

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XIV Number 2

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

Mar 29, 2008

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Tom Helmantoler

Brothers and Friends,

As we meet for the second time in 2008, I am pleased to announce that we may have found a permanent location for our meetings with kind assistance from Steve Smith of the SCV, an old friend of Camp 21. Steve is the director of the Flying Leatherneck Mu-

seum at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, which is a familiar location to all of us. We will be meeting in the restoration warehouse, which Steve operates. Directions to the location of the warehouse are elsewhere in the General. We greatly thank Steve for his kind generosity. We will have to see if this is a good location in several ways. We already know that the price is right -- It's free! We'll see about other aspects. I wish to congratulate Dept. Commander Jerry Sayre on his reelection and

to his officers and staff for a successful and fun Dept. Encampment at Camp San Luis Obispo this month. Congratulations to Bro. Will Tisch who was awarded the SUVCW Meritorius Award by CinC Charlie Kuhn for his tireless efforts to gather donations from the Camp and render assistanace to Bro. Dave Shafer, who lost so much in the fires of 2007. I

would especially like to thank the ladies of Camp 21, namely Department First Lady Kim Sayre, Rosemary Lowe, Eileen Tisch, Julie Atzen, Brenda Boucher, Gay Allyn, and Pam Dorn for being at the Encampment and for their work, selling tickets, setting up and doing whatever needed be done. Their presence

was an obvious aspect of the Encampment's success. I would also like to thank all the Brothers from Camp 21 that attended, which included Dept. Comman-Lowe, Deane Poole, Dave Allyn, Will Tisch, Nate Dorn, and yours truly. I would like to thank Brother Nate Dorn and his wife Pam for organizing a breakfast on Sunday morning for those that attended before ride!) home. I would also like to congratulate Dept. SVC Charlie

der Sayre of course, and Bob making the long drive (or train Mabie for a superb job in organizing the Encampment

and keeping the expenses to a minimum. Given the prospect of \$4 a gallon for gas at that time in 2009, I would seriously entertain the idea of car pooling there to minimize expenses for all attendees. Lastly, I would greatly encourage any Brother who has never



CinC Charlie Kuhn presenting Will Tisch PCC the SUVCW Meritorius Award

(Continued on page 2)

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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: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space limitations may require editing.

<u>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</u> should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

<u>CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY</u>. 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. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

National Civil War Chaplains Museum open in Lynchburg

The mission of the National Civil War Chaplains Museum in Lynchburg is to educate the public about the role of chaplains, priests, rabbis and religious organizations in the Civil War. The museum helps preserve religious artifacts and shows the influence religion had on the lives of political and military personnel. With a number of paintings and other period artifacts, the Civil War Chaplains Museum has a lot of great things to display just not enough space to display it. The museum is currently housed in a 1,000 square foot room in the Arthur S. DeMoss Building at Liberty University. But plans are in the works to expand into a facility ten-times as large. Monetary donations are needed and the museum's board also works to continue finding more artifacts for display. They're hoping the website, www.chaplainsmuseum.org, will be able to help. It serves as a teaching tool about the importance of religion in the daily life of the Civil War era, both in the spiritual sense and the social sense. The museum will have some of the collection on display this weekend (29-30 Mar) for the 12th Annual Civil War Seminar at Liberty University. This year's topic is The Battle of Gettysburg.

For more information, call (434) 592-4366 or log onto

http://www.chaplainsmuseum.org.

The National Civil War Chaplains Museum is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 organization

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Camp Commanders Corner Con't.

(Continued from page 1)

attended either a Dept. or National Encampment to do so. It's interesting and great fun! As we move along into 2008, I would hope that we can complete the Last Soldier Project during this year. I want to report that we are moving further into planning for some type of ceremony to commemorate the 200th birthday of President Lincoln, hopefully as close to his birthday as possible, in 2009. In finishing, I would like to know if we might put together a color guard for the 4th of July this year for the Scripps Ranch Parade. I watch it each year, and, with it being the most patriotic day of the year, I feel something is lacking when I'm not participating in it. We'll discuss it during the April meeting. Please always remember that I'm the rookie here and if there's something I should be doing, please tell me. I will NOT be offended - sometimes I just need to be told!

