



GEN. W.S. ROSECRANS



*Newsletter of Gen. William S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, SUVCW  
Los Angeles & Ventura Counties*

# ***Rosecrans Report***

*Volume 2025, No.3-Memorial Day Special Edition  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Celebrating 144 Years*



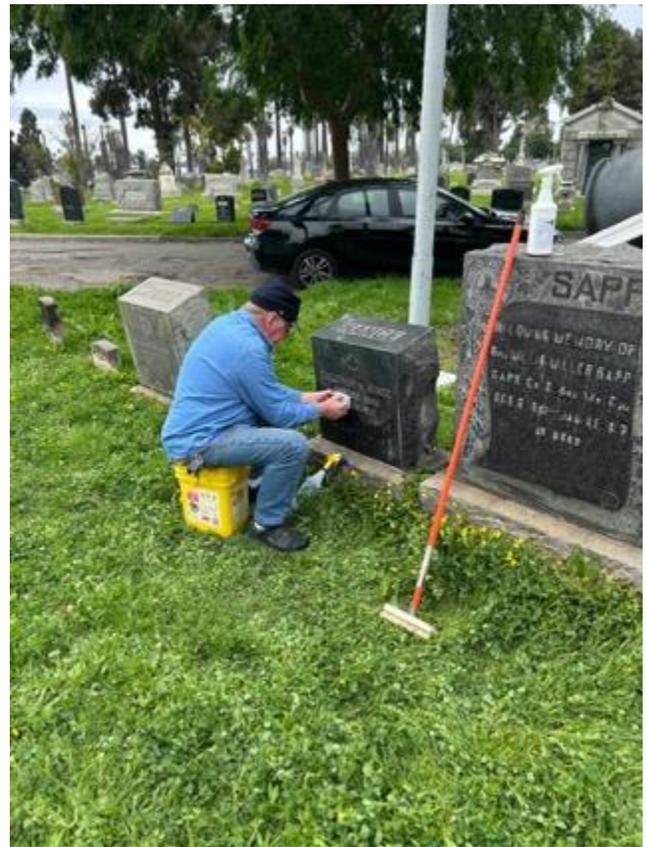
*Preserving the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and our Ancestors who Fought to Preserve the Union 1861 - 1865*

## **Lead Up to Memorial Day 2025**

In August 2024, Brother Bill Harrington began a quest to document all 312 Union graves in the Stanton GAR Post plot at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. He counted the graves, and documented each one, cross-referencing them with Cemetery records, Find-a-Grave, and the SUVCW Graves Database. After months of field work, and research, he reported his findings to the Camp, and proposed that the Camp make a concerted effort to clean all of the headstones, repair damaged ones, replace missing ones, and to conduct a Memorial Day ceremony at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, on May 26, 2025, marking the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

The Camp was energized, seeing the opportunity to do the work needed to “preserve the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of our ancestors who fought to preserve the Union.” A Committee was formed, and funds were approved for cleaning supplies. The Committee met at the Cemetery on three occasions to clean the headstones. A magnificent U.S. Flag was purchased by Br. Harrington, and raised on the flagpole next to the GAR cannon monument. Brother Jim

Lybolt made 15 wooden crosses to put on unmarked graves, and Br. Harrington had the names of the veterans printed on plastic to attach to the crosses.



Br. Lybolt Cleaning a Headstone

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Br. Lynch Spraying Headstones



Raising the New U.S. Flag

The Camp owes its thanks to the Committee members: Bill Harrington, Don Lynch, James Gill, Steve Magoffin, Jim Lybolt, John Richardson, Derek Gould, plus Brothers Kris Anderson, Harry Bellows, and Dean Smith, who did all of the work to show the community that someone is caring for the graves of Union veterans at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery. HUZDAH! HUZDAH! HUZDAH!



## Camp 2's Memorial Day Events

On Memorial Day weekend, the Camp conducted the following three ceremonies:

### **Sunnyside Cemetery—Long Beach**

On Saturday, May 24, at 2:00 PM, our Auxiliary conducted its traditional ceremony at Sunnyside Cemetery, in Long Beach. All six active members of the Auxiliary were in attendance--Melinie Caines, Cynthia Day-Elliott, Jeanette Kilis, Maryann Kilis, Ernie Olson, and Barbara Kishiyma. Brothers Kris Anderson, Harry Bellows, Phil Caines, Jim Lybolt, and Dean Smith, also participated. The ceremony was held at the gravesite of Medal of Honor recipient, Nelson W. Ward, who was a Quartermaster Sergeant in Co. M, of the 11 Pennsylvania Cavalry. Ward led a charge that secured a railroad bridge held on both ends by Confederates, and alone, secured the body of his Captain, who had been killed. After the ceremony, the group placed flowers on all of the graves of Union veterans in that section of the Cemetery.

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Auxiliary Sisters, and Camp 2 Brothers at Sunnyside



## **Angelus Rosedale Cemetery**

On Sunday, May 25, Brothers Kris Anderson, Bill Harrington, Jim Lybolt, Don Lynch, Steve Magoffin, and Dean Smith, placed 300 flags on the graves of Union soldiers buried in the Stanton GAR Post plot, plus 15 wooden crosses on unmarked graves, and decorated the GAR monument cannon, in preparation for the Memorial Day ceremony, on Monday, May 26.



