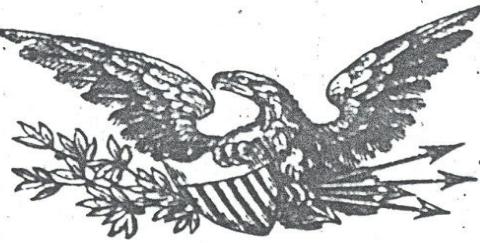


The Western Dispatch



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

VOLUME X, NO. 4

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Pvt. Mike Meals of Co. B, 8th California, opens the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address at the Historic City Cemetery in Sacramento, Ca.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Loyal Men of our 6th Military District:

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve our 6th Military District throughout these last 11 years, especially as your Commander. The hard work, perseverance, and dedication you have demonstrated have no equal. My admiration for your values, morality, and courage is a direct reflection of our Great Grandfathers who served our nation flawlessly as the Boys in Blue. I know they are proud of your service as I am proud of your service. As I recede into the ranks of inactive reserve, I will continue to support, guide, and serve our order to the best of my ability. Let me be the first to congratulate Captain **JOSEPH MARTI** who will now take command of our fine district. Under Captain Marti you will find new energy and expertise to steer our district in new directions for the future that are in alignment with today's modern technology. Over the last three years I have transformed all recent records of our 6th Military District into digital format to construct and handle our operations. Captain Marti will take that to a new level to further ease reporting duties and muster rolls of our men. Please support Captain Marti to the best of your ability. Also, please congratulate Captain Marti and Captain **WAYNE EDER** on receiving the prestigious Meritorious Service Award from our order at the Remembrance Day Breakfast in Gettysburg. Also received was the Meritorious Unit Citation to **BATTERY A 3rd US ARTILLERY** under the Command of Captain Wayne Eder. There is no greater honor than to commend our men for their outstanding service and certainly these leaders and men deserve these accolades. There is another great entity

6th Military District Staff

Maj. Will Tisch
COMMANDER

Capt. Wayne L. Eder
ADJUTANT

Capt. J.C. Marti
CHIEF OF STAFF
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

2nd Lt. Rev. Dr. Glen Alan Dickey
CHAPLAIN

that works unseen and many times goes without accolades and that is of our ladies and family who stand by our side. I wish to thank all of them for their incredible inspiration and support throughout the last decade and especially to my wife Eileen and children Tim, Becky, and Heidi, who always gave me strength to carry on.

I will now "Pick up the Plow" so to speak and tend to my family's needs to a greater degree and pray for the continued success of our District. Thank you again, my fine brothers, for your support these past years and a very merry Christmas to all!

Most Respectfully in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Major Will Tisch

Major Will Tisch
Commanding Officer
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve



EDITOR'S NOTE



I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to our outgoing 6th Military District Commander, Major **WILL TISCH**. He was (as was prior 6th MD commander Lieutenant Colonel **DAVE ALLYN** before him) very kind to allow me to serve in my dual roles in the district. I also want to thank him and the National Staff of the SVR for placing its trust in me as I am appointed the newest commander of the 6th Military District, beginning January 1st. I hope to serve faithfully, deliberately, and well.

It's been especially rewarding serving in my capacities of Public Information Officer and Chief of Staff, the former of which allows me the privilege to edit and publish this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy working on it. That said, it takes the input of many to make an organization like this work well. I will need to soon appoint my staff, and so I would like to officially ask you all to consider a position at the district staff level as Public Information Officer and also as Adjutant. Geographically we are the largest Military District in the SVR, so it would be great to have that geographical breadth represented by its staff. Captain **WAYNE EDER**, our current Adjutant, has been reassigned to his new role as my Chief of Staff and Rev. Dickey will continue as Chaplain. If interested, please contact me personally.

