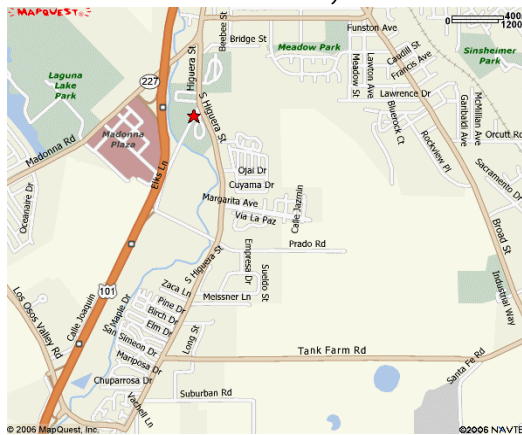
Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Gene Armistead, Brian Bingham, Bill Daley, Robert Dodge, John Finch, Bob Lowe, Jeff Malone, John May, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Dave Shaffer, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Darlene Armistead, Julie Atzen, Angie Daley, Hilda Dodge, Cindy Hodges, Charmaine Malone, Mac and Helen Masso, Cheryl Reynolds, Kim Sayre, Jan Shaffer, Steve and Deanne Smith and Eileen Tisch. The meeting was called to order by Commander Will Tisch at 4:30pm at the Staff NCO club, Miramar MCAS, San Diego, California. J. Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was offered by B. Lowe. Cmdr. Steve Smith, Fr. A. J. Ryan Camp #302, SCV, and his wife Deanne were introduced as special guests. W. Tisch announced the death of Br. Lt. Col. Richard Locke and also reminded members of the passing earlier this year of Br. Charles Harber. A motion (Lowe/Daley) to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter was passed. JVC D. Allyn reported one new member, John Howell, whose ancestor served in the 48th PA Volunteer Infantry. A motion (Allyn/Sayre) to approve his application was passed unanimously. W. Tisch distributed a membership application to all present with the intent that all try to recruit new members. The Al Hodges Memorial Brother of the Year Award was presented by Cmdr. Tisch and Cindy Hodges to J. Sayre. A presentation of a framed photo was also presented to Dave and Jan Shaffer for their efforts on behalf of the Flagpole Replacement Project. Secretary's correspondence included two letters of thanks from the Civil War Preservation Trust for the Camp's donation to their legal fund and to their effort to purchase land on the Fredericksburg battlefield. Also read was General Order 5 from the C-in-C thanking brothers for their participation in Remembrance Day activities. Treasurer J. May reported expenditures, since the last meeting of \$662.29 and income of \$330.50. There is now a total of \$2440.27 in the treasury, of which \$1325.45 remains in the Flagpole Replacement Fund. W. Tisch reported on the re-opening of the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego at which the Camp provided the color guard.

W. Tisch also reported on the Camp's participation at the Massing of the Colors in Balboa Park sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America and the Military Order of the World Wars. J. Sayre reported on the Veterans' Day Parade in San Diego, at which the Camp had a contingent of members as well as some of the Ladies' Auxiliary marching. J. Sayre also reported on the Mother Goose Parade in El Cajon where a vintage truck provided by D. Shaffer was used by the Camp. J. Sayre also mentioned the Fallbrook Christmas Parade where a small contingent of Camp members marched. D. Allyn reported on the Remembrance Day service at the Pittenger gravesite, the highlight of which was the recitation, by rote, of the Gettysburg Address by J. Sayre. It was noted that this is the 50th anniversary of the death of Albert Woolson, last surviving Union Civil War veteran & GAR member, and of