GAR Cannon Monument

On Monday, May 26, at 10:00 AM, the Camp conducted a special ceremony at the Cemetery, which was attended by Brs. Harry Bellows, Phil Caines, Bill Harrington, Lowell Harris, James Gill, Jim Lybolt, Steve Magoffin, John Richardson, and Dean Smith, as well as, Sisters Melinie Caines, and Cynthia Day-Elliott. Mrs. Harrington, and two members of the public, also attended. In addition, five members of the Los Angeles Fifes and Drums were our special guests, as they wanted to honor two Union soldiers who were buglers during the war, and members of the Stanton Post's Fifes and Drums band.

After the ceremony, the band played a few songs to entertain us, and showed us the panel that they use for

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the back of the booth they use at events they attend. Some of the members of the band also expressed interest in learning more about joining the Camp and SUVCW.

Thanks to Br. James Gill, there are two videos on the Camp's Facebook page. One is of the entire ceremony, which you should watch if you have never attended one of the Camp's Memorial Day ceremonies, and the other is of the Fifes and Drums playing the songs. Go to the Camp's website, scroll to the bottom of the home page, and click on the icon for Facebook, then search through the photos for the videos.



Camp 2 Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters  
L-R: J. Gill, B. Harrington, C. Day-Elliott, D. Smith, H. Bellows, L. Harris, M. Caines, S. Magoffin, J. Lybolt, and J. Richardson



Flag, Flowers, & Wreathes



Cross on Unmarked Grave

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L.A. Fifes & Drums—L to R: Thomas Noell, Steve Andy, John Davis, Director, Ethan Baker, and Matthew Noell



L.A. Fifes & Drums Booth Backdrop



## **Mountain View Cemetery—Altadena**

At 2:00 PM, on Monday, May 26, Brothers Nick Smith, and Dean Smith, conducted our traditional Memorial Day ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery. Brother James Henkel was also in attendance, as well as Sisters Carole Morton, and Kathy Bickers, DUVCW Tent 91, and Elizabeth Courtney, DUVCW Tent 95, who participated in the ceremony. Thanks to Janet Whaley, for getting several members of the Pasadena C.W. Round Table to attend; and, also to those from the Altadena community who attended. In all, over 40 people made this our best attended event of the weekend.



Br. Nick Smith Leading the Ceremony

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L-R Cdr. Dean Smith, Elizabeth Courtney, and PCC Nick Smith



Pasadena C.W. Round Table Members



## Other Memorial Day Ceremonies and Individual Activities

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, several Camp 2 Brothers

attended, or took part in, Memorial Day events put on by other organizations; or went to a local cemetery, and placed flowers on Union graves.

### **--Historic Wilmington Cemetery, Monday May 26, 11:00 AM**

Brother Rhys Dalton, completed his Eagle Scout project, which was a monument to the 42 Civil War veterans who are buried in Wilmington Cemetery, in time for it to be dedicated after the Memorial Day ceremony. Brother Thomas, and mom, Sherie, as well as Brother Brandon Villardi, were in attendance. Br. Brandon participated in a rifle team, that provided a three-volley salute.



Br. Rhys Dalton's Monument

### **--Los Angeles Nat. Cemetery, Monday, May 26**

Brother Jim Olds, in SAR uniform, escorted Buffalo Soldiers, in ceremony at the National Cemetery, on Memorial Day.

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Los Angeles Times



Jim Olds, left, of the Sons of the Revolution, and Larry Phoenix, Scott Lutzinger and August Gombor Jr. of the New York 54th Infantry salute during the playing of taps following the National Memorial Ceremony of the Los Angeles National Cemetery on Wednesday at Santa Ana. (Photo by J. Chou/Los Angeles Times)

Br. Jim Olds at L.A. National Cemetery

--Santa Ana Cemetery, Monday, May 26

Br. Matthew Stoops attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Santa Ana Cemetery (no photo,) and Br. Kris Anderson participated in the ceremony, as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Penn. Light Artillery. Camp 17 Brothers were also present.



Br. Kris Anderson, second from right, firing cannon salute at Santa Ana Cemetery



Camp 17 Brothers Presenting Colors

--Historic Union Cemetery, and National Cemetery, Bakersfield, Monday, May 26

Br. Bruce Wearda, participated in an SAR Color Guard in the Historic Union Cemetery's Memorial Day ceremony (photo below.) Then he participated in the SAR Color Guard in the Memorial Day ceremony, at the Bakersfield National Cemetery.



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Br. Wearda, fourth from right, with white flag,  
at Bakersfield National Cemetery

## **--Woodlawn Cemetery, Santa Monica, Monday, May 26**

Br. David Kidd participated in a parade from the Palisades American Legion Post, to Veterans Gardens, which was destroyed by the fire. Afterward, he went to Woodlawn Cemetery, where he placed flowers on the graves of two Union veterans buried there.