One last thing: Have your voice heard! Please visit this link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSX69PJ>) to start a survey customized to gain insight as to your experience in the 6th Military District. This is an opportunity to *anonymously* express your compliments, constructive criticisms, and suggestions to improve us as a whole. All feedback is welcome. We will speak of the results in a later issue. Until then, I remain yours

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Capt. J.C. Marti

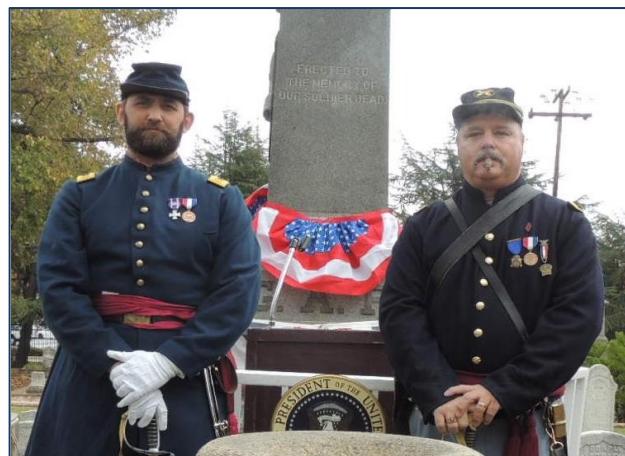
Captain J.C. Marti
Chief of Staff/Public Information Officer
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

'PRESIDENT LINCOLN' REVISITS FAMOUS ADDRESS IN SACRAMENTO

By Corporal JON HENRY, CC

Visiting California was something President Abraham Lincoln said he wanted to do. But, on April 15, 1865, Lincoln's desires to see the full breadth of the United States tragically died with him. Fast-forwarding about 150 years, Lincoln portrayer Wayne Scott — in a way — fulfilled Lincoln's original wish by speaking at the Historic City Cemetery in Sacramento on November 19, the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Under grey skies eerily similar to the conditions in Gettysburg 150 years ago, Mr. Scott presented a brief history of the Battle of Gettysburg and the aftermath that led to the establishment of a National Cemetery there in 1863. To the delight and awe of dozens of school children, and as many as 200 spectators, Mr. Scott ended his presentation with an "in character" reading of the famous Gettysburg Address (Lincoln himself read the speech, too — he did not have it memorized).

The commemoration ceremony also included an unveiling of the newly-repaired headstone of Corporal James D. Kent, a Civil War veteran from Illinois, who moved west after the war and served in the Sacramento Police Department. The unveiling was conducted by Lt. Jim Hendrickson of the Sacramento PD, who remarked on the dedication of Mr. Kent, and how he continued to serve his country and community even after the war.



6th Military District Staffers Captains Joe Marti & Wayne Eder at the Gettysburg Address event in Sacramento

As a solemn close to the ceremony, Camp 22 Commander **JON HENRY** and Vicki Contente, representing the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, laid a wreath at the grave of Corporal Kent, followed by the playing of "Taps" by **RAY ARENHOLZ**. Mr. Arenholz played the famous call on a bugle authentic to the Civil War era. Following the ceremony, "President Lincoln" was surrounded by school children seeking photos and autographs. Mr. Scott remarked that he had never before had so many requests, and thoroughly enjoyed spending extra time with the inquisitive admirers.

Mr. Scott, who can trace his family lineage to Lincoln's ancestors, is known for his studiously authentic portrayal. Every detail of his clothing, even his eyeglasses, are true to articles Lincoln actually wore; his pocket watch is an exact reproduction of one that Lincoln is known to have owned. Such is Mr. Scott's obsession for authenticity, that even his stage set-up includes a carved mahogany presidential seal made by the same company that supplies them for the present-day White House.

Members of Co. B, 8th California and Battery A, 3rd U.S. Artillery were on hand and in uniform to bear witness to their forebears and to be of service to guests with questions. Also in attendance at the ceremony were many reenactors and women in period dress. Some of the ladies wore traditional mourning clothes that would have been worn by Civil War widows which added a mournful note to the proceedings. The reenactors came from as far away as Reno, Nevada, including Craig Ivy and Steve Fore, who portrayed Lincoln's armed escorts, and bugler Ray Arenholz of Battery A.

