

THE WESTERN DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District



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Winter 2022

OREGON REMEMBRANCE DAY



Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR was on hand to render military honors at the sixteenth annual Oregon Remembrance Day ceremony. The event, established in 2006 in Oregon by Col. Edward D. Baker Camp No. 6 SUVCW commemorates the Gettysburg Address. The 2021 Remembrance Day took place November 20th at Kilpatrick GAR Cemetery in Newberg, Oregon and included a rededication of the repaired GAR monument that was toppled in a 2020 windstorm. Baker Camp Commander D.H. Shearer was the keynote speaker providing an excellent history of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Allied Orders and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brother Stephen Holgate once again channeled President Lincoln to deliver the Gettysburg Address. About two dozen members of the public were on hand. As always the highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the colors and a three volley musket salute

by the Sons of Veterans Reserve under the command of Capt. Mark Stevens.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Headquarters Kingman, Arizona

December 2021

Greetings Brothers!



I pray each of you is safe! Thank you for your continued service!

2021 has been another frustrating year for groups such as ours. I understand your frustration, as I have not been able to attend an American Civil War reenactment for over two years! I wish I had the secret to this entire pandemic to solve it, but alas I do not. I have spoken with some of you in depth regarding vaccinations, and I believe that everyone must make the decision what is right for his family, and himself. For those of you that have vaccinated, I thank you for your choice. If you have not, I pray for your safety and that you indeed made the right decision. In either case, we are still friends and Brothers.

As I reflect on the holiday season, I am thankful for family, friends, my career, and you, as an SUVCW/SVR Brother. As you each know, we are part of something bigger than us, and I applaud you for keeping the memory of the Boy's in Blue alive.

Thank you to our SVR Staff, Unit Commanders, Adjutants, and unit members. Without you, our organization would surely pass without a notice by the public. After all, who cares about men that died after

fighting our Great Civil War? WE DO! Every person you speak with, every presentation you make, and every time you wear that uniform YOU are making a difference and keeping their memory alive. God Bless each of you for that service!

We were blessed to take on a new unit this year, thanks to Battery H, 3rd US Artillery for all that you do in the San Francisco area. Thanks to each unit that tries it hardest to make a showing on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and any other time you are out there.

I want to issue a personal thanks to my own unit, Battery A, 3rd US Artillery. Based in Nevada with members from Camp 25 (Reno) and Camp 31 (Henderson), I appreciate each of you and thank you for all that you do.

What are we up to you ask? Well, Adjutant Mark Stevens has been working to reactivate an Oklahoma SVR Unit. On a personal note, I was elected as Junior Vice Commander of the Department of California & the Pacific and as I work through processing new members for our camps, I am working on recruiting for the SVR. I should have one more year in this assignment and hope to keep increasing our membership.

Please allow me to thank one more person, our SVR District Chaplain, Reverend Gary Dickey. Lieutenant Dickey has held this position for more years that I care to mention, and I believe I am at least the 4th or 5th Sixth Military District he has worked with. He is always ready to take my calls and assist to the best of his ability. He is a true man of God, and we are all blessed to call him Brother. Thank you, Sir!

I wish each of you the best. Please feel free to contact me should I be able to assist in anyway. Stay safe!

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

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

California Headstone Dedication



Chaplain Stephen Aguirre of the Colonel Elmer Ellsworth Camp No. 23 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War places two roses on the previously unmarked grave of Jasper C. Voorhees (1838-1895) at Sunrise Memorial Cemetery in Vallejo. Voorhees served in Company D of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry. In the foreground is Lola Weber, wife of Voorhees' great-great-nephew, Darwin Weber. (Rich Freedman/Times-Herald)



Camp Guards

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. While individual SUVCW camps are authorized a uniformed Camp Guard for camp ceremonies it is strongly encouraged that Camp Guard units formally organize as a company within the SVR.

The Sixth Military District can help Camp Guards in upgrading to SVR units. Contact Major Wayne Eder for more information jerseyartillery@gmail.com

Wreaths Across Texas

Members of the Lieutenant Commander Edward Lea Camp No. 2 in the Department of Texas and Louisiana, recently participated in the Wreaths Across America program at the Houston National Cemetery. They were assisted in their efforts by Boy Scout Troops 1202 and 512. Huzzah Brothers for all that you do.



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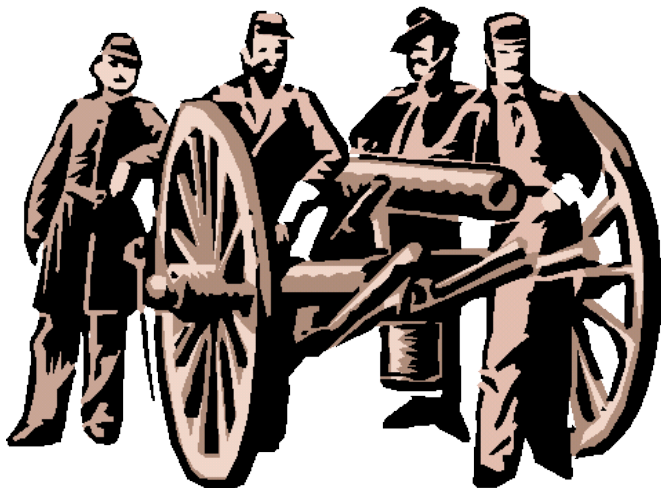


The 6th Military District has our own Facebook page but we need you to feed it pictures and stories. Post your unit and pictures and events to

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

Dispatch from Battery A

Jimmie L. Bodenhamer
Adjutant, Battery A, 3rd US Artillery SVR



The Senator Edward D. Baker, Camp 31, Dept. of California & the Pacific, Headquarters to Battery A, 3rd US Artillery, SVR held our second face-to-face meeting this year on Saturday, November 13th at the home of Brother Don Hotchkiss PCC, in Las Vegas, NV.

