



*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 4**

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

**July 28, 2007**

## **Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch**

Brothers, at our June meeting, Brother Bob Lowe PDC, received the prestigious Meritorious Service Gold Star from the National Headquarters of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for his extensive work with registering graves of Union veterans. Bob's work on this on-going project for many years was noted and declared by Department Commander, Jerry Sayre PCC. In the same meeting, Bro. Jerry Sayre received a Commendation from our National Graves Registration Officer, Bob Lowe, for his continued and tedious work in tending the cemetery in which our Camp Namesake, Sgt. William Pittenger rests. These two commendations are rare and only presented for outstanding service and dedication to our Order.

Bob's Gold Star will be officially pre-

sented to him by our Order's Commander in Chief, James Pahl, at the National Encampment in regal fashion. Congratulations to both Brothers Bob and Jerry on behalf of

your grateful and admiring Camp Brothers, family and friends!!! Many of our core Brothers will be in St. Louis for the 126th National Encampment during our August meeting and we wish them safe travel and delightful weather as they represent us as delegates of our Camp and Department. We will continue on at our regularly scheduled meeting to continue our work and enjoy brotherly fellowship. In August, the order of

business will be light. Our meeting will be shorter than usual as we finish Summer and head into Fall. Upcoming commitments re-



DC Jerry Sayre PCC presents the certificate recognizing Bro. Bob Lowe PDC for having been awarded the prestigious Meritorious Gold Star for his work on Graves Registration

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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 & 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.

## The Story of Taps by Bob Lowe PDC

The 24-note melancholy bugle call known as "taps," is thought to be a revision of a French bugle signal, called "tattoo," that notified soldiers to cease an evening's drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the tattoo resemble taps. The word "taps" is an alteration of the obsolete word "tattoo," derived from the Dutch "taptoe." Taptoe was the command - "Tap toe!" - to shut ("toe to") the "tap" of a keg. The revision that gave us present-day taps was made during America's Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, heading a brigade camped at Harrison Landing, Va., near Richmond. Up to that time, the U.S. Army's infantry call to end the day was the French final call, "L'Extinction des feux." Gen. Butterfield decided the "lights out" music was too formal to signal the day's end. One day in July 1862 he recalled the tattoo music and hummed a version of it to an aide, who wrote it out in music. Butterfield then asked the brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, to play the notes and, after listening, lengthened and shortened them while keeping his original melody. He ordered Norton to play this new call at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call. The music was heard and appreciated by other brigades, who asked for copies and adopted this bugle call. It was even adopted by Confederate buglers. This music was made the official Army bugle call after the war, but not given the name "taps" until 1874. The first time taps was played at a military funeral may also have been in Virginia soon after Butterfield composed it. Union Capt. John Tidball, head of an artillery battery, ordered it played for the burial of a cannoner killed in action. Not wanting to reveal the battery's position in the woods to the enemy nearby, Tidball substituted taps for the traditional three rifle volleys fired over the grave. Taps was played at the funeral of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson 10 months after it was composed. Army infantry regulations, by 1891, required taps to be played at military funeral ceremonies. Taps now is played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag and to signal the "lights out" command at day's end.

## More on the "Story of Taps" by Bob Lowe PDC

In July 1862, after the Seven Days battles at Harrison's Landing (near Richmond), Virginia, the wounded Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, General Daniel Butterfield reworked, with his bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton, another bugle call, "Scott Tattoo," to create Taps. He thought that the regular call for Lights Out was too formal. The custom, thus originated, was taken up throughout the Army of the Potomac and finally confirmed by orders. Soon other Union units began using Taps, and even a few Confederate units began using it as well. After the war, Taps became an official bugle call. Col. James A. Moss, in his Officer's Manual first pub-

lished in 1911, gives an account of the initial use of Taps at a military funeral: "During the Peninsular Campaign in 1862, a soldier of Tidball's Battery A of the 2nd Artillery was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods. It was unsafe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, on account of the proximity of the enemy, and it occurred to Capt. Tidball that the sounding of Taps would be the most appropriate ceremony that could be substituted." Since then, American Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Airmen have been honored by playing this haunting melody at funerals and memorials in a thousand places.

| Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* Denotes SVR participation)      | Time, Month, Day, Year         | Contact Persons             |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 126th Annual National Encampment, St. Louis, MO.                  | Aug. 9 - 12, 2007              | Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler |
| Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar                     | 4:30 PM, Aug. 11, 2007         | Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler |
| * Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park                | 11:00 AM, Aug. 25, 2007        | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| Civil War Cotillion, Resurrection Catholic Church, Escondido      | 5:00 - 10:00 PM, Aug. 25, 2007 | Bob Lowe, Will Tisch        |
| Reenactment, Huntington Beach Central Park, recruiting-info table | 8 AM - 4 PM, Sep. 1-2, 2007    | Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler |
| * Color Guard, Padre's Game, Petco Park, San Diego                | 7:00 PM, Sep. 15, 2007         | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar                     | 4:30 PM, Oct. 13, 2007         | Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler |
| * Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park                | 11:00 AM, Oct. 27, 2007        | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| * Massing of Colors, Order of the World Wars, Balboa Park         | 10:30 AM, Nov. 4, 2007         | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| * Veterans Day Parade, San Diego                                  | 10:30 AM, Nov. 11, 2007        | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| * "Mother Goose Parade" El Cajon, CA                              | 9:00 AM, Nov. 18, 2007         | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| * Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA                                 | 5:00 PM, Dec. 1, 2007          | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |
| Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar                     | 4:30 PM, Dec. 8, 2007          | Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler |
| * Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park                | 11:00 AM, Dec. 22, 2007        | Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch     |

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, June 9, 2007**

**Present:** Brothers Dave Allyn, Si Bass, Andrew Brooks, Jack Bruzas, George Cavanagh, Robert Dodge, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John Howell, Bob Lowe, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch, and guests Julie Atzen, Gay Allyn, Mike Bailey, Brenda Boucher, Hilda Dodge, Sue Fox, Sandy Helmantoler, Cindy Hodges, Rosemary Lowe, Kim Sayre, 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. R. Dodge led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was offered by Dept. Chaplain T. Helmantoler.

**I. Honored Attendees** Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre and First Lady Kim Sayre, new member applicant Maj. Silas Bass, U.S.A. (Ret.), and Dr. Mike Bailey all welcomed.

### **II. Announcements**

- 1) Br. John Finch is present and we wish him improved health.
- 2) Br. Jack Bruzas is present and our best wishes go out to him.
- 3) Br. Nate Dorn from San Luis Obispo made the trip south to participate with the Camp in Memorial Day activities. We thank him for the extra effort.
- 4) Br. John Pollard is living in Willits and is now the 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. of American Legion Post 174.
- 5) Br. Ed Moser was recently ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church. Congratulations are expressed to him.
- 6) Br. D. Allyn expressed his support of the Young Marines Program and distributed flyers to those interested.
- 7) Our Color Guard participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance.
- 8) SUVCW ROTC Awards were presented to Mira Mesa High School Cadet Captain Claudia Varda and to Vista High School Cadet MSgt. Adriana Gordajev.
- 9) National Graves Registration Officer Bob Lowe announced the awarding of a Certificate of Appreciation to Br. Jerry Sayre for exceptional contributions to the National Graves Registration Project.
- 10) Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre announced that the Meritorious Service Award Gold Star is to be awarded to Br. Bob Lowe at the National Encampment in August.
- 11) Eileen Tisch announced the beginning of the annual No Bake Sale, the primary fund-raiser for the Auxiliary (ASUVCW). A donation of \$10 is requested.

