



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 2

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

Mar 31, 2007

## Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch

Brothers; It was great to see so many faces at our last meeting with new brothers Calvin Ericson and John Howell entering into our Camp. John is an Honorable Veteran of the USN and Calvin is an incredible High School student attaining a 4.3 GPA. Congratulations to both new brothers for their induction. On a sad note, past Camp Brother Malcolm Koerner passed away to

be with the Boys in Blue for whom he served honorably during his lifetime. He loved the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as was evident by his long term of service. In 2003 Malcolm transferred from our Camp 21 to Camp 17 due to local proximity. Also, Camp 21 Brother Ed Strobridge who lives in San Luis Obispo is in distress with his health and needs your thoughts and prayers. Several events have unfolded during the last two months of which you need to be aware. One, our Junior Vice Commander and Superb Editor of the General has ceded his position to further concentrate his efforts on our Newsletter. Capable Brother Jeff Malone has been appointed by the Camp Council to conclude this year's term as Junior Vice Commander and head up our Memorial Day committee for Mount Hope this year. Thank you Brother Jeff for going to bat for our Camp! Also, the Committee Chair of the Student Essay/

job on the Patriotic Instructor's report. Progress is being made on the Last Soldier's project and Minter's ranch memorial. We are gathering information to complete these tasks with Senior Vice Commander Tom Helmantoler heading up the Last Soldiers project and Camp Memorial Officer Dave Shaffer heading up the Minter's ranch Memorial. Anyone wishing to assist in these endeavors is most welcome. We

meet one hour before our regular camp meeting at the McDonald's at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, just down the road from the Staff NCO club, where our meeting is held. Attending the Department of CA and PAC Encampment was an absolute thrill with Camp 21 Brother Jerry Sayre elected and sworn in as our new Department Commander. All of the events that Camp 21 participated in last year were shared and related to our Department Brothers during the main meeting. They were very impressive and all our Camp members should be very proud of all that hard work, which was extensive! Proceedings of the Department Encampment will be available soon on the State website and the attendance of our Commander-in-Chief, James Pahl, was especially enjoyable. Commander Pahl sent a strong message for us to



Kim Sayre pins the badge of office onto husband and newly installed Cal & Pacific Dept. Commander, our favorite son, Jerry Sayre, DC/PCC

work together in our special projects honoring the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War and we should

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

**RESTORE MEMORIAL DAY TO MAY 30**

**CAMP OFFICERS**

Commander ..... Will Tisch  
8505 Ellsworth Lane  
Santee, CA. 92071-4002  
619-448-4818 tis346@cox.net

Sr. Vice Comdr.....Tom Helmantoler  
760-765-2719 TomCIF88@hotmail.com  
Jr. Vice Commander .....Jeffrey Malone  
619-368-2879

jeffreymalone@alumni.sandiego.edu  
Secretary .....John A. May  
2001 Lee Ct.  
Carlsbad, CA. 92008-2763  
760-434-9601

jmmay@sdcoc.k12.ca.us

Treasurer ..... John A. May

Council ..... Bill Daley

619-462-6036 A-BDaley@cox.net

Council ..... Bob Lowe, PDC

619-588-9148 Cavalry21@cox.net

Council ..... Jerry Sayre, PCC

760-728-1444 cod26ia@adelphia.net

Chaplain ..... Deane Poole

858-278-9094 BBoucher29@earthlink.net

Patriotic Instructor ..... John Finch

619-426-4906 jan27@cox.net

CW Memorials Officer. ....Dave Shaffer

760-747-0853 djmules@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Scout Coord ..... Steve Berrey

858-715-0059 steve\_berrey@yahoo.com

Graves Registration ..... Bob Lowe, PDC

Guide .....open

760-745-4035 cmckim@trs.net

Guard ..... Jack Bruzas

760-630-2105 jabruzas@cox.net

Quartermaster .....Will Tisch

Signals Officer .....Will Tisch

SVR Representative ..... Capt. Jerry Sayre

760-728-1444 cod26ia@roadrunner.com

Newsletter Editor..... Dave Allyn  
13460 Hwy. 8 Business Sp. #102  
Lakeside, CA. 92040-5229  
svrsuvcw@yahoo.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 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 & email address to Dave Allyn at:  
svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