Yours in F, C, and L,

Tom Helmantoler Camp Commander

Civil War Museum plays role that goes well beyond tourism

Many viewed Harrisburg City Council's decision to cut \$400,000 in annual funding for the National Civil War Museum as a mortal blow. That it isn't is a credit to a newly structured board and management that in recent years has attracted more funding and resources from businesses, foundations and community organizations. Museum board members wonder if they were caught in political crosshairs involving Mayor Stephen R. Reed and some members of council, particularly disputes involving the city incinerator and the mayor accumulating some \$8 million in artifacts for an Old West museum. Although Harrisburg played a role as a staging area for the frontier, Pittsburgh is the city known as the "Gateway to the West," and the mayor's plans to tell the story of the history of western states in south central Pennsylvania always seemed a bit of a stretch. But the same can't be said of the Civil War Museum. The nearby Battle of Gettysburg, the war's most famous and significant confrontation, was largely about Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's desire to take Harrisburg, a major railroad center and key training and staging area for Union troops. It was Harrisburg, not Gettysburg, where Lee envisioned an epic battle. Reed deserves credit for his role in putting together a first-class facility with some 24,000 photos, documents and artifacts now worth an estimated \$18 million. But ambitious staffing took its toll and financial issues arose not long after the museum opened in February 2001. Over the past few years a largely new 20-member board composed of business and community leaders brought in new management, pared staff, adjusted prices, attracted more private funding and is embarking on marketing to enhance its national and international reputation. While the loss of \$400,000 annually hurt, the 2008 budget of \$1.4 million and a \$1.5 million budget for 2009 are both projected to be more than \$100,000 in the black. In addition, a National Civil War Museum Advisory Council, composed of academians, Civil War experts, business leaders and officials of other museums from throughout the country, is aiding in the facility's mission of teaching and illustrating history. Museum officials are correct that, in addition to being a day-trip destination and a rental facility for weddings and other events, the museum can be part of a synergy to attract tourists for multi-day stays in this region. There is the close proximity to Gettysburg and other local attractions – Hershey Park and Lancaster County, to give two examples. But the most striking feature of the Civil War Museum is its ability to teach and educate both school students and adults. Gettysburg tells the story of military tactics, savage warfare and enormous human courage, suffering and sacrifice. Current and future generations should learn of Harrisburg's significance to those events.

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Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA.	4:00 PM , Apr. 12, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego	11 AM, Apr 26, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Armed Forces Day Parade, Torrance, CA	9 AM, May 17, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Memorial Day Service, Oddfellows Cemetery, Fallbrook	Time TBA, May 24, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
* Memorial Day Service with Elk's Lodge 1812, El Cajon, CA.	5 PM, May 25, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Bob Lowe
* Memorial Day Service, Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego, CA	Time TBA, May 26, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jerry Sayre
Regular Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA.	4:00 PM, June 14, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego	11 AM, Jun 28, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
127th National SUVCW Encampment, Peabody, MA.	Aug. 8-10, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
Regular Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA.	4:00 PM, Aug. 9, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING February 9, 2008

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, George Cavanagh, Paul Davis, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John Howell, Bob Lowe, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Dave Shaffer, Tom Stinson, Edward Swain, Will Tisch, and Guests; Gay Allyn, Julie Atzen, Meagan Bailey, Mike Bailey, Brenda Boucher, Forrest Brodsky, Robert Caldwell, Rosella Davis, Leslie Day, Patrick Finch, Sandy Helmantoler, Rosemary Lowe, Charmaine Malone, Kim Sayre, Janice Shaffer and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Tom Helmantoler at 4:35pm at Coco's Restaurant, 5955 Balboa Ave., San Diego, California. The opening prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Poole and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Finch.

I. Honored Attendees

Dept. Cmdr. and Mrs. Sayre welcomed along with Dr. Mike Bailey and Eagle Scout Forrest Brodsky.

II. Announcements

1) Br. Joseph Brittian passed away on Sept. 22, 2007. He lived in Missouri and was a retired USAF officer.

III. Presentations

- 1) Cmdr. Helmantoler presented W. Tisch with a PCC badge and a plaque in recognition of his service to the Camp during his tenure as Camp Commander.
- 2) Cmdr. Helmantoler presented Eileen Tisch with a plaque in recognition of the service she has given to the Camp in the last two years.
- 3) Br. Paul Davis was recognized for his 50 years of SUVCW membership. He was presented with a certificate and with the SUVCW "Challenge Coin" by Cmdr. Helmantoler.
- 4) Forrest Brodsky was presented his SUVCW Eagle Scout Commendation by Cmdr. Helmantoler.

