

Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL ORDER No. 1
Series 2025-2026

PASSING OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
DONALD BRADEN "BRAD" SCHALL

It is with deepest regret that I announce the death of our friend and Brother, Past Commander-in-Chief Donald Braden "Brad" Schall, who passed away at the age of 85. In addition to General Order #26 (Series 2024-2025), the Department of California and Pacific extends its own condolences to the family of Brother Schall.

Brad was the oldest son of Donald Braden Schall, Sr. and Anna Mae (Griggs) Schall, and had one brother and five sisters. He was born in Hutchinson, Kansas where his "Nana Schall" introduced him to the Civil War history of his family and the Joseph Hooker Post of the GAR. Both his grandmother and great-grandmother were members of the WRC. His interest in the Civil War went back to his childhood, when he lived one block from the Lincoln Civil War Memorial in Hutchinson, Kansas. As a child, his family participated in Memorial Day services with descendants of members of the Joseph Hooker Post No. 17, GAR, of which his great-grandfather had been a member. Brad's family decorated the graves of their great-grandfather and other Civil War soldiers at East Side Cemetery in Hutchinson with flags and flowers.

In the mid-1990s Brad joined the Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, SUVCW in San José, California and over the years held nearly every position in the several Camps to which he belonged. He later organized the Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp No. 24 in 1999. He was elected Commander of the Department of California and Pacific in 2002 and 2003.

At the National level Brad served on numerous committees, as National Patriotic Instructor, National Chief of Staff, and the Council of Administration before working his way up the ranks from Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief to Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and Commander in Chief in 2010. At the 129th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Overland Park, Kansas on 14 August 2010 Brad was elected Commander-in-Chief.

Brad 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, the courage of his faith, and the warmth of his friendship. Brad 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. Brother Schall fought hard for every cause in which he enlisted, and the causes for which he fought were good and right.

Throughout his time in the SUVCW, Brad continued to remain active not only in the San Francisco Bay area, but throughout the country in numerous historical societies, including serving as Co-Chairman of the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz, Volunteer National Park Service Docent at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco.

Services for PCinC Schall will be held at The Watermark at Rosewood Gardens, 35 Fenton Street, Livermore, California on Thursday, 14 Aug 2025 from 2-4 pm.

The Department of California and Pacific extends its heartfelt sympathy the family of our Brother Brad Schall. We will miss him dearly.

In accordance with G.O. #26, and in solemn recognition of his dedicated service, Brothers are directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badges in remembrance of PCinC Schall through 5 September 2025.

The foregoing Department Special Order is proclaimed this 11th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-ninth, in the City of Gridley, County of Butte, State of California by Owen R. Stiles, Commander of the Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

By Order of: *Owen R. Stiles*
Owen R. Stiles, Commander
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



ATTEST: *Randy Dhindsa*

Randy Dhindsa, Secretary-Treasurer
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War