

THE WESTERN DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District



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FORT POINT LIVING HISTORY DAY

By Capt. Robert Mayer, SVR



© Dave Rauenbuehler daver6sf@yahoo.com

San Francisco - The members of Battery H 3rd U.S. Artillery once again participated in the Fort Point Living History day on February 25th. This was the first living history event at Fort Point this year; there will be more events later in the year. We were joined by members of the 20th Maine American Civil War Association, Friends of Civil War Alcatraz, Sons of Union Veterans Camps 24 and 23. Also in attendance was the Fort Point brass band, the Wandering Bow string band, and the fife and drum corps. The day started off with a flag rising ceremony. Throughout the fort we had different tables. Some of the tables that were set up were FOCWA table, SUVCW, 20th Maine, signals, and cooking demo. The 20th Maine did infantry drill throughout the day. Battery H 3rd U.S. Artillery helped the program out by providing the artillery demos on an original Napoleon cannon. Out of the unit we had six members present which are enough for a full crew for the cannon. The Fort Point brass band, Wandering Bow and the fife and drum provided performances throughout the day. Steve Johnston from Battery H provided tours for the public and also gave talks about California in the Civil War. Also at this event we welcomed and installed a new member of Camp 24, Allen Case and welcomed John a transfer from Camp 23. Despite the weather the event was attended by members of the public who were mostly San Francisco natives and they all enjoyed the event. We closed the day with a flag lowering ceremony. There is a new ranger at Fort Point and he would like to expand the living history day and do more of them. The feedback on the program was positive and to my knowledge everyone enjoyed it from the participants to the visitors. Last thing is I would like to thank Gary Hormel, Steve Johnston, 20th Maine, and the NPS staff for organizing the living history event and we look forward to the next living history day event. More photos on page three.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

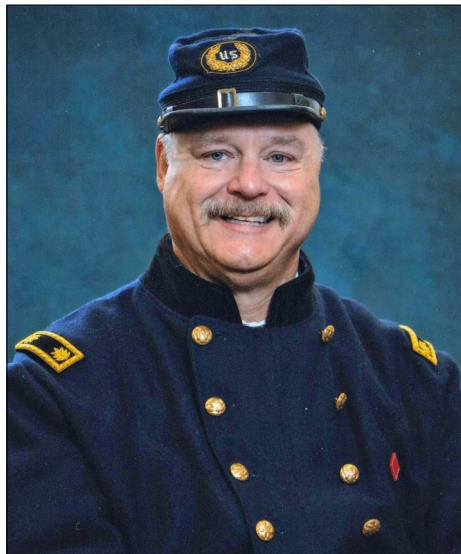
Headquarters Kingman, Arizona

April 2023

Greetings Brothers!

I pray each of you is well! 2023 is shaping up to be another outstanding year for the 6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and I am honored to continue to serve as your commander.

In March, I was able to attend the Department of California & the Pacific 137th Encampment in Bakersfield, CA. As the 6th MD SVR Commander, it is always a pleasure to provide the annual report of our activities to the department. I am attaching this year's report at the end of the newsletter for you to see how I report and the activities I report on. Some of you might say, "Wait a minute, Major! You did not disclose all of our activities!" True, but I cannot report on what I do not know! I am asking each Unit Commander and/or Unit Adjutant to keep the District Adjutant, Mark Stevens, PIO/Editor Randy Fletcher, OR myself updated on



your activities through pictures and reports! PLEASE!

As a member of the Department of California & the Pacific, I attend as a member of that department and as the 6th MD Commander. This year, I was able to honor the units and staff officers who are also department members. Additionally, I was humbled to be nominated and elected as Senior Vice Commander after serving for the last two years as Junior Vice Commander. Our 6th MD Inspector General, Owen Stiles, was nominated and elected as my replacement JVC. One of our SVR members, Frank Avila, just completed his two-year term as Department Commander, and we were well represented at the encampment by SVR members. Junior SVR Member Wayne L. Eder II (my son) attended his first encampment, making his mother, Suzette Eder, and I proud. I have provided pictures from the event for your review.