**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.



**1018595**



**DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ABOVE NUMBER MEANS?**

The above number represents the total number of our men and women who died and gave their lives for us in the line of duty to give us the freedom we enjoy today in this great country

Mexican War	1733	Am. Revolution	4500
Spanish/Am. War	385	Civil War South	200,000
Civil War North	365,000	W. W. I	53,400
W. W. II	293,000	Korea	36,516
Vietnam	58,253	Desert Storm	148
Iraq	3400 +		

**Aren't these enough reasons to sign the petition to restore Memorial Day back to May 30th?**

**PLEASE show your support and sign the petition to restore Memorial Day back to May 30th**

Log on to **suvchw.org** and click on **\*\*Memorial Day Petition Please Sign\*\***  
Add your name to the many Brothers and Allied Orders comrades who have joined with veterans and citizens from all fifty states in support of the Senate Resolution requiring the return of Memorial Day to May 30th, the date set by the GAR as a time to remember the sacrifices made for our freedom.  
Our honored dead deserve this one day - apart from picnics, sales and commercialism! - Agree? - then, please sign the petition! - and Thank you!!!

## HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

# The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

# It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

# Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief

N.P. CHIPMAN,  
Adjutant General

Official:  
WM. T. COLLINS, A.A.G.

Schedule of Coming Events/Activities	* denotes Co. G, 5th Calif. Infantry, SVR participation	Contact for details
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. loc.: Alturas Rd. at W.Clemens Ln, Fallbrook	11 AM, May 26, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day Ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery, El Cajon, CA. loc.: 2080 Dehesa Rd. 92019, with Elk's Lodge 1812	<del>10:11 AM</del> <sup>5:00 PM</sup> , May 27, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day Ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego, CA. loc.: 3751 Market St., San Diego, 92102	2 PM, May 28, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
Memorial Day Ceremony, Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA. loc.: 4050 Mission Ave. with Comb. N. County Vets & Fraternal Orgs.	10:30 AM, May 28, 2007	John May, Will Tisch
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, February 10, 2006

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, Andrew Brooks, Gerald Cady, George Cavanagh, Calvin Ericson, Tom Helmantoler, Bob Lowe, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Dave Shaffer, Will Tisch, George Van Valkenburg, and guests Gay Allyn, Sue Fox, Barbara Hemmingsen, Cindy Hodges, Ira Lack, Rosemary Lowe, Charmaine Malone, Kim Sayre, and Eileen Tisch. The meeting was called to order by Commander Will Tisch at 4:40pm at the Staff NCO Club, Miramar MCAS, San Diego, CA. J. Howell led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Poole. Cmdr. Ira Lack, Fr. A. J. Ryan Camp 302, SCV, was introduced as a special guest. Also introduced were presenter Barbara Hemmingsen and new members John Howell and Calvin Ericson. W. Tisch announced the death of Br. Malcolm Koerner, who was a W.W.II veteran. A letter concerning Br. Koerner from Camp 17 Cmdr. Glen Roosevelt was read. Greetings from the Fr. A.J. Ryan Camp 302 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans were presented by new Commander, Ira Lack. Interview with Brs. B. Lowe and D. Allyn on the radio program, "American Veteran" is available on-line. See W. Tisch if interested. The Last Soldier Project Committee Chair T. Helmantoler reported that the memorial may be placed at either Mt. Hope Cemetery, or on Mt. Soledad. Minter's Ranch Memorial Committee Chair D. Shaffer reported that a trip will be planned to view the site of a possible memorial and that contact will be made with E Clampus Vitus, a state-wide historical preservation group. W. Tisch announced that George Van Valkenburg is the new Quartermaster and Signals Officer for the Camp and thanks were expressed to Br. Van Valkenburg for taking on this responsibility. Also announced was the date of the next Camp meeting: April 14 at the Staff NCO Club, MCAS Miramar. Up-coming events will be listed in the next issue of The General. Members should check to see in which events they can participate. A motion (Lowe/Sayre) to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter was passed. JVC D. Allyn reported two new members, Terence Shrock, whose ancestor served in the 168<sup>th</sup> OH Inf. and Calvin Ericson, whose ancestor served in both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> MI Inf. A motion (Allyn/May) to approve these applications was passed unanimously. Br. J. Howell and new Br. C. Ericson, being present, were inducted and presented with membership pins. W. Tisch announced the resignation of David Allyn as JVC and presented the Council's appointed replacement, J. Malone. Br. Malone's appointment was approved unanimously by the Camp to complete the current term of office. A vote of thanks to D. Allyn for his service was extended by A. Brooks and a certificate of appreciation was presented by Cmdr. Tisch.