### **III. Committee Reports**

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported on the Last Soldier Project. Working for the plaque is being finalized and we are pursuing ideas for the installation of the plaque at Mt. Hope Cemetery.
- 2) M. McBride reported that the speech contest is being planned. A prospectus will be mailed out to high schools in Ramona, Escondido and Poway in September and the contest will be in February, 2008.
- 3) J. May reported on the Combined Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of North County. Letters have been sent from our Camp to San Diego County State Assembly members in support of AB 1485, in response to a request from Gold Star Wives. A fund-raiser is being planned for October to

raise money for and awareness of the Veterans' Hall in Oceanside. Two scholarships were awarded by the CV-FONC this year, both to students from our Camp---Br. Calvin Erickson and Cory May, son of Br. J. May. The organization is considering the purchase of a "ceremonial bugle" which will play "Taps" through the use of a digital insert in the instrument. A motion (May/Allyn) to contribute up to \$100 to the cost of the bugle was not carried.

### **IV. Upcoming Events**

- 1) Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, 11 am, June 23.
- 2) Civil War Reenactment, Antique Tractor and Steam Engine Museum, Vista, 8 am-4 pm, July 14, 15.
- 3) National Encampment, St. Louis, MO, Aug. 9-12. See J. Sayre if you would like to attend.
- 4) Camp Meeting, NCO Staff Club, MCAS Miramar, 4:30 pm, Aug. 11.

### **V. Minutes of Last Meeting**

A motion (Lowe/Cavanagh) to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as published in The General, passed.

### **VII. Officers' Reports**

- 1) JVC J. Malone presented three new applications for membership: 1) Michael Clover, whose ancestor served in the 130<sup>th</sup> IL INF, 2) Christopher Forrester, whose ancestor served in the 30<sup>th</sup> IL INF, and Silas Bass, whose ancestor served in the 1<sup>st</sup> MO Lt. Arty. A motion (Malone/May) to accept these applications passed unanimously. Dept. Cmdr. J. Sayre inducted Silas Bass and presented him with a membership pin.
- 2) Sec. J. May reported on correspondence from Br. K. Forrester accompanying his son's application and thanking the Camp for accepting his own application
- 3) Treas. J. May reported that since the last meeting, the Camp had expenses of \$346.47 and income of \$309.00. The balance is \$3138.16, of which \$1325.45 is in the Flagpole Replacement Fund. Additionally, the new IRS reporting regulations will take effect next year, but National has informed us that each Camp will receive the proper paperwork directly from the IRS.

### **VIII. Old Business**

No Old Business was discussed.

### **IX. New Business**

- 1) J. May suggested that a Camp wreath be purchased for use at memorial events. A motion (May/Helmantoler) passed to have Eileen Tisch lead the effort to create a wreath and be reimbursed for her expenses.
- 2) A motion (Lowe/May) passed to reimburse B. Lowe for the purchase of cemetery flags.
- 3) A discussion of purchasing a ceremonial bugle (\$525) took place. Questions remain as to the quality of the sound and the maintenance requirements. J. May to look into these questions and report back at next meeting.

### **X. Members' Minutes**

Members' Minutes were postponed until next meeting.

### **XI. Raffle**

The raffle netted \$56.00 for the Camp treasury. Winners included S. Bass, J. Bruzas, S. Bass (winning a second time and graciously passing), R. Dodge, A. Brooks (also passing the honor),

**Camp Commanders Corner** (Cont. from Pg. 1)

garding the 'Last Soldier Project' and our Camp Oration contest, designed to further the task of teaching history and preserving the memory of our Union ancestors, will be discussed. Please note we will not be able to meet at MCAS Miramar for our October Meeting as the air show will necessitate closing the NCO club at that time. We desire to conduct the October meeting aboard the San Diego Maritime Museum's historic ferry, the SS Berkeley, docked at the Embarcadero. This will require a minimal contribution from our members and will be hosted by Brother Mike Schooling, who is a Docent on the Berkeley. A discus-



National Graves Registration Officer Bob Lowe PDC presents DC Jerry Sayre with a special recognition certificate for his faithful service in tending the grounds of Fallbrook's Oddfellows Cemetery where Sgt. Wm. Pittenger rests

sion will take place at the August meeting regarding this situation. It is hoped that all Brothers and guests who own period attire/uniforms will attend the October meeting dressed in same. I look forward to working with our Camp in the upcoming months and I am excited at the prospect of future projects and subsequent events for all to enjoy. Thanks to all for your continued support and membership and most of all, thanks to the 'Boys in Blue.'