IV.Minutes of Last Meeting

A motion (Allyn/Lowe) to approve minutes of the Dec. 8 meeting, as printed in <u>The General</u>, was passed.

V. Officers' Reports

- JVC M. McBride presented Edward Swain, whose ancestor served in the 39th IN INF, and Thomas Payne, whose ancestor served in the 10th MI CAV, for membership. A motion (McBride/ Cavanagh) to approve these applications carried. New Br. Ed Swain was in attendance and an SU-VCW lapel pin was presented him by JVC M. McBride.
- 2) Dept. Chaplain D. Poole had nothing to report.
- Sec. J. May reported on correspondence from a) the IRS informing us of the need to electronically file the new non-profit tax form, b) the Combined

- Veterans and Fraternal Orders of North County informing us of the eligibility of our members and families to apply for the Wanda Sherman Trust Scholarships (See J. May if interested), ad c) Laurie Wietzel, from Lakewood, CO, who wanted information on her husband's greatgrandfather, who is buried in the I.O.O.F. section of Mt. Hope Cemetery.
- 4) Treas. J. May reported that since the last meeting, the Camp had expenses of \$279.53 and income of \$1948.50. The balance is \$4479.87, of which \$1325.45 is in the Flagpole Replacement Fund and \$40.00 is in the Minter's Ranch Fund.

VI. Committee Reports

- 1) J. Malone reported that the Minter's Ranch project is proceeding. Approval from the Vista Irrigation District is expected soon.
- 2) B. Lowe reported that we are still waiting for the headstone for Pvt. Thomas Shelly. When it arrives, we will be able to complete the Last Soldier Project.

VII. Activity Reports

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported that the Color Guard performed at the VMMC in January and the next scheduled appearance is Sat., Feb. 23.
- W. Tisch reported that a large crowd was present at the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands. Br. B.
 Daley was present as were members of Camp
 17.
- 3) T. Helmantoler reported on his attendance at the Mt. Hope Cemetery luncheon celebrating the opening of the new administrative offices. Cemetery Manager David Lugo has always been very cooperative in helping the Camp with activities at Mt. Hope'

VIII. S.V.R. Report

W. Tisch reported that 33 members of Co. G, 5th CA INF have paid dues for 2008.

IX. Upcoming Events

- 1) Massing of the Colors, Sun., Feb. 17, in Burbank.
- VMMC service, Saturday, Feb. 23, in Balboa Park.
- 3) Vista Reenactment, Sat.-Sun., March 8-9, in Vista
- 4) Department Encampment, March 14-16, in San Luis Obispo. Delegates from the Camp include D. Poole, J. Sayre, B. Lowe, D. Allyn, N. Dorn,
- W. Tisch, and T. Helmantoler)
- 5) Chino Reenactment, Sat.-Sun., April 4-5, at Prado Park in Chino.
- 6) Next Camp Meeting, Sat., April 12, time and location to be announced in newsletter.
- 7) National Encampment, Aug. 8-10.

X. Old Business

1) J. May inquired as to the status of the Lincoln

Civil War Books Win Award for Fresh Insights on Era and its Icons By Linda Wheeler. The Washington Post.

The annual Lincoln Prize went this year to two authors of books on Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. An honorable mention was given to an author for her exhaustive study of what the common soldier thought about slavery. The three books represent new contributions to the study of the 16th president and the Civil War at a time when there would seem to be little new to say. The winners are Elizabeth Brown Pryor for "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters, and James Oakes for "The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics." Chandra Manning got an honorable mention for "What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War.' Pryor, a historian and diplomat, and Oakes, a history professor in the graduate school of the City University of New York, will receive \$20,000 each. Manning, an assistant professor of history at Georgetown University, will receive \$10,000. All three will be honored at a banquet in New York on April 1. The Lincoln Prize, awarded since 1990 for the year's best books on Lincoln and the Civil War, was co-founded and endowed by business leaders and philanthropists Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman, the principals of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York. The Lincoln and Soldiers Institute of Gettysburg College administers the awards. Writing on the life and times of Lee before and after the war, Pryor says she read about 10,000 documents in her quest to understand Lee beyond the battlefield. In his personal letters, of which hundreds survived, Lee is not the stonefaced general of photographs and paintings but rather a likable guy who had a large family, worried about money and loved his job in the military -- and beautiful women. Interspersed with the letters and other documents, many unpublished until this book, Pryor takes "historical excursions," using the material as a jumping-off point to discuss the customs and politics of the period. This allows her to place Lee in the context of his time and not to judge him by modern standards. Among her discoveries were Lee's extravagant flirtations in letters to women, done mostly with the knowledge of his wife, Mary, who often added brief notes at the end of the letters. He addressed women as "my beautiful" and teasingly inquired about a wedding night or said he was all alone and missed them. He was considered handsome. Pictures taken in the 1850s show a man with dark hair and a mustache who dressed in the fashion of the day. Pryor notes that Lee was conscious of his good looks and that when his hair receded at a young age, he carefully combed it over to