the celebration of Remembrance Day at Gettysburg. W. Tisch mentioned that the Camp, under the leadership of S. Berrey, is still awarding certificates to Eagle Scouts. Up-coming events include; 1) Veterans' Memorial Service, Dec. 23 at VMMC in Balboa Park, 2) Lincoln Pilgrimage, Feb. 10 in Redlands, and 3) Massing of the Colors, Feb. 18 at Forest Lawn in Hollywood Hills. The next Camp meeting will be on Feb. 10 at MCAS Miramar. G. Armistead gave a summary of his research on the Civil War at Minter's Ranch, near Lake Henshaw. On Nov. 29, 1861, the 1st California Cavalry captured the Showalter party, a group of Confederate sympathizers who were on their way to Texas to join the Southern cause. If the Camp is interested in erecting a memorial plaque at the site, the best way is through the California Office of Historic Preservation. They will install and maintain an historical marker for approximately \$2900. The Vista Irrigation District owns the property, so they will also have to be included in the planning. A motion (Armistead/Schooling) was passed to form a committee that will undertake a study of the proposed historical marker and recommend a course of action. This committee will be chaired by D. Shaffer. Br. Armistead was thanked by the Camp for his efforts in getting this project started. In an effort to get the Camp more involved in San Diego County youth, W. Tisch suggested an essay contest. A motion (Lowe/Sayre) was passed to form a committee to pursue this idea. J. Finch will chair this committee. Camp members should see him if interested in serving. Cmdr. Steve Smith of the Fr. A.J. Ryan Camp #302 of the SCV addressed the Camp and expressed his thanks for the help and support offered to him during his term of office. J. May mentioned the work of the Civil War Preservation Trust and expressed a hope that the Camp can continue to support this organization. B. Lowe reminded the Camp of our obligation to complete the Last Soldier Project. We do have permission to erect a memorial on GAR Hill at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego. A motion (Lowe/Armistead) was passed allowing the use of a portion of the money left in the Flagpole Replacement Fund to help in funding this project. New Business included; 1) a gift from the Camp to First Lady Eileen Tisch of a Civil War Santa figurine, 2) a motion (Lowe/Armistead) passed to use up to \$30 to buy donuts for breakfast at the Department Encampment, and 3) a motion (Lowe/Daley) passed to spend up to \$40 on an ad in the program at the Department Encampment. Election of Camp officers for 2007 commenced: first, a motion (Sayre/Armistead) was passed to elect all unopposed candidates by acclamation. G. Armistead nominated W. Tisch for Commander, T. Helmantoler for Sr. Vice Commander, D. Allyn for Jr. Vice Commander, and J. May for Sec./Treas. For Camp Counsel, D. Allyn nominated J. Sayre, B. Lowe nominated D. Shaffer (declined), B. Lowe nominated B. Daley, and W. Tisch nominated B. Lowe. All were elected by acclamation. Dept. of California and Pacific SVC, Jerry Sayre

Plan to join us at the 121st Annual Encampment of the Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW *Fill-in & mail Registration Form at your earliest opportunity*

**121ST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD & 24TH 2007
SAN LUIS OBISPO ELKS 322
222 ELKS LANE
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401**



Registration Form

Please Mail to: **SUVCW Department of California & Pacific
C/O Dept. Secretary, Tom Smith
6512 Star Hawk Court, Elk Grove, CA 95758-6305**

Please Make Checks payable to: **SUVCW**

Brother Name _____ Camp # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Guest Name _____ Affiliation _____

Registration Fee _____ # Brothers Attending _____ @ \$5.00
Meals are as follows: Saturday Lunch # Attending _____ @ \$20.00
CinC Dinner Saturday Night # Attending _____ @ \$30.00
___ Tri-Tip Beef ___ Turkey

TOTAL _____

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Above L, Bob Lowe at the dedication of the new Bob Hope Memorial in San Diego. The event was well attended with the Mayor and Silver Screen Star, Ms. Connie Stevens as well as other notables. Consisting of life-sized Military figures awaiting the arrival of Bob's USO tour for a show, the monument is near the Aircraft Carrier Midway museum which may be seen behind the memorial



Chairman Dan Tucker of Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians with SVR Color Guard, Bob Lowe, Will Tisch, Dave Allyn and Tom Helmantoler at the Nov. grand re-opening of the US Grant Hotel in San Diego. Above R, Eileen Tisch, Rosemary Lowe, Brenda Boucher and Cheryl Reynolds toast the event



CC Will Tisch, Jerry Sayre PCC and Camp 17's Glen Roosevelt formed an All National Flags Color Guard in Fallbrook's 2006 Christmas Parade. Not shown

but having marched were First Lady Eileen Tisch and Cindy Hodges in period attire gowns.

SVC Tom Helmantoler (L) & PCC Jerry Sayre presented Certificates of Commendation to Six Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor, held Dec. 29 at Grace Lutheran Church, Escondido



2007 Officers (present) of Camp 21 following their Installation Ceremony. From Left, Bob Lowe PDC, John Finch, Bill Daley, Dave Shaffer, Will Tisch, Jerry Sayre PCC, John May, Dave Allyn, & Brian Bingham



MINUTES OF DEC 9 2006 MEETING, *continued*

installed the officers. Cmdr. Tisch thanked the Ladies'Auxiliary for their help and support this year. The closing prayer was offered by B. Lowe and Cmdr. Tisch adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John May, Secretary

Defending the Memory of Pres. Lincoln

To The Editor, N.C.Times,
Thanks for offering an opportunity to let me express my opinion. On Jan. 16, "Pearls Before Swine" ran a comic regarding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. I find this in very poor taste (i.e. " I need to go to the theater like I need a hole in the head") as well as disrespectful to the memory of President Lincoln. While the punchline is indeed humorous, I don't think Mr. Pastis would have used the example of President Kennedy in the same context (i.e. "I need to visit Dallas like I need a hole in the head"). The implication is that the time lapse between 1865 and the present is enough to render the subject less personal to the reader. Let me assure Mr. Pastis, however, that there are still a great many Americans who, to this day, cherish the memory of Abraham Lincoln and find no humor in the subject of his untimely death. If possible, please pass along these comments to the artist.
John May, Carlsbad, Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Welcome New Brother !
John S. Howell of Spring Valley whose ancestor served in the 48th PA Inf.