Yours in F, C and L,  
Commander  
Will Tisch

**Remembering the Past by Dave Allyn**

Long ago in a far off country called Pennsylvania, I had the honor to act as a Pallbearer for a Veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg. That day, I was in uniform with the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry reenacting organization, who were invited by National Park Superintendent John Latchar to march directly behind the hearse. While we were standing at ease outside the mortuary, the Super asked now PCinC but then Capt. Kent Armstrong, if he could provide four men to perform the duty. Capt. Armstrong called for volunteers and my hand shot up with such speed, it surprised even me! Four of us were selected along with four 'galvanized Confederates' for the honor of carrying the casket containing the remains of not just this latest soldier, who had turned up in the unfinished railroad cut along US Route 30 west of town. (This had been the scene of some mighty fierce fighting on the First Day) Along with our soldier, the remains of some 7-8 other unknowns who have been found in past years, share this same lead-lined casket. The allegiance of our man could not even be determined but his age was thought to be not more than twenty and death had been mercifully swift as his skull was shattered. No buttons could be found so it was officially deemed he was simply an "American" and

hence the pall was to be bourn by both sides and we were interspersed accordingly. It was a day I shall never forget. A light drizzle fell as we bore the casket down the steep drive from the side of the funeral home and into the hearse. All of us worried we might slip due to the steel heelplates we had on the heels of our brogans. Thankfully, nothing untoward occurred. Then we took our places on each side of the hearse and, to the slow beat of muffled drums, we marched the mile or so to the National Cemetery. There, the "Old Guard" of the US 3rd Infantry Division, the same unit that provides around the clock guards at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknowns, took the casket from the hearse to the bier. The last three remaining Civil War widows were seated directly in our front as we witnessed the orations of such notables as James McPherson and the rifle salute. Then we listened to the plaintive cry of the bugler as he sounded taps over the grave of yet another 'lost' but now found 'Boy in Blue,' or, was it 'Gray'? Only God knows for which cause he was willing to give his last full measure of devotion. It was a day which lives in my minds-eye and in the few photos I have that were sent to me by friends from various newspapers. It may have been my 'fifteen minutes of fame' - who can say?

### PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Left, Jerry Sayre, Marc Moniz, Dave Allyn & Bob Lowe at the June memorial services at the Vets Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park. Our Camp provides a Color Guard every other month, alternating with the Sons of the American Revolution for this honor



Above Upper Right, Chaplain Deane Poole demonstrates the weight of a Springfield; Right, Kim Sayre, Julie Atzen, Rosemary Lowe and Brenda Boucher enjoy a mug of something cool under the shade of the tent-fly; at Left, Jerry Sayre and Bob Lowe answer the astounding questions visitors are keen to hear at the Vista Antique Steam Engine and Tractor Museum reenactment, July 14 & 15



Bob Lowe PDC, explains how to load a revolver to two interested visitors at our information table at Vista on July 15



Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre with "Gunny" R. Lee Erme of History Channel's "Mail Call" July 7th at Ft. McArthur



**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, April 14, 2006 Cont.**

Eileen Tisch, and D. Allyn.

**XII. Program**

The program, entitled "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from the Civil War to Present," was presented by Sandy Helmantoler and her brother, Dr. Mike Bailey, U.S.N. (Ret.). The first part of the program was enthusiastically received and the second part will be presented at a meeting in the future. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to both presenters by Cmdr. Tisch.