Dept. SVC J. Sayre installed J. Malone, D. Poole and T. Helmantoler as Camp officers for 2007 (Poole and Helmantoler having been absent from the December meeting.) Secretary's correspondence included a letter from Dept. SVC informing the Camp of the Dept. Encampment in March and including raffle tickets to be sold in advance of the encampment. Sec. J. May reported that there are now 62 members in good standing, with approximately 20 that have not yet renewed membership. Treas. J. May reported expenditures since the last meeting of \$268.17 and income of \$1956.00. There is now a total of \$4128.10 in the treasury, of which \$1325.45 remains in the Flagpole Replacement Fund. Old Business included discussion on, 1) The Student Essay Contest (which may become a speech contest.) M. McBride will serve as the new chair of this committee. 2) An up-date on the Combined Veterans' and Fraternal Orders of North County. The group has been given a building in Oceanside and is in the process of having it renovated to serve as a meeting place. They are also sponsoring a scholarship for high school students. See J. May if interested. 3) Department Encampment in March. G. Van Valkenburg urged attendance for the purposes of enjoyment and fraternalism. 4) Grants to construct and maintain monuments. G. Van Valkenburg mentioned that there are ways to apply for grants and that the Camp should be looking into these. 5) Recruiting. W. Tisch distributed the new Recruiting newsletter and encouraged members to pass it along to potential new members. 6) Credentials for Dept. Encampment. See J. May if you wish to attend and do not have credentials yet.

New Business included, 1) appointment of J. Malone to chair this year's Memorial Day Committee, and 2) reminder by J. May of the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009 and the need to start planning now. Members Minutes included, 1) request by J. May for information on the Escondido G.A.R. post, 2) review by G. Cavanagh of several books and articles including Stealing the General, by Richard Bonds, 3) reminder by G. Van Valkenburg of the Official Records of the War of Rebellion available in the SDSU Library and on-line, 4) suggestion by G. Van Valkenburg to "call a brother" in order to increase attendance at Camp meetings, 5) report by M. Schooling on a series of unfortunate events that have befallen his son, 6) report by B. Lowe that ribbons for Memorial Day will be furnished at no cost by Coast Originals in Ramona, 7) suggestion by Barbara Hemmingsen that the Camp work in conjunction with the DUVCW in planning for Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, 8) reminder from T. Helmantoler that our color guard will present the colors at the Freedom's Foundation of Valley Forge meeting on April 10, 9) suggestion from T. Helman-

## ***RESTORATION OF MEMORIAL DAY***

By Al Peterson, PDC  
William B. Keith Camp # 12  
Las Vegas, NV  
&  
Department of California/Pacific

Back in 1868, General John Logan, then the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued general Order # 11 establishing May 30<sup>th</sup> as Decoration Day. This order was designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion. It was encouraged that on May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year this order be carried out.

Over the years Decoration Day observances were carried out with great pride and effort to remember our war dead. In 1954 Decoration Day became Memorial Day by an act of congress. Nothing changed except the name. Organizations of many kinds continued to carry out this general Order and performed the ceremonies without encouragement or persuasion by others; it was the thing to do.

In 1971, Congress changed the day to the last Monday of May, for reasons I have not seen or heard. This is where the problem exists, by making it on the last Monday of the month; it kind of puts the meaning of the day out of sight. When Congress made the day into a three-day weekend with the National Holiday Act of 1971, (P.L. 90-363) it made it all the easier for us to be distracted from the spirit and the meaning of the day. Today and since 1971 it means another day out of work or school, time for vacations plans to be made, bargains at the malls and cookouts. What happened to remembering those who gave their lives for us? What happened to remembering those who died for this country to make it a better place to live? We have almost forgotten the meaning of Memorial Day. By observing this day on the last Monday of the month, less and less observances are conducted throughout this great country because citizens are making for themselves and forgetting those who sacrificed for our freedom. Too many do not know what the day stands for.

