

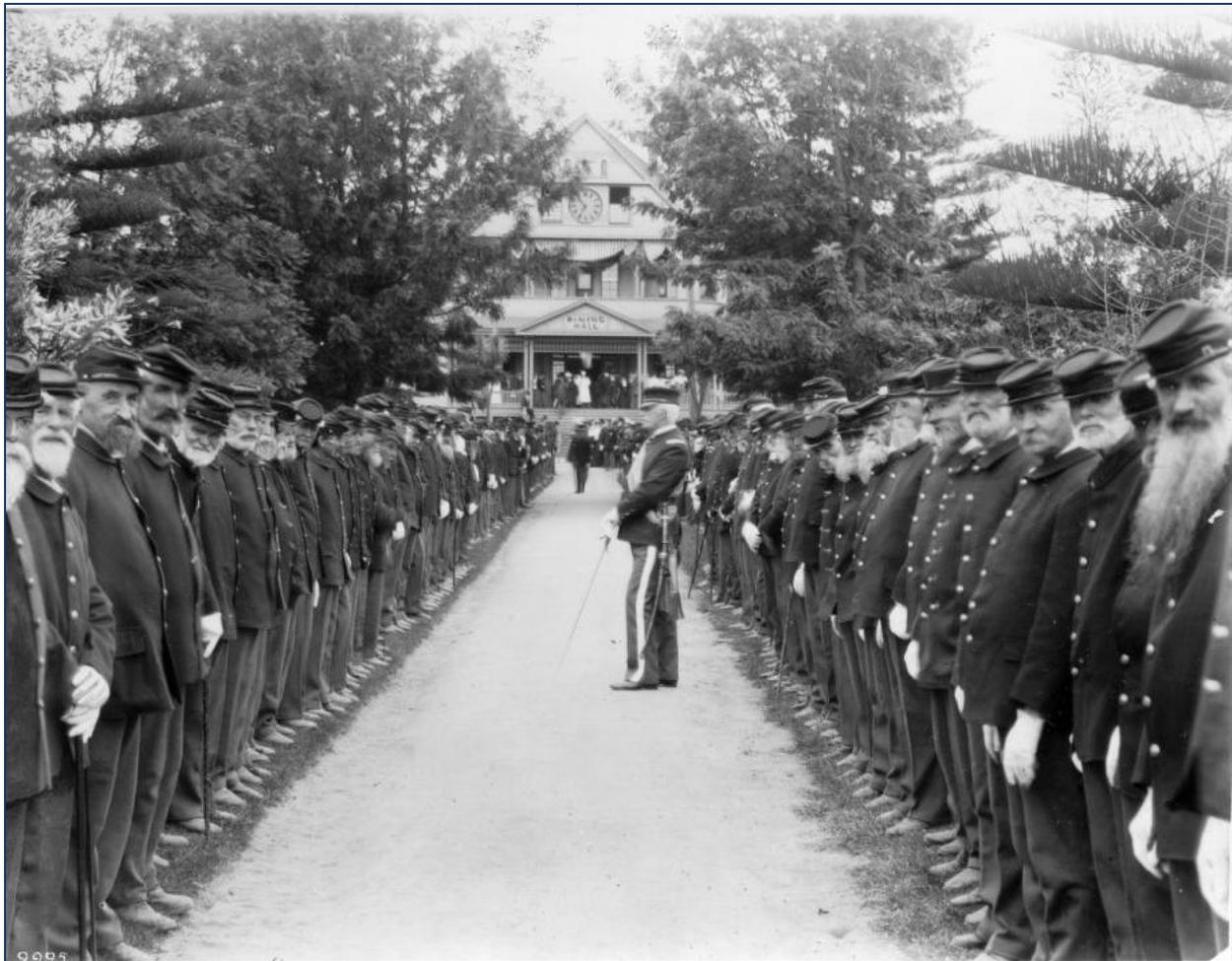
The Western Dispatch



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

VOLUME X, NO. 2

SPRING EDITION 2013



Memorial Day Review at the Santa Monica Soldiers' Home, ca. 1905. Photo courtesy of University of Southern California, on behalf of the USC Special Collections.



COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings SVR Brothers,

With budget cutbacks to our Military the role of our Sons of Veterans Reserve becomes greater at events that would normally be attended by our Armed Forces. Reduced flyovers, rifle volleys, and soloists playing the bugle for taps may all be eliminated. We can rise to these deficits and take up the slack to perform duty as our Forefathers expected us to at an even greater degree. This past month I have witnessed unselfish acts of dedication from our brothers especially this past Memorial Day Weekend with some coordinating and participating in as many as five events. A few of our Brothers performed duty in uniform at National Cemeteries that included a musket volley. I am very proud of your service this past month with events that occurred all over our district to honor the Boys in Blue from Oregon and Washington to Nevada, Texas, and California.

