

# THE WESTERN DISPATCH

*The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District*



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Winter 2019

## CHANGE OF COMMAND



Major Joseph Marti (left) passes the flag of the 6th Military District to Captain Steven Betschart at a Change of Command ceremony held in conjunction with Remembrance Day in Portland, Oregon. Major Marti moves to the retired list as Captain Betschart assumes command of the Sons of Veterans Reserve's 6th Military District.

### *Meet Our New Commanding Officer*

I was born in The Dalles, Oregon on October 19, 1948 the son of Glenn and Wilma Betschart. I graduated from The Dalles High School in 1966 and attended Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon State University) in Monmouth earning both Bachelors and Masters degrees from that institution. In 1970 I obtained a teaching position at Dallas High School (near Salem) and taught Social Studies there for the next 34 years. I was also an Adjunct teacher at Chemeketa Community College in Salem for a number of years.

My wife Karen and I just celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in August. We have three children (Annette, Jennifer and Matthew) along with three grandchildren (Kimbraly, Allison and Willow).

In 1989 I joined a local history unit called the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry Co. A which remembers an actual unit that served in Oregon from 1864-1867. In 1990 I helped to start the Northwest Civil War Council as a reenactment organization. For this purpose the 1st Oregon now served as Co. A 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry. I started out as a field musician (bugler) and eventually rose to the rank of Colonel commanding the Union Battalion. I also served for several years as President of the Northwest Civil War Council.

In 2006 I helped to start the Edward D. Baker Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and later became an officer in Co. B 71st PA Infantry - Sons of Veterans Reserve. Our unit has been very active over the years. In 2009 we were awarded the Abraham Lincoln Award for best local unit in the SUV and in 2017 our SVR company was presented a National Unit Citation by Major General Robert Grim. It has been my honor to serve with such fine people. This has been and always be a team effort. I look forward to serving in this new capacity as 6th Military District Commander.

In Fraternity, Loyalty & Charity

Captain Steve Betschart, SVR [yankeebugler@hotmail.com](mailto:yankeebugler@hotmail.com)

## ***Past Events 2018***



Dept. of California and the Pacific at Monterey 4th of July parade.



Oregon Remembrance Day hosted by Col. Edward D. Baker Camp 6 and Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR. Portland GAR Cemetery.



Los Angeles Remembrance Day at Drum Barracks Civil War Museum hosted by Gen. W.S. Rosecrans Camp 2.

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Civil War Living History**

January 26th 10:00 AM

January 27th 1:00 PM

Fort Point National Historic Site  
San Francisco



Flag raising ceremony at 10:00 am. Infantry drills occur every hour on the hour. Artillery discussions occur every hour on the half hour. Concurrent demonstrations throughout the day: 1800s medicine, musician, and civilian life. Flag lowering ceremony each day at 4:30 pm. This is a family friendly, kid friendly event. Hosted by the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

***If your unit has an upcoming event, please post it to our 6th Military District Facebook page.***

## ***About 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). 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.

The 6th Military District consists of the states of Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



***Antique SVR pin***



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Headquarters Dallas, Oregon

January 2019



UNIT COMMANDERS & SOLDIERS OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE:

First, let me wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and happy/productive New Year. At the end of one year and the beginning of another it is a good time for giving thanks and reflection on all the many blessings that we have as citizens of these United States of America. The operative word there is "united." As members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Sons of Veterans Reserve we seek to honor a generation that sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives so that we can say United States.

There are many opportunities for us during each year to search for our unmarked comrades, clean and/or replace other markers, set up living history programs to educate the public (especially students) about the war on our western frontier, march in parades, set up display areas at various public events, dedicate headstone and other markers in true authentic military style, and participate in our traditional annual ceremonies on Lincoln's birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. Lots to do...but, we all have lives and jobs and things apart from this fraternal

organization. As your commander I will keep that in mind. We do what we can do. Thanks for being a part of this with me. I remain, in Fraternity, Loyalty & Charity

Captain Steve Betschart

Commander - 6th Military District, SVR

### *New Public Information Officer*

Capt. Steve Betschart has appointed Randy Fletcher as Public Information Officer for the 6th Military District. Fletcher is a member of the Col. Edward D. Baker Camp and the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He is the long time editor of *The Union Volunteer*, the Baker Camp's award winning newsletter. Fletcher can be contacted at

[cwtrooper1863@comcast.net](mailto:cwtrooper1863@comcast.net)

## UNIT RENEWAL INFORMATION

Annual reporting time is upon us. Please keep these two important dates in mind: **February 1<sup>st</sup>** and **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### STEP ONE:

Well before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 you will need to send me your Annual SVR Unit Application. This is the one-page SVR Form 3 (2012 rev.) which simply states you will have a unit renewing for 2019.

Downloaded the form from the [suvchw.org](http://suvchw.org) webpage <http://suvchw.org/svr/forms/unit-app.pdf> Please send this to me either by mail (or scan and email) **on or before February 1, 2019.**

**Capt. Mark Stevens**

**632 SW Washington St.**

**Dallas, Oregon, 97338-3412**

[cobcorp@aol.com](mailto:cobcorp@aol.com)

503-983-1067

### STEP TWO:

April 1<sup>st</sup> seems like a long way off, but your attention is important. I will need your **updated roster, district and national dues, Annual Unit Strength Report** (SVR Form 19) and **IRS EIN confirmation for 2019** sent to me on or before **April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

Thank you for your efforts and may your 2019 be a productive one. Thank you for your service and dedication to our Order. Please contact me at any time.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Capt. Mark Stevens, Adjutant

6<sup>th</sup> Military District

Sons of Veterans Reserve

## 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/>