cover the bald spot, a habit he retained until his death. "From the time he was sixteen he was his own barber, cutting his hair, moustache and beard with tiny snips each day so that he always looked the same -- that is to say, perfect," she wrote. Pryor has written a lively book, an easy read and a significant contribution to understanding Lee and the Civil War period. "The Radical and the Republican" is equally well researchedand will appeal more to the serious student of the war. Oakes set out to tell how Lincoln and Douglass, two extraordinary and powerful personalities with strong differences, made common cause during the Civil War. Lincoln arrived in Washington with the conviction that slavery should not be spread into the new territories of the West. Although he hated slavery, he allowed it to exist where it was established, anticipating its inevitable extinction. Douglass, a former slave living in Washington, was an articulate and persuasive orator who was fiercely opposed to slavery anywhere in the country. Lincoln took the bold step of inviting Douglass to the White House. When Lincoln was criticized for that, he invited Douglass a second time. One influenced the other. Lincoln listened carefully to Douglass's argument for the immediate emancipation of slaves and later for the recruitment of black soldiers. Two years before Douglass's death in 1895, he said he had met no man "possessing a more godlike nature than Abraham Lincoln." "What This Cruel War Was Over" is an impressive and exhaustive examinatin of the opinions held on slavery by ordinary soldiers fighting on each side of the war and how they evolved. Much of what Manning reports counters a common belief that for the Confederates, the war was not about slavery until Lincoln made it so with his Emancipation Proclamation. She says slavery was always the issue for Southern soldiers, irrespective of whether they owned slaves, because of the social structure of Southern life. She says black slaves made all Southern white men, rich or poor, equal in their un-enslaved status. It was the soldiers' "gut-level conviction that survival -- of themselves, their families and the social order -- depended on slavery's continued existence." On the Union side, she finds soldiers joining the army to end slavery and others supporting that position after exposure to slavery during the war. Some, she writes, came to that conclusion only after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. She says those who supported emancipation "knew that emancipation was necessary to save the Union but also because they now recognized that it was necessary to make the Union worth saving."

PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Union Reenactors flank SVR Co. G Color Guard & Ladies at BSA Lincoln Pilgrimmage 16 Feb in Redlands



Co. G Color Guard executes a "Right Wheel" at the Burbank "Massing of Colors" in Forest Lawn Cemetery on 17 Feb

a photo-op



Julie Atzen, Eileen Tisch & Rosemary Lowe dressed in period attire for the "Massing" in Burbank to support our Boys in Blue



Co. G Color Guard at 23 Feb Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park



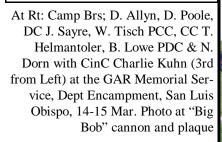
Br. Bill Peck, "Pres. Lincoln," speaks with two 21st century admirers at the Vista reenactment, 8-9 Mar



Left; Eileen Tisch, Rosemary Lowe & Brenda Boucher at our tent fly make quite a fetching threesome!



10 Mar, VMMC Director, Adm. Rod Melendez, thanks CC Tom Helmantoler, Bob Lowe PDC & Will Tisch PCC for a set of leather accoutrements donated to complete deceased Br. Al Hodge's uniform (at Right) in their display





Above; 122nd Annual Encampment, Dept of California & Pacific. DC Jerry Sayre (3rd from left) & CinC Charlie Kuhn (3rd from right) pose with Dept Officers after the swearing-in ceremony at Camp San Luis Obispo's NCO Club



Welcome New Brothers!