This past May kept our 6th Military District busy with the participation of an event in Old Los Angeles to commemorate the Battle of Puebla in Mexico or Cinco de Mayo as it is known. Many surmise the outcome of the Battle of Puebla in 1862 had a direct result in the outcome of the Civil War. It is known that President Lincoln and Mexican Presidente Benito Juarez were very much aligned as allies at that time to prevent the French from arming the Confederate cause. Your brothers marched through the streets of Old Los Angeles to commemorate and celebrate this action in grand fashion.

I would also like to introduce to you our new Adjutant, Captain **Wayne Eder**, who is assigned to duty and has my utmost confidence to guide our district by attending to necessary affairs relative to our goals. Please congratulate Captain Eder who exhibits true dedication to our order as a fine brother and tactician.

Lastly, all reporting is completed for this year. Thank you for all your reports and annual dues. Your service is perpetual. We always stand watch for our Boys in Blue as living witnesses to their work.

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

Brothers Please Note: The 1st California Volunteer Infantry Company G and 37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Company H have retired this year. Many thanks are in order for their outstanding service over the years especially to Commander's **Charles Gardali** and **Fritz Dygert** for their faithful leadership.

Thank you for all your service.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Major Will Tisch

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



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3RD US HOSTS SSE IN VIRGINIA CITY GOVERNOR HONORS SVR ARTY BATY

Members of Camp 25 and SVR 6th Military District, Battery A, 3rd US Artillery organized and hosted an official SUCVW Sesquicentennial Event on Memorial Day Weekend in Virginia City, NV. Multiple events were conducted over the weekend including parade, displays, battle reenactments, Civil War Encampment, Civil War Church Call, and a Memorial Day Ceremony. The primary event involved a ceremony at the Comstock Firemen's Museum, a former saloon that actually served as a recruiting station for the 1st Nevada Cavalry during the Civil War. The event was coordinated by 6th Military District Adjutant and Battery A, 3rd US Artillery Commander, Captain



Glenna Smith of Senator Dean Heller's (R-NV) staff presents Commander John Riggs of Camp 25 honors from the Governor of Nevada and Senator Heller

71ST PENNA. VOLTS. HONOR GENERAL THORP AND WIFE PAIR'S GRAVE HAD BEEN UNMARKED OVER 100 YEARS

Portland - After nearly a century in unmarked graves, General Thomas Thorp and his wife volunteer nurse Mandana Thorp received proper headstones befitting their service in the Civil War. The couple, from upstate New York, met when teenage Mandana Major sang patriotic songs at



Battery A, 3rd US Artillery Mountain Howitzer & Limber were displayed along with Civil War artifacts, memorabilia, and other items to honor the 1st Nevada Cavalry

Wayne L. Eder, SUCVW General William Passmore Carlin, Camp 25 from Reno, NV served as the Host Camp for this event under the direction of Camp 25 Commander **John Riggs**. The event was honored with certificates from Governor Brian Sandoval (R-NV) and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), and presented to Commander Riggs by Glenna Smith, Aide to Senator Heller.

Approximately 75 reenactors and living historians participated in the event, including members of the Department of the Pacific, Federal Battalion (DPFB); Nevada Civil War Volunteers (NCWV); and *Living Legends*, from Virginia City, NV. Several visiting reenactors from California also attended the event. Battles were held in conjunction with steam trains operated by the Virginia & Truckee Railroad which was an event sponsor, along with Comstock Mining; Storey County; Comstock Firemen's Museum; and F&AM Carson Lodge No. 1. This event was so successful that the organizers are considering making this an annual event.

rallies where Thorp was recruiting a regiment of volunteers for the war. The couple was married in the hollow square of the regiment shortly before the men marched off to war. Mrs. Thorp followed the men in the field serving as a volunteer nurse. The regiment became the 1st New York Dragoons serving under General Phil Sheridan. Thorp was wounded several times, was captured and later escaped from Confederates and rose to become commander of the regiment. At the end of the war, Mrs. Thorp was honored by riding at her husband's side at the head of the regiment in the Grand Review of the Union Army in Washington DC. General Thorp's headstone was provided by the VA. Mrs. Thorp's monument was purchased with funds donated by private citizens. The headstones were installed by the staff at River View Cemetery and were dedicated on April 6th by the Baker Camp SUCVW; Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry SVR; the 3rd Brigade Band from the Northwest Civil War Council; and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

CINCO DE MAYO: 1863 AND 2013

by Tom Helmantoler, PCC

Most Civil War historians are not aware that the Battle of Puebla in 1863, fought in Mexico, was a pivotal victory for the Union, even though the Union didn't participate.