In addition to the Sacramento Police Department, the Old City Cemetery Committee must also be recognized for their support. The event was well covered by local media, including spots on TV and radio news, and a front-page feature in the Sacramento Bee. By all accounts, the event was very successful, and very likely will become an annual celebration.

Corporal Jon Henry, CC is a member of Co. B, 8th California and currently serves as Commander of General George Wright Camp 22 in Sacramento.



President Lincoln (Wayne Scott). Photo by Paul Kitagaki, Jr. (Sacramento Bee)



The Blue and (now) the Gray

After a long steady march over many years, the statue of a Union soldier in the Historic City Cemetery nicknamed "Old Eli" (above) is receiving some overdue attention. The statue, whose painter and date of painting remain an elusive set of facts, has been fading considerably over the last few years. Locals jokingly refer to the faded sky blue great coat of Old Eli as indicative of his waning sympathies for the Union cause and a steady progression to the Southern ranks. Perish the thought! Spearheaded by Camp 22 and Co. B, 8th California, funds are being raised at this time to hire a professional to "issue a new uniform" and make clear which side of the line Old Eli stands upon. Huzzah!



VETERANS DAY PARADE

Co. C, 8th California Infantry made it's usual good showing at the annual Veterans Day Parade in San Jose. Sponsored by Phil Sheridan Camp 4, brothers joined with members of Dr. Walker Auxiliary 52 and Abraham Lincoln Camp 10 along with three members of the California Historical Artillery Society. Camp 4's Private **PAUL LAVRISCHEFF**, in an officer's uniform, led the contingent in lieu of Camp and Company Commander Captain **STEVE AGUIRRE**. The four man Firing Detail which fired in front of the reviewing stands.



Captain Steve Betschart of Co. B, 71st PA Inf.

OREGON REMEMBERS THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

By Joyce DeWitt
Statesman Journal

Salem - Abraham Lincoln's deep voice echoed across the grassy knolls as he recited the Gettysburg Address Saturday at City View Cemetery in Salem. The cemetery was the location of Remembrance Day on the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, held by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The event featured Steven Holgate, dressed as Lincoln, members of the Sons of Union Veterans dressed head-to-toe in Civil War-period garb and Oregon State University professor David Brauner. Sons of Veteran's Reserve representing Company B of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry escorted the flag underneath a memorial to Civil War veterans. An invocation and benediction was done by Reverend DH Shearer of Turner Christian Church.



Brauner, the event's featured speaker, gave attendees a history lesson on the Civil War in Oregon. "The military served here with distinction in the Willamette Valley," he said. He spoke to several locations in or around the valley that provided homes for soldiers during the war, including Fort Hoskins and Fort Yamhill. "Their message to us lies in the ground at these sites," he said. "You can't compare sites to battle fields, but it's what we have out here... Thank God we didn't have battlefields out here." Captain **STEVE BETSCHART** of the Edward D. Baker Camp said there were 1,500 volunteers in Oregon. Twenty-seven of those died for various reasons. Following Holgate's interpretation of the speech, a gun salute was fired by a line of soldiers and the trumpet sounded.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Our Christmases are long distant from the war years of 1861-1865. Our soldiers who are in foreign countries today though will write letters to loved ones as they did so long ago. Perhaps the following letter, written during the Civil War, by Tally Simpson to his sister, Anna Simpson, will remind of what is important about this time of the year when the world is still at war:

"December 25th

My dear sister,

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feeble through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts. The day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle."

"When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness."

May your Christmas be blessed with peace.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

The Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

Chaplain

SVR

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*

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 (SUVCW). 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 reenactments.

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 SUV CW. 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

OR

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

BATTERY A, 3RD US ART'Y TAKES HOME A VICTORY

With so many groups working to honor those who fought in the American Civil War (1861-1865) during this

sesquicentennial, one group from Northern Nevada was honored recently during the SVR Breakfast at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Gettysburg, PA on November 23, 2013.