- Edward Swain whose ancestor served in the 39th IN Infantry
- Thomas Payne whose ancestor served in the 10th MI Cavalry

"DECADERS"

Congratulations on attaining 10 years of membership in the SUVCW

- Ernie Powell 07-98
- **♦** Billy Ogan 08-98

Thank you Brothers for your continued commitment to the objectives of our Order!

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 or on the Web at www.sdcwrt.org

Minutes of February Meeting Continued

Birthday Committee. A committee (W. Tisch, T. Helmantoler, J. Howell, M. McBride, and J. May) was formed to report back at the next meeting.

2) J. Howell has agreed to be the new Eagle Scout Coordinator.

XI. New Business

- 1) J. Malone suggested that the next meeting be held at USMCAS Miramar at the warehouse of the Aviation Museum. A motion (Sayre/Malone) to hold the April meeting there passed and an additional motion (Lowe/McBide) to take up a collection at the meeting to donate to the museum also passed.
- 2) W. Tisch displayed a paper artifact donated by Cindy Hodges to the Camp. A motion (Helmantoler/Allyn) to maintain the artifact as Camp property until its value can be established was passed.
- 3) D. Poole announced that he has started a business and is willing to let the Camp use it for fund-raising purposes.
- 4) B. Lowe mentioned that the Gen. U.S. Grant Birthday Celebration in New York is printing a souvenir program. A motion (Lowe/Allyn) to spend up to \$25 to purchase an ad in the program passed.
- 5) B. Lowe is looking for information on an SUVCW Camp that was active in San Diego during the 1950's and 1960's.
- 6) P. Davis noted today is the anniversary of the capture of Fort Donnelson.

XII. Raffle

The raffle netted \$46 for the Camp. Raffle winners included B. Lowe, D. Shaffer, Kim Sayre, D. Poole, Forrest Brodsky, D. Allyn, J. May, W. Tisch, J. Finch, and T. Stinson.

XIII. Members' Minutes

- 1) J. May read selections from the affidavits on a recruiting certificate.
- 2) J. Howell announced that there will be an Eagle Court of Honor in Fallbrook on March 22 and if anyone would like to attend, they can see how the Camp presents a certificate.
- 3) J. Sayre showed the Camp a book received from Iowa that was presented to him for his efforts in connecting G.A.R. records in Los Angeles with corresponding photos in Cedar Falls.
- 4) B. Lowe showed the Camp his new SUVCW sword, which is available from the National Ouartermaster.
- 5) T. Stinson showed a Civil War-era cavalry saber that was given to him.
- 6) P. Davis mentioned that his wife is in possession of original letters written by her ancestor in the Medical Corps.
- 7) D. Poole mentioned that the Lincoln Memorial Museum in Redlands is very impressive, with several artifacts and papers relating to President Lincoln.

XIV. Program

The program, "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during the Civil War, part 2," was delivered by Dr. Mike Bailey. He stressed the history of opiate addiction and predicted that returning veterans of the Iraq War will have similar problems as those wounded who returned from the Civil War.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, John May, Secretary

Special Announcement from Commander Tom

Commander Tom Helmantoler says, "We will have a planning meeting for those on the Lincoln's 200th Committee at 2:30, followed by an Officers meeting at 3:00 at the MCAS Miramar McDonald's on the 12th, prior to the regular Camp meeting."

All are welcome to attend

OUR NEXT MEETING (NOTE - CHANGE OF LOCATION & TIME)

April 12, 2008 4:00 pm

New Meeting Location

Flying Leatherneck
Aviation Museum
Restoration Warehouse
MCAS Miramar
San Diego, CA.

Our Program

Our Senior Vice Commander, LT Jeff Malone, US Navy (Ret) will present, "Secret Service, Submarines & the Wild, Wild West; What My Ancestor Did During the Civil War"

DIRECTIONS TO NEW MEETING LOCATION:

Take the 5 or 805 to Miramar Road. (From 805 drive East on Miramar Road; from I-15 drive West) Turn South into the MCAS Miramar North Main Gate. Don't forget to have your ID and insurance information to show the sentry. Once through the gate, turn RIGHT at the very first stop sign. The warehouse is the 2nd building on your left. Park on North side.

Kindly suggestion: This is a raw airplane restoration warehouse. Please dress in tennis shoes (no heels for the ladies) and clothes that are warehouse appropriate.

Call Tom Helmantoler 858-566-0012 if you need assistance

The General





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

"One Nation Under God"



Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"