



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 XIV Number 4

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

July 26, 2008

## Remembering Bob Lowe

It was with sadness that I was given the job of reporting to many of you by phone the passing of Bob Lowe recently. I apologize to those I was not able to contact in this manner but as time was limited, I decided to inform the remainder by e-mail. Impersonal as it may be, I felt time dictated it be done that way. If you are just hearing about Bob now, please be informed that I have a few email addresses that are not active or correct so, please update me if you didn't hear from me. Bob was the second SUVCW Brother I met (after Gene Armistead who recruited me), and I was always very impressed with his gentle nature, and his ways of making people feel welcomed. I felt I was immediately a member of our group, and that I was valuable to the group because of him. My wife, Sandy, put it best when commenting on him after the National Encampment last summer. She simply said, "What a gentleman"!! I couldn't agree more. In short, he was the BEST! Bob's memorial service was held at the El Cajon Elks Lodge on July 2. I am happy to inform all that although the service was an Elks function, it was well attended by SUVCW members from all over the State of California, with a good representation of the Brothers and Ladies of Camp 21. My thanks to all who attended. Department Officers attending were Commander Jerry Sayre, SVC Charlie Maybe, JVC Glen Roosevelt, PDC Tad Campbell, PDC Gene Armistead, as well as Camp 21 Officers,

Deane Poole, PCC Will Tisch and myself. National SUVCW Council Member Brad Schall PDC attended, as did SCV Father A.J.Ryan Camp 302 Commander Ira Lack, and PCC Steve Smith and SDCWRT President, Dave Tooley. In all, about 25 SUVCW members

attended as well as many members' wives. I thank all of them for showing their respect for Bob. If I omitted anyone, please accept my apology. Please know that our Order, and the whole San Diego Civil War community, was well represented. The eulogy (see Pg. 2) was delivered by Department Commander Jerry Sayre and summed up quite well what most everyone felt about Bob, namely that he was "everyone's best friend." It was a fine tribute. Several other people made excellent speeches about Bob, including SVR Commander Dave Allyn, and Brother Bill Howell, who was speaking as an Elk. All in all, it was a fitting memorial to Bob. As everyone knows, Bob was a pillar in our Order and especially for Camp 21.



PDC Bob Lowe  
1 May 1938 ~ 23 June 2008

One could almost expect him to be present at any SUVCW function that took place. It seems that many members of the Camp had it in the backs of their minds that they didn't necessarily need to attend functions because "*Bob and Rosemary will be there.*" Well, that situation is no more. One of my best memories of Bob was what he once said, "*If I don't volunteer to do it, who will?*" Well put, and as we move

*(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.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** 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*.

**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. 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.

***Eulogy for Bob Lowe by DC Jerry Sayre***

The Elks Memorial Service is one of long tradition and provided strictly for its members. The Lowe family and I deeply appreciate the permission and cooperation extended to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War by the Exalted Ruler and Officers of this Lodge by allowing us to be a part of this celebration of Bob's life. Our sincere gratitude is extended to all involved. I stand here today to officially say good bye to my dear friend Bob Lowe. He didn't care much for the name Robert. All knew him as "Bob" with one "O" as he used to say. Such was the quiet humor that defined Bob. Bob Lowe was a quiet, perhaps overly modest man, acutely conscious of his responsibilities and prone to deprecate his own charms and abilities. This loved and loving husband and father was also my best friend and colleague over the past 12 years. Our friendship took us to six National Encampments, from Missouri to New Hampshire. We stood together placing flags on the Graves in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg in 26 degree weather. We marched in 100's of parades and stood together atop "Little Round Top" and looked over the field where "Pickett's Charge" took place. Despite his proclivity to understate his contributions and never seeking acknowledgment, Bob was named this Lodge's "Citizen of the Year" in 2000, and ELK of the Year for 2001, an award in which he was duly proud. Bob chaired and served on several Veterans and Americanism Committees. In yet another organization, The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Bob was our most active member. He was Past Camp Commander of the Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, where he was named "Brother of the Year" 2006. He was also Past Department Commander of the Department of California and Pacific. He was National Graves Registration Officer for many years, helping to modernize the volumes of data onto a workable and searchable database that, with his guidance, became accessible online. This meant inputting and processing data for 100s of 1000s of Civil War Veterans. Bob was nominated for the Cornelius F. Whitehouse Outstanding Brother of the Year Award. Many Were present when our Commander in Chief awarded Bob with our Highest National Honor in 2005. It was Bob who must have recognized something in me early in our association, and he mentored me on my path in the "Sons." All that I have accomplished is due directly to his influence. I looked up to his example in