In simple terms, Napoleon III of France was attempting to build a French Empire in the Western Hemisphere by taking over Mexico and aiding the Confederacy in the breakup of the USA. The fact that the peasant army under President Benito Juarez won that battle, didn't surrender, and kept the French army bottled up and occupied prevented Napoleon III from supplying the Confederates with cannons and other war materiel. Juarez achieved this by simply moving the government around the country, or essentially wherever he happened to be. Mexico didn't exactly win but it didn't lose either.

At the end of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson, made good on the U.S.'s word and sent 50,000 troops to the US-Mexico border to back our promises. Napoleon III withdrew French troops soon after. Maximilian, the puppet ruler he had installed, was caught and executed.

The centerpiece around this whole story was the friendship of Presidents Lincoln and Juarez. Although not well known, both men had great admiration for the other and the desire to keep both nations free in the Western Hemisphere. Both expressed this point to the other, and although they never met, this was the key part of their actions. They had a close friendship, even if it was expressed only in letters.

On May 5th, Brothers **Will Tisch** and **Tom Helmantoler**, who had traveled to Puebla last year to participate in the Cinco de Mayo Parade in Puebla as part of a MOLLUS/SUVCW



contingent at the request of the Mexican Government, participated in the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo in Los Angeles. The difference in the dates is that the Battle of Puebla was on May 5, 1862, and the first Cinco de Mayo in Los Angeles was celebrated one year later.

Brothers Tisch and Helmantoler were joined by Brothers **Lin Malaznick** (also a Puebla Parade participant) of Co. C, 8th California, Ken Walker of Co. G, 5th California, and **Eric Rojas**. Rojas, a retired US Army Colonel with 31 years of service, is a brother of a camp in the Washington DC area and is a new member of the Co. G, 5th CVI as well. He organized the Puebla trip along with others last year and was invited to speak in Los Angeles. Arizona Brother **Steve Siemsen**, who coordinated the reburial of Union and Indian War troops in Sierra Vista, Arizona was also present. In addition, we were joined by LeRoy Martinez, a MOLLUS member, dressed as a Californio lancer, who carried the Mexican flag for this event. LeRoy's family goes back to the 1500's as his ancestor helped settle New Mexico.

In his speech, Rojas recounted the importance of the Battle of Puebla. The key point he made was that Cinco de Mayo isn't just a Mexican holiday, but an American one as well. Without the Mexican victory, French influence in the Western Hemisphere might have been much greater, leading to the end of the Union. In all things, the group was assisted by our ladies, BJ Walker, Jessica de Alba, Eileen Tisch and Sandy Helmantoler. A short parade around the plaza was led by Brother Rojas and Major Tisch, and then to the site of the event where the colors were placed.

The group also attended a book presentation led by David Hays-Bautista, Professor of History at UCLA, where he and Margarita Reyes, the Organizer of the Event, were presented with copies of the painting depicting the friendship of Lincoln and Juarez that was given to the Government of the State of Puebla last year.



Brother Rojas addresses the crowd

OREGON MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

By Steve Betschart, CC

The weather was cool and overcast with a few sprinkles but the comradeship was warm and friendly as members of the Edward D. Baker Camp - Sons of Union Veterans & Co. B 71st PA. Volunteer Infantry - Sons of Veterans Reserve met at the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery to assist the American Veterans of Foreign Wars in their ceremony.

Members of the Color Detail were Sergeant **Doug Sebranek** (national colors) and Corporal **Joseph Stevens** (camp colors).

They were supported by privates **Nick Rhoads, Bryan Burch** and **Curt Johnson**. The Firing Detail was led by 1st Sergeant **Mark Stevens** and also included Sergeant **Tony Pasillas**, Corporal **Steve Hall**, Corporal **Gary Wolfson**, and privates Peter Bock, **David McGill**, and **David Plett**. Company B was led by yours truly who also took on the job as Camp Bugler. Chaplain **D.H.**

CAMP REYNOLDS SSE A SUCCESS

Camp Reynolds was founded on Angel Island in 1863 when the federal government very reasonably worried that Confederates — or local Confederate sympathizers — would pose a threat to San Francisco Bay and the abundant wealth in trade and metals coming and going. Thankfully these defenses were never put to the test.

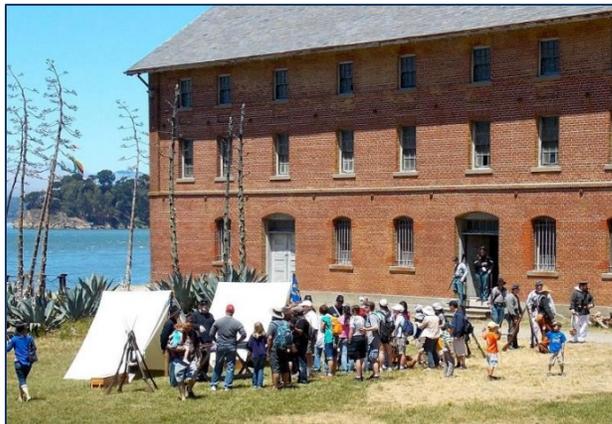
On Friday, June 7th, SUVCW/SVR members from Camp 23/Co. C, 8th California Volunteer Infantry and Ivy Stiers Auxiliary 23 joined members of the National Civil War Association (NCWA) and occupied the historic site for some living history and static displays. By the next day, “The public came in surges,” as the ferry came and went over and over throughout the day, according to Corporal **Tim Reese**, DC.