Br. David Kidd at Woodlawn Cemetery



## **Recognition and Thanks**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of Camp 2's Memorial Day events. You all helped make this a memorable weekend, that required a lot of hard work, and participation, and is something the entire Camp can be proud of.

For efforts above and beyond the call of duty, we must recognize:

--Br. Bill Harrington for all that he has done at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, and for pushing

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against the inertia of traditions, to pull off a wonderful ceremony at the Cemetery.

-- All of the members of the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery Committee, for their hard work, and dedication to honoring our Union veterans who are buried there. Particularly, Br. Jim Lybolt, who made the 15 wooden crosses; Br. Steve Magoffin, who performed the duties of the Chaplain; Br. John Richardson, who gave a inspiring reading of GAR C-in-C John Logan's General Order # 11; and, Sister Cynthia Day-Elliott, who stayed after, and got all of the Camp's flags collected (and the Brothers who helped her) for me to take to Mountain View.

--Sister Melinie Caines for organizing, and conducting the ceremony at Sunnyside Cemetery; for participating in the ceremony at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery; and, for bringing Brother Phil, who she is caring for while he battles some serious health issues.

--Brother Nick Smith for keeping the traditional ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery going, and actually attracting a large crowd, despite the devastation of Altadena by the fires.

--Sister Elizabeth Courtney, of DUVCW Tent 95, for taking on the role of Chaplain, and giving the invocation, and benediction prayers at the Mountain View ceremony.

--Brothers Harry Bellows, and Kris Anderson, for being the only two Brothers not on the Committee, for showing up, and helping with the work at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery.

--Brother Rhys Dalton, for making us proud, by creating such a grand monument to the Civil War veterans buried in Wilmington Cemetery.

--Each of the Brothers who made an effort to attend a Memorial Day ceremony on their own; or, to just put flowers on the graves of Union veterans, in recognition of their duty to honor, and keep alive the memory of, the Union soldiers who fought to preserve the Union during the War of the Rebellion.

--Finally, thanks to the five members of the L.A. Fifes and Drums, who made a special effort to attend our ceremony at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, and who were kind enough to come in uniform, bring their instruments so they could entertain us. Particular thanks to their leader, John Davis, who played Taps on his bugle, to close the ceremony.

## Post Script—The First Decoration Day Speech

At each of the three Memorial Day ceremonies conducted by the Camp this year, in addition to a reading of GAR C-in-C John Logan's General Order #11, I read from our National Patriotic Instructor's May Patriotic Instruction, a very inspirational speech he gave at Arlington National Cemetery, when he was the C-in-C of the SUVCW. I have attached it to the e-mail transmitting this newsletter, and encourage you to take the time to read it.

Dean Smith, Camp Commander



## **THE FIRST DECORATION DAY SPEECH**

A decade ago, then Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans, Brother Tad Campbell, had the immense honor of delivering a speech on Memorial Day, at Arlington National Cemetery. Not knowing what he could possibly say, befitting such hallowed ground, he decided to see what others had said there. He started with the first Decoration Day, and looked no further. Here is what he said:

On May 30, 1868, a crowd of 5,000 gathered in the National Cemetery at Arlington for the first Decoration Day exercises. Before strewing flowers upon the graves of the dead, they listened to an address by future President James A. Garfield, then an Ohio congressman, who had also served as a major general in the Civil War. This is a portion of his speech:

I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue. For the noblest man that lives, there still remains a conflict. He must still withstand the assaults of time and fortune, must still be assailed with temptations, before which lofty natures have fallen; but with

these the conflict ended, the victory was won, when death stamped on them the great seal of heroic character, and closed a record which years can never blot.

And now consider this silent assembly of the dead. What does it represent? Nay, rather, what does it not represent? It is an epitome of the war. Here are sheaves reaped in the harvest of death, from every battlefield of Virginia. If each grave had a voice to tell us what its silent tenant last saw and heard on earth, we might stand, with uncovered heads, and hear the whole story of the war. We should hear that one perished when the first great drops of the crimson shower began to fall, when the darkness of that first disaster at Manassas fell like an eclipse on the Nation; that another died of disease while wearily waiting for winter to end; that this one fell on the field, in sight of the spires of Richmond, little dreaming that the flag must be carried through three more years of blood before it should be planted in that citadel of treason; and that one fell when the tide of war had swept us back till the roar of rebel guns shook the dome of yonder Capitol, and re-echoed in the chambers of the Executive Mansion. We should hear mingled voices from the Rappahannock, the Rapidan, the Chickahominy, and the James; solemn voices from the Wilderness, and triumphant shouts from the Shenandoah, from Petersburg, and the Five Forks, mingled with the wild acclaim of victory and the sweet chorus of returning peace. The voices of these dead will forever fill the land like holy benedictions.

What other spot so fitting for their last resting place as this under the shadow of the Capitol saved by their valor? Here, where the grim edge of battle joined; here, where all the hope and fear and agony of their country centered; here let them rest, asleep on the Nation's heart, entombed in the Nation's love!