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Remembering Bob Lowe**

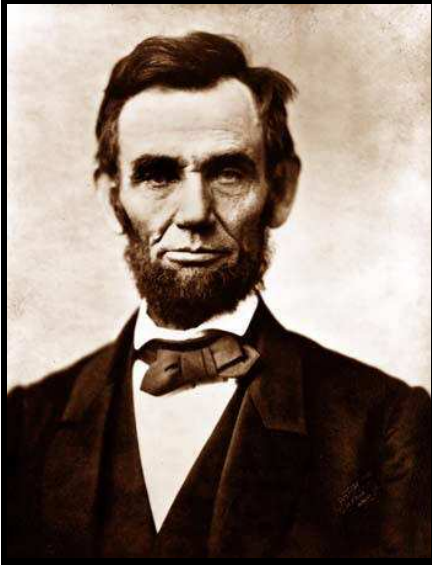
*(Continued from page 1)*

forward, most appropriate. Yes, Bob, who *WILL* volunteer in the future? If we wish our Camp and our Order to survive, who *WILL* volunteer? As our membership ages, I urge each Brother to take a fresh look at their membership and activity in our group and, in President Lincoln's words, "*take increased devotion*" to our Order. I heard it said several times within recent days, "*I can't imagine us without Bob.*" Well Brothers, we're going to get to find out. This is an opportunity for people to come forward to fill the void, and keep us the excellent Camp we are. No one of us is good enough to do what Bob did alone. He was a unique individual in that way. But collectively, with many people doing their part, we can all fill the void. It can begin by simply coming to the next meeting and seeing what you can do. Whether its being in a color guard, or attending a reenactment recruiting tent, more people doing the work lessens the load for all. Brothers, it's time we see what we're made of ! I want to see Camp 21 continue to grow and improve. I hope you do, too. Thanks in advance.

Commander Tom

## The Critical 1864 Election by Tom Helmantoler

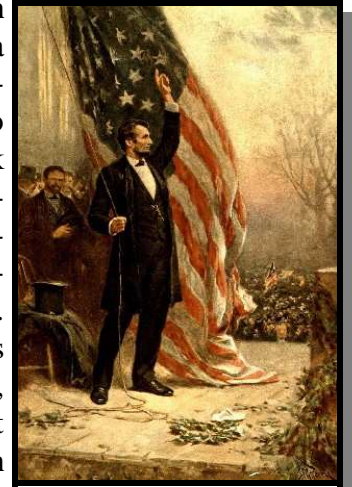
**Editor's Note: this is the second in our on-going series of Lincoln Bicentennial articles. it is our desire to run similar articles on our beloved 16th President from now to the celebration of his 200th birthday. Contributors to this effort are asked to submit articles now - all are welcome - we need your help !**



Abraham Lincoln, 16th President as he appeared in his first term

If 1860 was the most pivotal election in US History, 1864 was the most unique election, and quite possibly, the most important. Abraham Lincoln participated in both of them and was by no means a heavy favorite in either of them. With 2008 also being an election year, there are

similarities between the two elections, this year and 1864. The country is at war now but in 1864, the country was at war with itself. In 2008, we have a former military man opposed by a person with no military experience, as back then (Lincoln had very little). In both years, a sizeable segment of the population wanted the war ended. But, of course, differences existed, too. In 1864, eleven of the states weren't even going to participate in any meaningful way. But the election was critical, in that Lincoln's opponent, his old nemesis, popular Gen. George McClellan, had all but promised to get the war ended, no matter what it took. Lincoln promised more fighting, and more death. 1864 was a very bloody year in the Civil War. Such circumstances never make a President popular. But, the



Dramatic painting of the era

(Continued on page 5)

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
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 <b>Note Special Time !</b>	<b>3:30 PM, Aug. 16, 2008</b> <i>set-up at 3:00 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Aug 23, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
Large ACW Reenactment, Huntington Beach, CA. Info-Recruiting Table with Camps 2, 4 & 17	8 AM - 4 PM, Aug 30-31, 2008	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
Regular Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego	4:00 PM, Oct 11, 2008 <i>set-up at 3:30 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Oct 25, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* "Massing of Colors," Balboa Park, hosted by Military Order of the World Wars, SD Chapter	10:00 AM, Nov 1, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Veteran's Day Parade, San Diego, CA.	10:30 AM, Nov 11, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* 62nd Annual Mother Goose Parade, El Cajon, CA.	TBD AM, Nov 23, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
* Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA.	TBD PM, Dec 6, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler
Election of 2009 Officers & Camp Meeting, Flying Leathernecks Museum Restoration Warehouse, MCAS Miramar, San Diego	4:00 PM, Dec 13, 2008 <i>set-up at 3:30 pm</i>	Tom Helmantoler, Jeff Malone
* Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA	11:15 AM, Dec 20, 2008	Jerry Sayre, Tom Helmantoler