Captain Stephens and I are working to reinstate a former SVR unit and form a new one in Hawaii. More on those efforts to follow.

As I keep being asked where to find information on our organization, I refer you to the National SVR website at <https://suvchw-svr.org/svr.htm> and specifically the Regulations page at <https://suvchw-svr.org/forms/2019svr-reg.pdf>.

There are no secrets in our organization; when in doubt, look up our regulations or ask one of us. We are always happy to chat. On behalf of Captain Stevens, thank you for getting your annual reports, dues, and other documentation into him promptly. Dues are due this month!

As is my custom, I would like to thank each of you for your service to the SUVCW and SVR. You are what makes our organization work! Our Union ancestors are smiling down on each of you as you honor them and keep their memory alive.

On a related note, our National SVR holds an event in Gettysburg, PA, for Remembrance Day each year. If you ever get the opportunity to attend, I highly encourage it. If you believe one of our members or units needs to be recognized, please pass that information along to Captain Stevens or myself to process with the National staff. I am proud of each of you, and feel blessed to serve as your commander. You make us look good! God Bless!

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dr. Wayne L. Eder
Major, Commanding
6th Military District SVR

Fort Point Living History Photos



Gary Hormel speaks with Frank Avila (left) past department commander of the Department of California and the Pacific.



Fort Point Brass Band



Gary Hormel (front left) and Robert Mayer (front right), both of Battery H, 3rd U.S. Artillery, SVR raise swords in a salute with National Park Ranger and a local reenactor at Fort Point living history day in San Francisco.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



The 6th Military District has our own Facebook page but we need you to feed it pictures and stories. Post your unit and pictures and events to

<https://www.facebook.com/6thMD/>

*Drummer of bugler
from the 20th
Maine reenactors.*



OREGON REMEMBRANCE DAY



McMinnville - The 159th anniversary of the Gettysburg address was commemorated November 19th at the annual Oregon Remembrance Day held at the Masonic Cemetery in McMinnville. This was the eighteenth year of the event since it was founded in Oregon by the Baker Camp. As the original Gettysburg Address marked the 1863 dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery, the Oregon commemoration is generally held at a pioneer cemetery featuring a number of Civil War veteran's graves. There are thirty-eight known Union Civil War veterans buried at the Masonic Cemetery. Brother Stephen Holgate portraying President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address with a moving and authentic impression. A fair number of local residents were on hand to witness the ceremony. As always the highlight of the day was the presentation of the colors and a three volley musket salute by Company B of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve followed by DH Shearer performing Taps.



Musket salute at Oregon Remembrance Day. Company B 71st Pennsylvania Infantry, SVR.

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

Bakersfield, CA - The 6th Military District was well represented at the 137th annual encampment of the SUVCW Department of California and the Pacific held March 19th at the 4 Points Sheraton in Bakersfield.

Major Wayne Eder attended and gave the annual report of the 6th MD and recognized SVR units within the Department. He was accompanied by his son Wayne Eder II attending for the first time as a junior member of the SUVCW. Major Eder stated it was "great to see brothers I have not seen in a long time." Major Eder was elected as Senior Vice-Commander of the Department.



Left to right: Pvt. Wayne Eder II, Major Wayne Eder and Capt. Robert Mayer at the Department of California and the Pacific Encampment in Bakersfield.

Guard Against Rank Inflation

The number of commissioned and non-commissioned officers in any SVR unit is regulated based on the personnel strength of each unit. At the local level, the 6th Military District has infantry companies and artillery batteries. The rank structure for infantry and artillery is identical at the base level. You must have a minimum of six enlisted men to form a SVR unit and the commander will be entitled to the rank of First Sergeant. It is not until there are at least 16 enlisted men in the unit before the commander is entitled to an officer's commission. Here is the breakdown of allowed ranks based on company or battery size:

<u>Unit Size</u>	<u>Rank</u>
6-10 enlisted men	1st Sergeant
11 to 15 enlisted men	1st Sergeant, 2 Corporals
16 to 20 enlisted men	2nd Lieutenant, 1st Sgt., 2 Cpls.
21- to 30 enlisted men	1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lt., 1st Sgt., Sgt., 4 Corporals
31-40 enlisted men	Captain, 2nd Lt., 1st Sgt., 2 Sgts., 4 Corporals
41 and up enlisted men	Captain, 1st Lt., 2nd Lt., 1st Sgt., 4 Sgts. and 1 Corporal for every 8 enlisted men

Although we do not have any Navy or Marine units in the 6th Military District, their rank structure is similar to that of their infantry and artillery brothers.

