



CAMP ORDER NO. 6  
Series 2025



GEN. W.S. ROSECRANS CAMP NO. 2  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND PACIFIC  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

PASSING OF BROTHER PAUL BANNING NICHOLS

By the authority vested in me, as Commander of Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp, No. 2, Department of California and Pacific, by the Camp Bylaws, the Department Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered, as follows:

Section 1: It is my very sad duty to report the passing of Brother Paul Banning Nichols, on 6 April 2025, at the age of 78. According to his daughter, Wendy, he had been in declining health, and he passed away peacefully, leaving this earth all too soon.

Section 2: Brother Paul joined the Gen. W.S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, on 11 January 2020. His Union Army ancestor was John Hiram Hunter, who served in Co. F, of the 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry. Although he professed that his failing eyesight, and other ailments, would limit his participation, Br. Paul dedicated himself to the Camp, and the Order. He attended in-person meetings at the Solheim Senior Community, until the outbreak of the covid 19 pandemic, and via Zoom after that. His loyalty gained him an appointment to the office of Camp Guide, which he held from 2021, through 2023. Br. Paul furthered his commitment to honor the Boys in Blue, by joining Logan's Brigade, in 2021, as a Charter Member, and by volunteering to do research on Civil War nurses for the Women's Relief Corps' National Data Base.

Section 3: Brother Paul's daughter, Wendy Lynch, has shared with us the following highlights of her father's life: He was born in Reno, NV; but, being the son of an LTC in the Army Corps of Engineers, Br. Paul was raised all over the world, moving every time his dad had a new deployment. He had three brothers, David, Michael (deceased,) and Richard, and one sister, Marjorie. Br. Paul met his wife, Sharon, while attending UC Davis. After Sharon graduated UC Davis, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career at the National Broadcasting Company, and Br. Paul followed her, transferring to UCLA. Before graduating, he made the decision to join the United States Marine Corps, where he served for four years as a computer programmer, stationed at El Toro Marine Base. While there, Br. Paul married Sharon in 1971. After completing his enlistment in the USMC, he followed his passion for the theatre, getting a part-time job as a carpenter at NBC, which turned into a 40-year career, that progressed into working in Special Effects, and as a Pyrotechnician. He worked on "The Tonight Show," with Johnny Carson, and

Jay Leno; as well as, soap operas, including, "Days of Our Lives," and "Santa Barbara." Wendy says that her dad was an avid reader, often surrounded by multiple books that he was reading at any given time. He also had multiple creative projects he was working on. He was a talented wood carver, often carving various caricatures; and, since he was a young boy, he also had a passion for painting miniatures, thus leaving an extensive toy soldier collection to his heirs.

Section 4: Wendy was Br. Paul's only child. She gave him two grandsons, Connor, and Declan, and a stepdaughter, Samantha, who made him a great-grandfather two years ago with the birth of her son, Maverick. His grandsons, and great-grandson brought him so much joy. Sadly, Br. Paul's wife, Sharon, passed away two years ago.

Section 5: The Family invites us to join them as they remember Brother Paul, at Riverside National Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA, on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM. The Camp will conduct an SUVCW memorial ceremony, at our Camp meeting, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Section 6: The Camp extends sincere condolences to Brother Paul's daughter, Wendy, and his entire family. Sympathy cards may be sent to Wendy Lynch, at: 20282 Avenida Puesta Del Sol, Yorba Linda, CA 92886.

Section 7: The Camp Charter will be draped in black for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this order; and, all Camp 2 Brothers are respectfully directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge (pursuant to C&R, Article III, Sec. 9) for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

The foregoing Camp Order is proclaimed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, by Dean Smith, Commander of Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

(CAMP SEAL)

By Order of: /s/ Dean Smith

Commander  
Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2  
Department of California and Pacific

ATTEST:

By: /s/ James Bellows  
Secretary