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING June 14, 2008**

**Present:** Brothers Dave Allyn, Andrew Brooks, Michael Clover, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, and guests Julie Atzen, Gay Allyn, Patrick Finch, Cindy Hodges, Kim Sayre, Jan Shaffer, Eileen Tisch and David Tooley. The meeting was called to order by Commander Tom Helmantoler at 4:10pm at the Restoration Warehouse of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, MCAS Miramar, 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. Jerry Sayre are in attendance as well as David Tooley, President of the San Diego Civil War Round Table.

### **II. Announcements**

Br. Bob Lowe is presently at home under hospice care and is relatively comfortable. He is willing to take calls. Camp members and friends are asked to pray for his health and for his wife, Rosemary.

### **III. Presentations**

- 1) Dept. Cmdr. Jerry Sayre presented Certificates of Appreciation to Julie Atzen and Rosemary Lowe for their help with the Department Encampment.
- 2) T. Helmantoler read a Certificate of Appreciation to the Camp from VMMC for the continued work of our Color Guard.

### **IV. Minutes of Last Meeting**

A motion (Sayre/Allyn) to approve minutes of the April meeting, as printed in The General, was passed.

### **V. Officers' Reports**

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported for JVC M. McBride that there were no new members.
- 2) Sec. J. May reported correspondence from a) Mrs. Weitzel, thanking the camp for sending her pictures taken on Memorial Day at Mt. Hope of her husband's great-grandfather's grave, b) the Borrego Springs Chamber and Visitor's Center inviting us to participate in the Borrego Days Desert Festival and Parade, and c) former Dept. Sec./Treas. Tom Smith, acknowledging our thanks to him for his years of service to the Department.
- 4) Treas. J. May reported that since the last meeting, the Camp had expenses of \$172.35 and income of \$66.00. The balance is \$3433.05, of which \$1325.45 is in the Flagpole Replacement Fund and \$40.00 is in the Minter's Ranch Fund.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

- 1) T. Helmantoler reported for Br. Gene Arimistead that no further progress on the Minter's Ranch project has occurred but the Chairman of the Vista Irrigation District is in favor of the project.
- 2) T. Helmantoler reported that we are still waiting for the headstone for Pvt. Thomas Shelly. J. Sayre will find the contact who deals with Civil War headstones.
- 3) W. Tisch reported that the Lincoln 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee would like the Camp to sponsor a parade and our first annual speech contest. He distributed a draft of a flyer to be distributed throughout the county to encourage others to observe the occasion. A motion (May/Brooks) to allow the expenditure of up to \$200 for postage and printing was approved. W.

Tisch will work with VMMC Board of Directors to plan the parade. Tentative date is Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009. A motion (May/Sayre) to appropriate \$200 to retain the services of Br. William Peck as Abraham Lincoln was approved. J. May will negotiate with W. Peck. Jan Shaffer offered to craft a Lincoln Bicentennial quilt as a fundraising project. A motion (Sayre/Schooling) to advance \$100 to her for materials was approved.

- 4) T. Helmantoler reported for M. McBride that the Speech Contest is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 12 and a location has been reserved at the campus of the San Diego County Office of Education.

### **VII. Activity Reports**

- 1) Color Guard participated in the VMMC service on April 26.
- 2) Color Guard also participated in the plaque dedication at Mt. Soledad for Drew Bailey.
- 3) Memorial Day activities of the Camp included; a) Mt. Hope, b) Fort Rosecrans, c) Oddfellows Cemetery in Fallbrook, d) El Cajon Elks, and e) Combined Veterans and Fraternal Orders in Oceanside.

### **VIII.S.V.R. Report**

No SVR Report was given.

### **IX. Upcoming Events**

- 1) National Encampment will be August 8-10 in Peabody, MA.
- 2) VMMC service on June 28 with Blue/Gray Barbeque to follow in Coronado.
- 3) Vista Reenactment on July 12-13, 9am to 4pm.
- 4) Next Camp Meeting, Restoration Warehouse of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, USMCAS Miramar, Sat., Aug. 16, 4pm. Date has changed due to motion (Sayre/Poole) approved in order to not conflict with National Encampment.

