

# The Western Dispatch



---

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT  
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

---

VOLUME VIII, NO. 3

FALL EDITION 2011

---



*l-r: Sergeant Glen Roosevelt looks on as Ordnance Sergeant Rudy Velasco "swears in" a new recruit*

# FORT MERVINE EVENT GROWS UP



## S.S.E. DRAWS RECORD PARTICIPANTS, VISITORS

**S**kies of purest blue greeted the 5th Annual Fort Mervine's "Civil War Encampment" hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). This Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature event, held over the weekend of October 8 and 9, took place at historic Fort Mervine on Monterey, Ca Presidio Museum grounds (see sidebar). The occasion, which included participants from no less than eight California camps and three auxiliaries, reached an all time high for attendance as well. According to event organizer and founder **Timothy P. Reese**, PCC, "This was a definite pinnacle for me, a 'record breaker' across the board, both in terms of participation from Camps, other Civil War organizations and also crowd turnout. Also, landing between two storms with perfect weather and temperature was priceless." In addition to serving as current Department Senior Vice Commander, Reese is also a corporal in Co. C, 8<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry.

The grateful public was treated to twice-daily firing demonstrations, featuring a six musket and one side arm firing detail by members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR). Members of Camp Warhorse of Salinas of the California Historical Artillery Society (CHAS) were on hand to thrill the crowd with the firing of cannon. There were ten tent displays consisting of various themes such as Civil War ordnance and firearms, Civil War medicine and a surgical display manned by retired Carmel Police Chief **Don Fuselier** (Camp 10). A recruiting station for Company K, 5<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry, which was conceived and manned by California and Pacific Department Commander **Glen Roosevelt** (Camp 17), was a hit with the kids. DC Roosevelt would ask the recruit to raise his right hand and have them repeat an oath, whereupon they received a certificate of enlistment. If the recruit was a lad of less than 18 summers, there was a handy board with the number "18" written on it. DC Roosevelt would kick the board out from under the table and ask the recruit step on it and say again if he was over 18. It is rumored many an 18 year old, perhaps a bit small for his age, was so enlisted that day. DC Roosevelt said, "My best memory from this event was seeing how our "young" recruits responded to their enlistments. Some were at first skeptical, but finally played along; some were just enjoying the fun of the scenario; and others were very serious and straight-faced as if they were really enlisting to help the cause. Many of the enlistees



*l-r: DSVC Tim Reese, DC Glen Roosevelt*



Any letters, articles, etc., published in *The Western Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc., the Dept. of CA & Pacific, camp officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

Copyright © 2011 6th Military District (SUVCW)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

actually ran off to find their friends to bring them back to be sworn in. Of course these immediately demanded their \$2 ‘recruiting bonus.’”

There was also a tent display honoring the Civil War veterans of Monterey County and the California Column, and the Women’s Auxiliary to the SUVCW (ASUVCW) were dressed in the women’s attire of the era as well and displaying a tent exhibiting mourning items of the era. There were artifacts of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) as well as genuine Civil War artifacts for viewing by the visitors. Another major attraction was the Civil War horse drawn ambulance trotting throughout the Fort Mervine grounds by CHAS.

The event was first approved in 2007 by City of Monterey’s then-Museum Director, the now deceased Jim Conway. The 2011 event was sponsored by the Presidio Museum’s Director Dennis Copeland who was overseeing all the History Fest events of both days. Many thanks are due to all those who helped plan and implement this event, in particular Tim Reese of Lincoln Camp 10 who has championed this event from the start and has, with focused determination and the help of those around him, shepherded this event to the smash hit it has increasingly become. For Reese, a local, it was a very special validation of his vision and work. He said, “I was born on the Monterey Peninsula in Carmel, so to direct a Civil War Encampment in Monterey is priceless. It finally took off in a big way this year, and to have it approved by [National Staff] as a Sesquicentennial Signature Event just added to the many positive attributes to this occasion.”