The closing prayer was offered by SVC T. Helmantoler and Cmdr. Tisch adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John May, Secretary

**Welcome New Brothers!**

- Michael Clover,  
whose ancestor served in  
the 130<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry
- Christopher Forrester,  
whose ancestor served in  
the 30<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry
- Silas Bass,  
whose ancestor served in  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Light  
Artillery

**WANTED: ARTICLES**

As your Editor I am making an appeal to all Camp 21 Brothers to submit articles for publication. We need more of the always popular "My Union Ancestor" pieces. If you have not yet written one for your Union ancestor, or if you have others for which you've not yet paid honor, please do so as soon as possible. It matters not whether he was wounded, killed, a prisoner or never "saw the elephant" - your Brothers are interested in knowing more about the average Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Revenue Cutter Serviceman. Thanks !!!

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)



Sometimes, perseverance pays off. After what seems to have been six years of searching for his Great Grandfather's service, Brother Bill Peck ("Mr. Lincoln," above) finally found what he has been searching for; Eugene LaGrange Peck who was a Private in Co A, Erie Regiment, a 30-day unit that never left Pennsylvania but served, none-the-less, after the "1861 Call for Volunteers" at Pennsylvania's Camps Wright and Wilkins from May 29 to August of 1861.

We of the Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21 are honored to number this master interpreter of American Presidential History among our Brothers. Brother Peck, as "President Lincoln," may be seen and heard at numerous gatherings and reenactments throughout Southern California and beyond.

# OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING (Note Time)

August 11, 2007 4:30pm

## Meeting Location

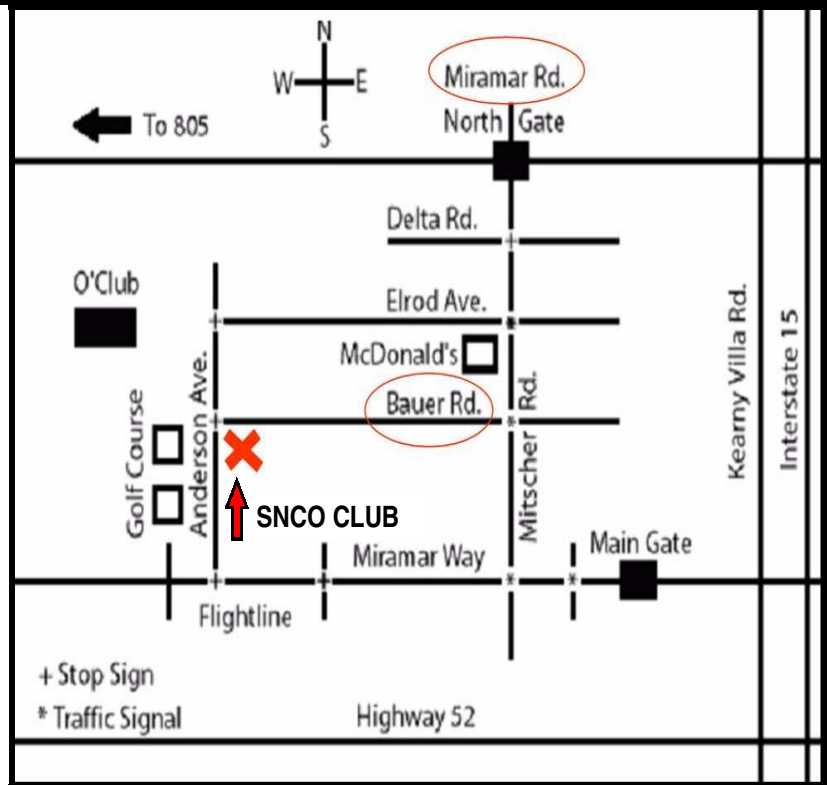
Staff NCO Club  
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

## 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 SUCVW meeting at the Staff NCO Club. Refer to Map at Right →

## Our Speaker

Brother Monroe McBride's son,  
Spencer, will speak on  
"Sewing the Seeds of the Civil War"  
Spencer is recent graduate of BYU

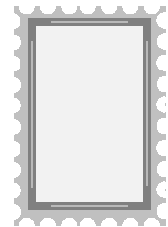


The General

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