### **X. Old Business**

- 1) Three versions of a membership directory were submitted by M. McBride. A motion (Brooks/Poole) to use version #3 was approved. An additional motion (May/Schooling) to add the name of our qualifying ancestor to the directory was also approved.
- 2) A question was raised as to why the Eagle Young Marines present at Mt. Hope were not used as part of the Color Guard.

### **XI. New Business**

- 1) W. Tisch suggested the Camp present an appropriate memento to Br. B. Lowe. T. Helmantoler, W. Tisch and D. Allyn will follow up.
- 2) W. Tisch reported that Pittenger Camp 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medals were presented to the Eagle Young Marines present at the Fallbrook Memorial Day Service.

### **XII. Raffle**

In lieu of a raffle, a collection was taken as a donation to the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. A total of \$58 was collected.

### **XIII. Members' Minutes**

Members' Minutes was omitted due to time con-

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## Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial by Tom Helmantoler (Cont)

(Continued from page 3)

major difference between the two men was that McClellan was a military man and Lincoln was a wily politician.



1864 Republican Poster

Lincoln endured many personal affronts from some of his Cabinet members (most notably Salmon P. Chase, his Treasury Secretary who lusted to be President) and especially Gen. McClellan, when he was Commanding General of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan was immensely popular with his men, and, he thought, with the entire Union Army. McClellan thought he would be able to ride that popularity into office.

Lincoln had other ideas, mainly to circumvent McClellan. Lincoln made many celebrated trips into the field to visit the Union troops, at times endangering himself. He not only would come to review the troops and meet with his

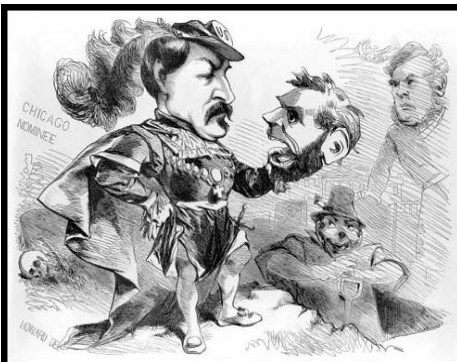
generals, he would visit with the men as individuals. He also would visit wounded men in the many hospitals in the Washington area, especially at the Sol-

dier's Home, where he liked to stay to escape the stifling city heat in summertime, as well as to get away from the hectic atmosphere of the Executive Mansion. These simple visits were to pay off handsomely in the general election. So were the passes given to Union troops to go home to vote. Lincoln's personal touch so impressed the Union Army that when the election came, the troops decided to vote for Lincoln by a huge majority. The troops gave a hard look at several things. Which candidate gave them the best chance of winning the war? Which candidate was standing with them to victory after all the death and destruction they had seen? And which

candidate had given the personal contact that showed who really cared about them? Many of the soldiers that voted for McClellan did so out of old loyalty to him, or because of the dislike of the war in general, a kind of protest vote against Lincoln, more than a vote for McClellan. Lincoln's victory in the 1864 election, which as late as September he privately said he expected to lose, was no landslide. His margin of voter approval, while not great, seemed to have been boosted by the large majority the Union Army votes for him. It's just another reason for SUVCW members to be proud of the "Boys in Blue." Back then, a tall person was referred to as "long." With that in mind, Lincoln announced soon after his election victory, "Long Abe a little longer!!" It's too bad for the country that it wasn't to be a lot longer. We can only wonder how Reconstruction might have gone had he lived to see it through.



Maj. Gen. George Brinton McClellan, in an early war photo



1864 Election Cartoon



### PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Mem. Day 2008 at Oddfellows Cemetery, Fallbrook - Brothers of Camp 21 & Aux. Sisters beside Pittenger's decorated grave



Pres. Lincoln (aka Br. Bill Peck) delivers "Gettysburg Address"



Eagle Young Marines provided the Color Guard & helped decorate graves with Flags



Above: Mem. Day 2008 at Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego - Brothers of Camp 21 at Flagpole Rock, atop "GAR Hill" Below: combined musket salute - CSA & USA Reenactors with SCV, SVR & SAR Brothers & Comrades



Above Left, the travelling Vietnam Mem. Wall at Green Hills Memorial Park where Br. Milt Irwin attended Mem. Day ceremonies. At Right, a portion of the LA National Cemetery. Photos courtesy of Br. Milt Irwin



Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery - DC Jerry Sayre reads Gen. Logan's General Order #11 establishing May 30th as Memorial Day



Tom Helmantoler, Eileen & Will Tisch, Brenda & Deane Poole ready to present Colors at SD Padre's Petco Park, early in June



At 28 June Memorial Service, VMMC, San Diego. ASUVCW Rosemary Lowe PDP holding photo of PDC Bob Lowe (detail at Left) From L-R, Will Tisch PCC, Dave Allyn, Bill Howell, Rosemary, Marc Moniz, CC Tom Helmantoler, & Chaplain Deane Poole. The photo, produced by Will Tisch, was made into 1" "thumbnails" suitable for wearing on uniforms & lapels.