## FORT MERVINE CALIFORNIA



On July 7, 1846, the naval forces of Commodore John Drake Sloat, commander of the Pacific Squadron, sailed into Monterey Bay. In a state of war against Mexico, Sloat chose to send his second in command it to claim Monterey for the United States. Thus, Captain William Mervine landed and ordered the American flag raised over the old Custom House. Instead of occupying the Mexican fortifications, named El Castillo, the Americans built a new fortification on Presidio Hill above El Castillo. This Fort, later named for Captain Mervine, was the first U.S. military reservation in Monterey. In 1902, this post was greatly enlarged into the Presidio of Monterey and the old fort fell into ruins. Today only one ravelin remains, which mounts five guns on Presidio Hill behind the Army's museum. In the early American period Monterey was still the capital of California; later, the capital was shifted to Benicia, and ultimately to Sacramento.

Fort Mervine was built by Americans in 1846, was first known as Fort Stockton. By mid-1850's, inspectors said it was worthless, that its guns were too small to cover Monterey Bay, and its only commendable attribute was that the barracks had been turned over to a library society. (Redrawn from Mansfield Report, 1853.) -  
**from The California State Military Museum**



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

**G**reetings to all 6<sup>th</sup> Military District Brothers and Friends!

I wish to thank you all for the efforts you have been making to help our fellow citizens remember the "Boys in Blue," through the various events you all have been participating in this past Spring and Summer — especially SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature events, like Ft. Mervine and Alcatraz.

As the re-enactment season winds down and we move into the holiday period we should take time to reflect upon the state of health of our Order and the SVR. I commend all who have mustered for events and taken your personal time to help preserve the memory of the G.A.R. It is mainly through your efforts that our nation's history is being preserved. We know the schools cannot do enough to teach our history, given the constraints under which they operate. Only by the efforts of historical/heritage organizations — such as ours — will the youth of America learn sufficient truth to gain an appreciation for the legacy they have been given.

It's time to begin prepping for the annual SVR reporting process. Beginning this year, unit CO's are required to submit their Annual Unit Application (SVR Form 3) on or before 15 January of 2012, along with the unit roster and dues. This is considerably earlier than previous years. Dist. Adj. Capt. Will Tisch will be providing detailed instructions in the very near future. I would like to ask each unit CO and Adjutant to make this a priority. Your help is needed in order for the 6<sup>th</sup> Military District to complete the obligations for our District Report to be submitted on-time. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance!

As always, we need your help: please submit articles and photos of your events to our District Public Information Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Joe Marti for publication. We want to be sure that your unit receives adequate recognition for the hard work and service you give to the SUVCW and SVR.

In Service to the SUVCW, I remain your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lt. Col. Dave Ally".

Commander  
6<sup>th</sup> Military District  
Sons of Veterans Reserve  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# OF INTEREST TO ALL BROTHER NUMISMATISTS

---

## COMMEMORATIVE CHALLENGE COINS STRUCK

In accordance with the vote of the 2011 National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a commemorative Challenge Coin has been struck for the 2011 Remembrance Day Event. The 2011 Gettysburg Challenge Coin will be available through the SUVCW NATIONAL QUARTERMASTER 5 Benny Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850. These coins will be a LIMITED sale of 500 coins. The cost for these coins will be \$5.00 per coin plus \$4.50 shipping for 5 or fewer coins (contact the National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler for shipping costs on amounts greater than 5.) By direction of the aforementioned National Encampment, a new coin will be struck every year. One side of the coin will remain constant throughout the upcoming years, that being a 3D of the 1938 "hands across the wall" the reverse for this year is the monument in National Soldiers Cemetery.



Colonel Donald E. Darby, PCinC  
Adjutant General  
Sons of Veterans Reserve



*Artillerymen on Alcatraz Island*



**SVR**  
**SVR Commemorative**  
**Challenge**  
**Coins**  
*In Full Color*  
**Gettysburg Commemorative**  
*First in a series of coins commemorating the SVR and the Civil War Sesquicentennial.*  
*Coins are \$5.00 each plus shipping of \$3.00 for up to 6 coins. Shipping for 7 - 12 coins is \$6.00.*  
*For 13 or more coins, call for price on shipping.*  
**Make checks payable to: TAG-SVR**  
*Mail to: Col. Donald E. Darby  
1382 Western Ave.  
Chillicothe, OH 45601-1107  
P# 740-772-6081  
e-mail: darby@horizonview.net*