Source: Regulations of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.



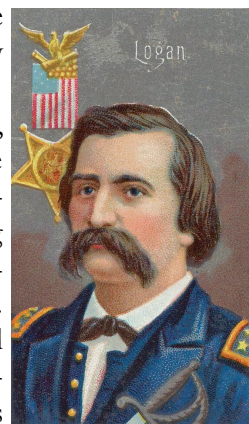
Memorial Day Approaches

Although the SUVCW and the SVR participate in many events throughout the year, none is more important than Memorial Day. The holiday was literally invented by Civil War veterans!

In 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide. Decoration Day was observed annually on May 30th and flowers were to be laid as decorations on the graves of Union soldiers. The 1884 GAR handbook proclaimed Decoration Day to be "the day of all days" on the GAR calendar.

The name Decoration Day became synonymous with Memorial Day with the later becoming more common after WW II but Memorial Day was not made the official name until 1967.

SVR units should be committed to participating in a Memorial Day event on a local level to their best of their ability. After all, we invented the thing.



Memorial Day in the U.S. traces its origins to Gen. John Logan of the GAR.



1939 was the last year that Civil War veterans marched in Salem, Oregon's Memorial Day Parade. George Kingsbury, ninety-five (center left), was commander of the Idaho GAR. Thomas Jackson, ninety-seven (center right), was from Mill City, Oregon.

From Hidden History of Civil War Oregon by Randol B. Fletcher

From the Chaplain's Tent

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS MAY 4TH

Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for all those gathered here this morning to evidence the power of prayer in our lives and to ask your blessing upon our land and country. In these days of great differences and separation from one another, may we, gathered here this morning reaffirm our commitment to making a positive difference in our faith communities and community at large that we may bring people together, no matter our differences, for the common good of all. So now bless this time we have and the fellowship we share. In thy Name oh God, hear our prayers.

Amen.

Your in fraternity, charity and loyalty



Dr. Gary Alan Dickey
Chaplain
6th Military District, SVR

AN OLD SOLDIER'S PRAYER

I have fought when others feared to serve.

I have gone where others failed to go.

I've lost friends in war and strife,
Who valued Duty more than love of life.

I have shared the comradeship of pain.
I have searched the lands for men that we have lost.

I have sons who served this land of liberty,
Who would fight to see that other stricken lands are free.

I have seen the weak forsake humanity.
I have heard the traitors praise our enemy.
I've seen challenged men become even bolder,
I've seen the Duty, Honor, Sacrifice of the Soldier.

Now I understand the meaning of our lives,
The loss of comrades not so very long ago.
So to you who have answered duties siren call,
May God bless you my son, may God bless you all.

*Col. Lewis Millett
Medal of Honor Recipient*

GEOGRAPHY OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). 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, Junior, or Associate 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.

The SVR structure includes a general staff and seven military districts under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Robert E. Grimm of Ohio. The 6th Military District is the largest district geographically. Commanded by Major Wayne Eder of Arizona the 6th stretches from Alaska to Hawaii, from Washington to Montana, from California to Texas.

As of the April 2022 national report, the 6th Military District has 176 SVR personnel, including eleven commissioned and 34 non-commissioned officers.

The 6th Military District currently has eight organized SVR units:

- *Battery A, 3rd U.S. Artillery (Nevada)*
- *Battery H, 3rd U.S. Artillery (California)*
- *Company G, 5th California Infantry (California)*
- *Company B, 8th California Infantry (California)*
- *Company C, 8th California Infantry (California)*
- *Company K, 1st U.S. Infantry (Texas)*
- *Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Infantry (Oregon)*
- *Company L, 3rd Indian Home Guard (Oklahoma)*