## Minutes of June Meeting (Cont)

(Continued from page 4)

straits.

### XIV. Program

The program, "Railroads and Railways," was conducted by SDCWRT President David Tooley. A Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Tooley was presented by T. Helmantoler. The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Helmantoler adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

### Welcome New Brother !

*No New Members since our  
May edition*

### "DECADERS"

*No Decaders This Edition*

**Congratulations on attain-  
ing 10 years of member-  
ship in the SUCVW**

**Thank you Brother for  
your continued commit-  
ment 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](http://www.sdcwrt.org)

### *Eulogy for Bob Lowe by DC Jerry Sayre (Cont)*

both word and action, and tried to do things the way I had seen Bob do them before me. The word I like to use to describe Bob is "Class." Webster defines Class as **"Excellence or Quality in style, appearance or behavior. A Cut Above."** Bob exhibited more of it than anyone else I know. It is also defined as **"A place of Learning."** This, too, describes Bob. He was boundless with the generosity of his knowledge. Whether it was the countless students he taught in their classrooms, along with Rosemary, regarding history and the Civil War, or the 1000s of people we came in contact with at numerous events around the country, Bob taught us all. Three years ago, I was in this very room to hear Bob deliver his comforting words for our mutual friend Al Hodges, not then, envisioning this day would come. Bob and I often joked that **"The key to originality is not revealing where you borrowed your best stuff."** From his eulogy for Al, I found these words that truly speak of Bob himself. Here was a man of superlatively high standards, complete integrity and boundless enthusiasm for whatever task he took in hand. No one, whose privilege it was to know him, is likely to forget the candor of his speech, or the warm and glowing brightness of his friendship. He never dodged a responsibility, never refused to take on a hard job if it needed to be done. What he preached, he practiced. What he believed, he believed with heart and soul. He fought hard for every cause in which he enlisted, and causes for which he fought were good and right. His devotion to Veterans, Americanism and Patriotism was unmatched. To Rosemary, Bob's family and many friends, I say that no one can better appreciate than I, who am utterly brokenhearted by the loss of my beloved friend, what your suffering must be and I pray that you may be supported by Him to Whom alone the sorely stricken can look for comfort in this hour of heavy affliction. In closing, I should like to quote the words of the great Abraham Lincoln, who, in his memorable Gettysburg Address said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." In this instance, Bob Lowe, an honored, respected and revered member of our organizations, gave of himself unstintingly to the preservation of American History and the Honoring of Veterans of this Great Country, and he gave more of himself than probably he knew to those of us who needed sound, experienced and wise counsel or assistance. Bob Lowe was loved by many, his contributions boundless and he leaves a huge, un-fillable void in our lives. Those who knew him were made better people merely by association. Bob will be sorely missed and always remembered. Goodbye, my friend.

*Editor's note: Dept Cmdr Jerry Sayre's eulogy is printed with his permission & grateful thanks from the Pittenger Camp. Fine words for the Finest Brother our Camp has yet been blessed to know. May God help us to walk in Bob's footsteps as we seek to remember the "Boys in Blue." May He provide another like Bob to help us preserve our ancestor's honor as we move on, from this time of loss into brighter days ahead !*

## OUR NEXT MEETING: NOTE - *Special TIME*

August 16, 2008 **3:30 pm**

### Meeting Location

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

### Our Program

At this time, plans for  
the meeting program  
are not finalized  
come prepared for  
active  
participation !

### 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.

### *Need help with directions ?*

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

The General

# The General

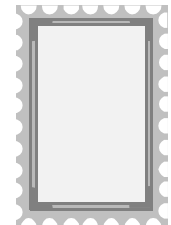


Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21  
Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor  
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*Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"*

*"In God We Trust"*

*"One Nation Under God"*



**Remembering Our Dear Departed Brother Bob Lowe, 1 May 1938 ~ 23 June 2008**