"DECADERS"
Congratulations to the members named below on attaining 10 years of membership in the SUVCW

Daniel Edwards who joined in June 1996

Ralph Winkler who joined in August 1996

Jerry Sayre who joined in September 1996

Thank you Brothers for your continued commitment to the objectives of our Order !
Apologies from the Editor for not having recognized these Brothers in the past year

Congratulations !

Congratulations to Bro. Milt Irwin whose nephew, Lester A. Wilhelm's second son, Kegan, was awarded his Eagle Scout Badge at a Court of Honor on Jan. 27 in Kingsland, GA. Kegan's older brother, Lester Jr., is also an Eagle Scout ~ Huzzah!

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch
(Cont from Pg. 1)

First place would be a \$150.00 savings bond towards college tuition. With many bright events coming up, this year promises to be both busy and enjoyable. Please consider attending the 121st Department Encampment in San Luis Obispo, March 23 and 24th. Our very own, Brother Jerry Sayre, will be elected as your new Department Commander and we would like to have a very good showing of our Camp members. Please contact me or Secretary John May for added details. More information on the Dept. Encampment may be found at this Website:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/deptca/encamp.html>

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Pallisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego and is open to the public. For further information, contact President Dave Tooley at 858/672-2593 on the Web at sdcwrt.org

For your convenience, a registration form may be found on Pg. 5. You will also receive a Commemorative plaque for attending this encampment. Your participation is welcome and to all our Brothers unable to attend due to location or inability, please remember that we will keep working for our ancestors and the memory of the Boys in Blue.

In F, C, & L,
Will Tisch, Commander

OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING (Note Time)

February 10 2007 4:30pm

Meeting Location

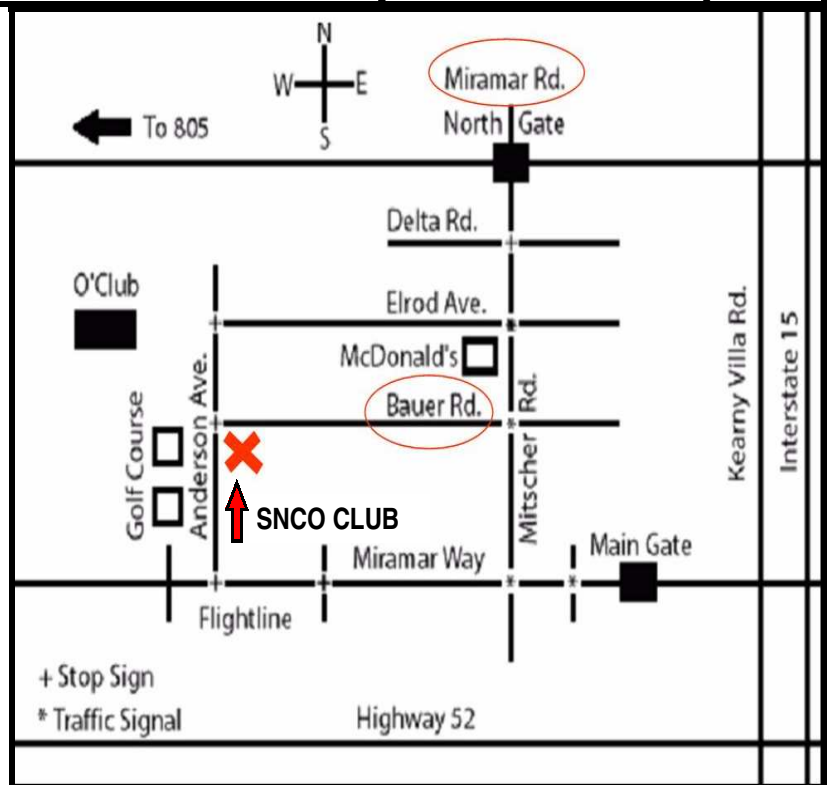
Staff NCO Club
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

DIRECTIONS

From the 15 Freeway, enter the **Main Gate** (end of Miramar Way) or the **North Gate** (off Miramar Road). From the 805 Freeway, enter the **North Gate**. Have ID & Proof of Insurance ready - tell the Sentry you are attending the SUVCW meeting at the Staff NCO Club. Refer to Map at Right →

Our Speaker

Barbara Hemmingsen of the DUVCW will speak on "Infectious Diseases of The Civil War" using her ancestor's comments on his care and treatment at the hands of Union Surgeons.

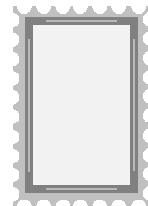


The General

The General



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If you have not yet paid your dues for 2007, please get your check in return mail to Treasurer John May