Therefore, I feel it is our sacred duty and responsibility to pay honor to those who gave themselves, not only because we are members of the SUVCW or other fraternal organizations, but because we are obligated to do so. It is our duty and responsibility to restore this sacred day back to its original date - May 30. There are a couple of ways to support this matter, go to SUVCW.ORG, follow the links to sign the petition online, or send an E Mail with your name and address to me at

AEPSUVCW@COX.NET

Its that simple. Get your entire family, co-workers, friends, neighbors, reenactors, organizations, (and the list goes on) to take part in this very important project. And lastly, during 2007, we will be soliciting suggestions as to how to bring this matter to the attention of the citizens and Congress of this great country.

***We need your help.***

**THE TIME IS NOW**

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, February 10, 2006 Cont.**



**Welcome New Brothers!**

- Terence Shrock whose ancestor served in the 168th OH Infantry

- Calvin Ericson whose ancestor served in the 3rd & 9th MI Infantry

*Camp 21 joins with his friends and family in wishing our Brother,*

**Danny Redmond**

*a large and heartfelt  
Welcome Home!  
and  
Thank You!*

*for your recent service to  
our great Nation*

*Brother Danny was serving  
with the USAF in  
Afghanistan*

*We are so happy to know  
you are back safe!*

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades 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](http://sdcwrt.org)

toler that if possible, we should visit another SUVCW Camp when traveling as he has recently attended a meeting of a camp in Peoria, Ill., and 10) thanks to the Camp from C. Ericson for accepting his membership application and for endorsing him as he pursues the SUVCW National Scholarship. After a short break, a raffle was conducted, raising \$60 for the Camp treasury. Winners of the raffle included Sue Fox, Charmaine Malone, C. Ericson, J. Howell, and Rosemary Lowe. A program, "Infectious Diseases of the Civil War" was presented by Barbara Hemmingsen, based on her knowledge as a microbiologist and the evidence present in a collection of letters written home from her Civil War ancestor. W. Tisch presented Ms. Hemmingsen with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Camp for her excellent presentation. The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Tisch adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John May  
Secretary

**Camp Commanders Corner**

Cont. from Pg 1

include joint dedications with all legitimate Civil War groups in our area. There was a fine memorial service with Brothers attending from all over the Department at the Graves of Union Veterans across from the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge where the Encampment was. This included a Civil War Honor Guard and words of reverence. Afterwards we all dined at The Apple Farm and enjoyed spirited company. I hope to see you all at our next meeting and please keep in mind our local Memorial Day Services at Fallbrook Oddfellows Cemetery for Sgt. Wm. Pittenger that will include the Young Marines in force and a beautiful Vocalist, Mary Gail Tobler, who will sing our National Anthem. There will also be a joint Memorial Service with the El Cajon Elk's Lodge again this year at El Cajon Cemetery to honor our Veterans. This year's Mount Hope Cemetery Memorial Day event will include San Diego Opera soloist Rita Cartwright singing our National Anthem and Battle Hymn of the Republic. She is incredible! We will honor Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient, Pvt. James Granville Thompson, who is buried at GAR hill. Our Secretary, John May, will have the honor of reading Gen. John Logan's General Order #11 and making a few appropriate remarks at the Mission San Luis Rey ceremony by the Combined Veterans and Fraternal Orders of North County. Our Camp is a member of this body and Bros. John May and Ed Moser invite you to join them in support. The turn-out in past years has been very high for a local event - as many as 300. This is in Oceanside so it's very convenient for everyone in the N. County area. Please see Page 3 for all event listings.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
★ Note to all Camp 21 Brothers from your editor: you are cordially invited to submit articles for publishing in your newsletter. I have run out of the "My Ancestor" type articles  
★ - always a favorite for readers. Your fellow SUVCW brothers like to read about what  
★ your g-g-g-grandfather did in the War and what happened to him later. A piece on  
★ some museum you visited can be very interesting, as also a visit to a battlefield. So,  
★ please take time to send me your article, by email or printed legibly (have some respect for my tired old eyes, please!) or on disc. Photos are nice but certainly not required - sometimes a written description is even better than an image! ~ Dave  
★  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK

Below: the 121st Dept of California & Pacific Encampment in session as a report is read by the Delegate from the newest Camp in our Dept, Camp 28



Below, with CinC Pahl are L to R, Julie Atzen, Past Camp 2 1st Lady Melaine Caines, Dept 1st Lady Kim Sayre, Immediate Past Dept 1st Lady Rachele Campbell, Camp 21 1st Lady Eileen Tisch, Past Camp & Dept 1st Lady Rosemary Lowe & Brenda Boucher



Below, CinC James Pahl 3rd from R, with DC Sayre, 1st Lady Kim Sayre and representatives from the DUVCW, UDC and SCV beside Civil War cannon, "Big Bill."



Below, Camp 1st Lady Eileen Tisch and CC Will at the San Luis Obispo ceremony



Above, Dept Patriotic Instructor, Will Tisch at his station during the Encampment meetings. The banner reads "Patriotism"



Below Left; DC J. Sayre & 1st Lady Kim: Center, CinC Pahl & Camp Brs, T. Helmantoler, N. Dorn, J. Sayre DC, D. Poole, B. Lowe PDC, W. Tisch CC: at Right, the CinC with Bro. Nate Dorn in his brand new uniform, a Proud Private in the Sons of Veterans Reserve.



# OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING (Note Time)

April 14, 2007 4:30pm

## Meeting Location

Staff NCO Club

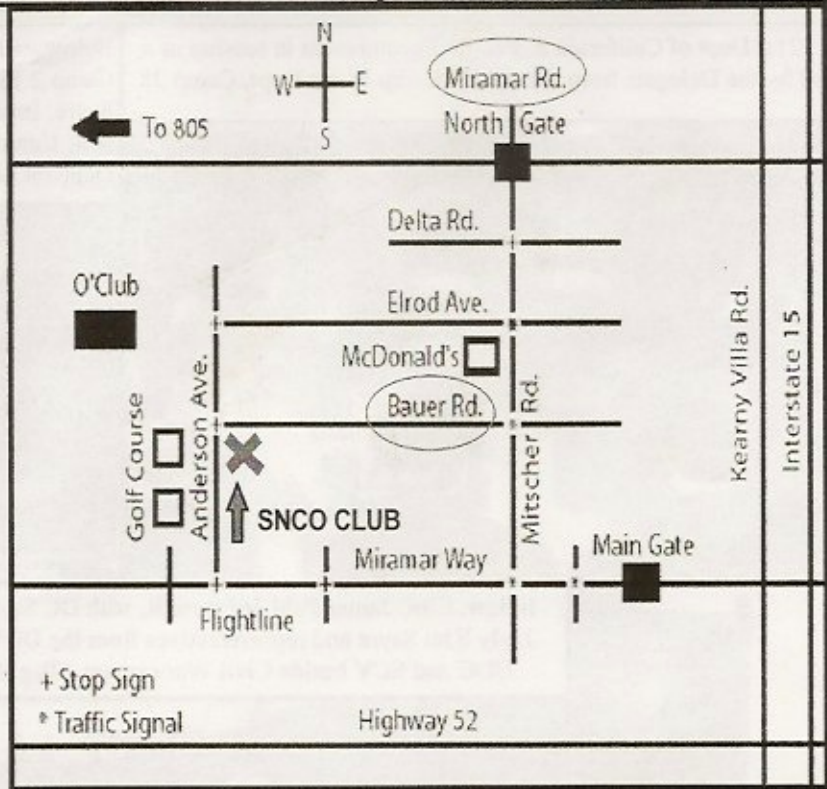
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

## 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 Speakers

Our own SVC, Tom Helmantoler and Secretary/Treasurer, John May will present on the topic, "Lincoln's Presidential Cabinet" - you won't want to miss this!



The General

## The General



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21  
Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor  
13460 Hwy. 8 Business, Sp. #102  
Lakeside, CA. 92040 - 5229



Plan now to attend one or more of the several Memorial Day ceremonies planned for our Camp