Shearer read Gen. Logan's Order No. 11 — three volleys were fired and Taps was played.

Immediately after the ceremony the company was marched to the new headstone of our former commander **Harold Slavik**. This was an original headstone that was restored by Lisa Ponder and recommissioned in the GAR plot. Perry McGill thanked those who had raised funds and worked to restore the marker for Brother Harold and then three volleys were fired and Taps sounded again. This ceremony marks a unification and dedication of all involved to a spirit of brotherhood and common purpose.

Afterwards, the company adjourned to an excellent tail-gate lunch prepared by Melinda Rhoads and Sandra McGill. Thanks to the ladies and to all involved for making this a great day.



The clamoring crowd congregates.



(l-r) Katherine Cannon, Ron Cannon, Jamin Gjerman, Tim Reese, Mace Gjerman, Allen Davis, Dean Enderlin, Cindy Eddy



There were two skirmish battles a day, with an NCWA narrator who guided the public through the battle scenarios. Privates **Mace and Jamin Gjerman** had a firearms display and Camp & Auxiliary 23 had a GAR display table. Brothers and Sisters were on hand to answer questions as the public made its way after wave of appearances. The weather was 'wool perfect', the sun shining by accompanied by an island breeze, keeping the island very light and cool. It was a fantastic, fun, and educational time on Angel Island at the very impressive Camp Reynolds.

Members of Co. B, 8th California Volunteer Infantry (1) held the first Memorial Ceremony at the GAR Monument in Sacramento's historic Old City Cemetery in several years, and marked the return of stewardship of the monument and veterans' grave sites to the SUVCW. General George Wright Camp 22's Honor Guard presented the colors, and a brief ceremony was conducted by Chaplain Steve Bogart and Camp Commander Jon Henry.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Veteran's Day is dedicated to honor all those who have served in the nation's armed forces. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I, which took place at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day in 1954.

Veterans Day arouses three emotions in most Americans: solemnity, because it celebrates the veterans who have defended our great country; sadness, because so many have lost their lives in the process; and pride, because they fought so valiantly.

The supreme value that our veterans have fought and died for from the American Revolution to the Civil War to two World Wars is freedom. America is a country of freedom without which, life is empty. Say a prayer this Veteran's Day for those who serve and give a prayer of remembrance to those who, having served, now rest in peace.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

The Rev. Dr. Gary Allan Dickey
Chaplain

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 SUVCW. 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

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 itramcj@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!

6th MILITARY DISTRICT

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

6th MILITARY DISTRICT STAFF

COMMANDER
Captain Will Tisch

ADJUTANT
Captain Wayne L. Eder

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

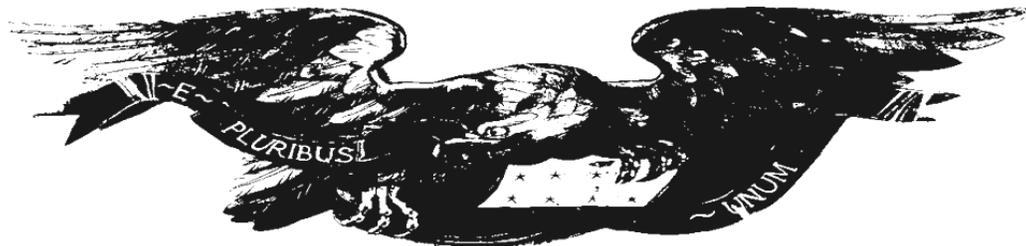
CHAPLAIN
2nd. Lt. Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey

SVR BADGE

6th Military District Units - 2013

1. 5th Calif. Inf. Co. G — San Diego, CA
2. 8th Calif. Inf. Co. B — Sacramento, CA
3. 8th Calif. Inf. Co. C — San Jose, CA
4. 1st Indian Territory Home Guard — Tulsa, OK
5. 1st Nevada Inf. Co. B — Las Vegas, NV
6. 1st US Inf. Co. K — McKinney, TX
7. 71st Penn. Inf. Co. B — Eugene, OR
8. 3rd US Arty., Batt. A — Minden, NV
9. 8th US Inf. Co. A — Houston, TX
10. USMC Guard Co, Mare Island — Anaheim, CA

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
INDEPENDENCE DAY...AND
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!



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