Within the 6th Military District, Battery A, 3rd United States Artillery is one of the most active units. Staffed by members of the SUVCW General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25 in Reno, this artillery group is active in Civil War ceremonies, reenactments, and living history events in the West. The national SVR staff recognized the efforts of both the Battery as a

group, and the Battery Commander, Captain **WAYNE EDER** who also serves as the Adjutant of the SVR 6th Military District.

- **COMMANDING OFFICER'S UNIT CITATION:** Accepted by Captain Wayne L. Eder for the activities of the ENTIRE Battery during 2012/2013; *"For consistently cultivating the principles and objectives of the SVR and promoting patriotism through their efforts in commemorating our Civil War ancestors and their respective units."*
- **MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, SILVER STAR:** Presented to Captain Wayne L. Eder (1st LT); *"For exceptionally distinguished service and sustained outstanding performance of duty while serving as Commander of Battery A, 3rd US Artillery, 6th Military District, SVR."*

The following are the citations issued:

UNIT CITATION: Battery A, 3rd United States Artillery had previously disbanded in the 6th Military District in California. The unit was reactivated in Reno, NV in 2012 by Brother Wayne L. Eder and the members of SUVCW, Dept. of California & the Pacific, General William Passmore Carlin, Camp 25. The Battery currently operates two-full scale artillery pieces with all of the necessary tools and accoutrements, utilized at SUVCW ceremonies, reenactments, and other Civil War events in Nevada, California and Oregon. Through the use of these two weapons, a Model 1841 12lb. Mountain Howitzer and a Model 1838 24lb. Coehorn Mortar, along with a replica limber fabricated by Battery member **RAY AHRENHOLZ**, the Battery is able to demonstrate the operations of field artillery in the Civil War. Since reforming, this unit has steadfastly thrown itself into the effort to educate the public on the role Nevada and California played in the Civil War. They organized and executed a successful Sesquicentennial Signature Event in Virginia City on

May 25, 2013 to honor the 150th anniversary of the formation of the 1st

Battalion, Nevada Volunteer Cavalry. They conduct an annual open house and participate in numerous reenactments throughout the region. Battery members have donated their time at National Park Service, Fort Point (CA) and Nevada State Parks, Fort Churchill to educate the public on the life of Civil War artillerymen at both posts. This unit traveled to Arizona in 2012 shortly after forming to participate in the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Picacho Pass, the westernmost battle fought during the Civil War. They have been effective in engaging with local news media to publicize all of these events and keep the spirits of the "Boys in Blue" alive in the hearts of the citizens and visitors of our region.

Congratulations to Battery A for setting the bar high for all the other units in the district. It's a great goal to try to emulate!

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/comments/questions to PIO Capt. Marti at itramecj@yahoo.com.



Please also be sure to read, discuss, and contribute on our Facebook page: [6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve](#). Don't forget to hit the LIKE button!

YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS A (SLIGHT) CIVIL WAR CONNECTION

Newspaperman Francis Pharcellus Church was born in 1839 in Rochester, New York. As newspaper editor of The New York Sun, he is remembered for one of the most famous newspaper editorials of all time. The Revolutionary

Church worked correspondent War. It is only perhaps his the hope, tragedy, and gory war who needed to in a world of



Francis P. Church

grandson of a War soldier, as a war during the Civil speculation, but experiences of despair, triumph of that inspired a man believe himself hope and belief.

In 1897, when Church was working for the *New York Sun*, he replied to a letter from an 8-year-old girl asking about Santa Claus. She asked if there was in fact a Santa Claus, relying on her father's certainty. He told her, "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Church's famous response has become a classic that is known and repeated around the world.

Church wrote: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy." He credited her friends' disbelief to being "affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age."

Reprinted here is the editorial in its entirety. Merry Christmas to all, and please accept our hopes and prayers for a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year!



Any letters, articles, etc., published in *The Western Dispatch* do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the SUVCW Inc, the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the 6th Military District, officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

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The Sun

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1897

Is there a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominent the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours a man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with e boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank GOD! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