## ALCATRAZ HOSTS SESQUICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE EVENT

Members of Company B of the 8<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry, Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA), and the National Park Service held an SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Event and Living History Day on October 1, 2011 on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Camp members **Kenneth Felton, Jeffrey Vaillant** and **PCinC Brad Schall** participated, with SVR members acting as provost for the event. Nearly 60 participants attended in all, including members of the Sons, FOCWA, members of the American Civil War Association and the National Civil War Association. Musicians of the 5th California Band was also on hand to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Artillery at Fortress Alcatraz in San Francisco. FOCWA purchased Signature event badges and gave them to all that participated. National Park Service was very pleased with our efforts and asked us to continue the events in 2012. The next Living History Days are scheduled for March and October in 2012, so keep an eye out for dates and make plans to visit this unique and historically important installation. —reprinted from *Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 newsletter, The Gideone*

# ALERT!

## VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

### GRAVE DEDICATION THIS SATURDAY, OCT. 29<sup>TH</sup>



Theodore Collins Fitch died on September 3, 1901. He was a veteran of the American Civil War and had served from the beginning in 1861 all the way to its conclusion in 1865. He served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry and the 121<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry, rising from private to the rank of Captain by war's end. He was laid to rest in the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, California.



For unknown reasons, Capt. Fitch did not receive a headstone for his grave site. Instead there was installed a simple metal bar in the ground with a small metal tag with his name, age, date of death, and that he was a Civil War Veteran. Over the 110 years since his death the tag has been bent and wrinkled to the point that it could no longer be read. His final resting place almost became an unmarked grave.

After six months of research and building a document file on Capt. Fitch by Brother **Jim Monteton** of Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry and George Wright Camp 22, a request was made of the Department of Veterans Affairs for a proper military style headstone to place at the grave site. In mid September, the headstone arrived at the Sylvan Cemetery.

It is a white marble, military style headstone with all of the information to describe the final resting place of an American Veteran.

On Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 11:00 am, there will be a dedication ceremony at the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, CA. Uniformed members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Sons of Veterans Reserve Company B, 8 Calif. Infantry Regiment, will take part in the ceremony. There will be musket salute, drum and bugle and a formal color guard. The public is invited and encouraged to attend to pay tribute to an American Veteran who did not receive the recognition that all veterans deserve. If you would like to volunteer as a uniformed SVR member, please contact Jim Monteton at [klatoo@msn.com](mailto:klatoo@msn.com)

#### Camp of Instruction - The Salute

To salute in the manner of the US Army of the 1860's, the soldier raises his right hand to the right side of the visor of his cap, **palm to the front** and the elbow raised to the height of the shoulder (this is the same basic salute used by the British Army). Those bearing muskets will salute by bringing the left hand across the body, so as to strike the musket near the right shoulder.



#### *Hand Salute*



#### *Musket Salute*

# GENERAL ORDERS

## GENERAL ORDER 2011-11 Sons of Veterans Reserve

22 August 2011

- 
1. In accordance with the vote of the 130<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, meeting in Reston, Virginia August 11-14, 2011 the following changes have been made to the Sons of Veterans Reserve Regulations

### AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS OF THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE Article II

National Headquarters

Add a new section 11

*Note: This change will require the SVR Adjutant General to file EIN information with the National Treasurer by March 15<sup>th</sup> each year.*

**Section 11. As part of his administrative duties, the Adjutant General, SVR, on or before 15 March of each year shall file a report with the National Treasurer, SUVCW, detailing the EIN for each, unit, battalion, district, and headquarters with the contact information for the respective adjutant.**

---

Article III

District Headquarters

*Note: This change will require the District Commander to ensure the Annual Unit Application is filed with the SVR Adjutant General earlier (15 February) than the current date (30 April).*

4. As part of his administrative duties, the District Commander shall be responsible for and shall ensure that all Annual Unit Applications (SVR Form 3) **are received by the Adjutant General, SVR, on or before 15 February of each year**, all Annual Unit Strength Reports (SVR Form 19), all updated Annual Rosters and all Annual National dues for each Unit within his District are received by the Adjutant General, SVR, on or before 30 April of each year, commencing in April of 2007.
- 

Article III

District Headquarters

*Note: This change will require the District Adjutant to obtain Unit reports earlier.*

7. As part of his administrative duties, the District Adjutant shall be responsible for and shall ensure that all Units within his District shall file with him, **on or before 01 April of each year, commencing in April 2007, on or before 15 January each year** an Annual Unit Application (SVR Form 3) and **on or before 01 April of each year** an Annual Unit Strength Report (SVR Form 19), an updated Annual Roster, Annual District dues and National dues.
-

*Note: This change will require unit commanders to file the Annual Unit Application (SVR Form 3) earlier each year (15 January).*

Article VI

Company Headquarters

2. As part of his administrative duties, each Unit Commander shall be responsible for and shall ensure that an Annual Unit Application (SVR Form 3) **shall be received by the District Commander on or before 15 January of each year**, and Annual Unit Strength Report (SVR Form 19), an updated Annual Roster, Annual District dues and Annual National dues shall be received by his District Commander, on or before 01 April of each year, commencing in April of 2007.

---

Article VI

Company Headquarters

*Note: This change means the unit citation badge will be worn on the left breast rather than the right breast.*

Article X

Awards, Decorations, Devices and Insignia

6 (C) (See SVR Regulations page 14)

C. SVR Unit Citation: This may be awarded to those units for being exceptionally meritorious in promoting the goals and objectives of the SVR and the SUVCW which clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. The SVR Unit Citation is a white oval shaped enamel badge bearing the SVR logo which is worn over the **right left** breast of the wearer **above other badges and medals being worn**. Subsequent awards to the same unit will be awarded a bronze star for placement on the ribbon of the Sons of Veterans Reserve membership badge.

- 2. All District Commanders and/or their Adjutants will see that the aforementioned changes have been disseminated to all units under their commanders .**



**GENERAL ORDER 2011-13**  
**Sons of Veterans Reserve**

23 October 2011



1. Effective this date, the Commanding General SVR accepts the request of Lt. Colonel **Larry E. Freed**, SVR National Chaplain, to be entered on the rolls of the Inactive Reserve. Lt. Colonel Freed has served the Military Department of the SUVCW for many years and his service is much appreciated.
2. Effective this date the Commanding General SVR, appoints 1st Lieutenant **Jerome Kowalski** to serve as the National Chaplain Sons of Veterans Reserve. 1st Lieutenant Kowalski is also hereby promoted to the rank of Captain, SVR to serve until properly relieved.
3. Contact information for Chaplain Kowalski is : 206 E. Grantley, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (773) 631-1610 email: paptom@sn.com

Major General Robert E. Grim  
Commanding Officer

Attest:  
Colonel Donald E. Darby

*Any letters, articles, etc., published in *The Western Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc., the Dept. of CA & Pacific, camp officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.*

Copyright © 2011 6th Military District (SUVCW)  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**2011**

Nov. 11 — Veterans Day  
Nov. 19 — Remembrance Day  
Nov. 24 — Thanksgiving  
Dec. 07 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



# ABOUT THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE



The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVWC). The National Military Department of the SVR consists of the General Staff and seven geographical Military Districts across the nation. SVR Units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and re-enactments.

Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To be in the SVR you must be a Member or Associate in the SUVWC. Units and individuals must file an application for membership. Minimal annual dues are charged all SVR members.

Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact either:

Major Gen. Robert E. Grim - *Commanding Officer*  
5367 SR 72 South, Sabina, OH 45169-9425 (937-584-4622)  
Email: [robertgrim@dragonbbs.com](mailto:robertgrim@dragonbbs.com)

OR

Col. Donald E. Darby - *Adjutant General*  
1382 Western Ave, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (740-772-6081)  
Email: [darby@horizonview.net](mailto:darby@horizonview.net)

## AUTUMN 1861 EVENTS:

**October 6, 1861** — Brigadier William T. Sherman relieved General Robert Anderson and was appointed commander of the Army of the Cumberland.

**October 21, 1861** — The Battle of Ball's Bluff, was fought on this day, its most notable casualty being Colonel Edward Dickinson Baker, a close friend of President Lincoln.

**November 1, 1861** — George McClellan was promoted to General-in-Chief of all Union Armies

The Sixth Military District is comprised of the following states: Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions from throughout the district, preferably with photos. Please send all submissions to [itramcj@yahoo.com](mailto:itramcj@yahoo.com).