Brother Don hosted a breakfast meeting for the Camp and SVR members in observance of Veterans Day and our Camp Brothers who are veterans. The six members that are veterans were present and took the opportunity to remember their experiences in the military and to honor our ancestors who served in the Civil War and other battles after the Civil War. Three other Camp 31/SVR members were present for the meeting.

This meeting also offered Camp 31 the opportunity to conduct necessary Camp business and to install Camp Officers in person for the 2022 year. The Camp and Battery planned their 2022 Memorial Day activities and are working with residents of Tonopah, NV to obtain headstones for Civil War veterans as our camp project for the coming year.



Dispatch from Battery H

By Robert Mayer



The members of Battery H 3rd U.S. Artillery were joined by members of SUVCW Camp 24 and the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz at the National Cemetery in San Francisco. Due to the Covid restrictions we were not able to have a formal ceremony but we gathered at the cemetery. What we did there was man the gate to salute veterans and guests coming to visit the cemetery. We also gave tours and talks of the cemetery, civil war notables that are there, and also about CA in the civil war events. From the feedback that we received everybody was glad to see us out there.



Photos by Dave Rauenbuehler

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ANNUAL REPORTS COMING DUE

Brothers of the SVR:

First off, we face a new year, with both old and new challenges and opportunities. As in the past, we will meet these as they unfold.

To all Brothers of the SVR, the single most important thing you can do for all our units and the 6th District is to renew your personal membership in the SUVCW ASAP. Simple, yet this step often holds up all the follow-up Unit and District paperwork. We cannot have a SVR member without current, valid SUV membership status. Simply renew.

I will outline the SVR Renewal process and calendar briefly to help all SVR personnel understand these often invisible requirements and deadlines.

Annual reporting time is upon us. Please keep these two important 6th Military District deadlines in mind:

February 1st and April 1st.

STEP ONE:

Well before February 1st, 2022 ALL Units will send me your Annual SVR Unit Application. This is the one-page SVR form Form 3 (2012 rev.) which simply states you will have an SVR unit for 2021, and provides current contact information for your unit.

SVR Regulations, Article III, Section 4:

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

STEP TWO:

April 1st seems like a long way off, but your Unit should start NOW to assemble your 2022 renewal requirements. SVR District 6 requires all the paperwork by April 1st to submit to the National Headquarters in time:

Annual Unit Strength Report (SVR Form 19)

Updated roster

District and National dues

SVR Regulations, Article III, Section 4:

4. As part of his administrative duties, the District Commander shall be responsible for and shall ensure ... 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.

IRS EIN confirmation for 2021

SVR Regulations, Article II, Section 13:

Section 13. A military district or unit must have an active Tax ID number with the IRS (EIN) regardless of whether it has a bank account. Not having a bank account does not relieve the military district or unit from its responsibility to file the appropriate Form 990 and to maintain tax status. Section 14. It is the responsibility of the military district's or unit's Adjutant to file the appropriate Form 990 on time each year.

Correct, on time filing is critical to maintaining Active Unit Status.

Respectfully, Yours in F, C & L

Captain Mark M. Stevens

Commander, Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Infantry "Baker's Own"

Adjutant, Sixth Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve

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FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S TENT

Christmas is my favourite time of the year. There is something about this holiday that brings out mainly the best in people. There seems to be more kindnesses extended, more courtesy expressed, and many people find this time a good one to generously give so that those less fortunate also can experience the joy of the season. These are all good and special things that transform Christmas into a real holy day. It is a story that begins with the hopes and dreams of a young couple seeking to find a place for their first child to be born. It ends with a story of hope for all who embrace its majesty and miracle.

And of course, this last year has taught us all we need a little miracle of that presence which brings out the best of all of us.

The pandemic has separated us from one another even more than our politics and other issues have — it has separated us from the very gift most of need the most — to be in relationship to one another. Covered by masks, separated by six feet, and afraid to make contact, we have all suffered from a feeling of disconnectedness. I have seen depression, anxiety, and sometimes anger come out because of this.

So how do we do something about this situation? Perhaps for the moment we are bound to the protocols, but how can we go beyond those to make connection? We have so many tools we can use in this day of instant communication. Social media, email, Phone Chat, the telephone, and so many more options can still keep us connected. How about this — even an old fashion letter works! It really doesn't take a lot to think of a way to reach and connect with others. If you can't be with your loved ones this Christmas, reach out with a word from yourself. Tell the ones you love that you love them; those you hold dear, hold them a little closer; take more time to live, to love, and to appreciate those you care about. Just let them know.

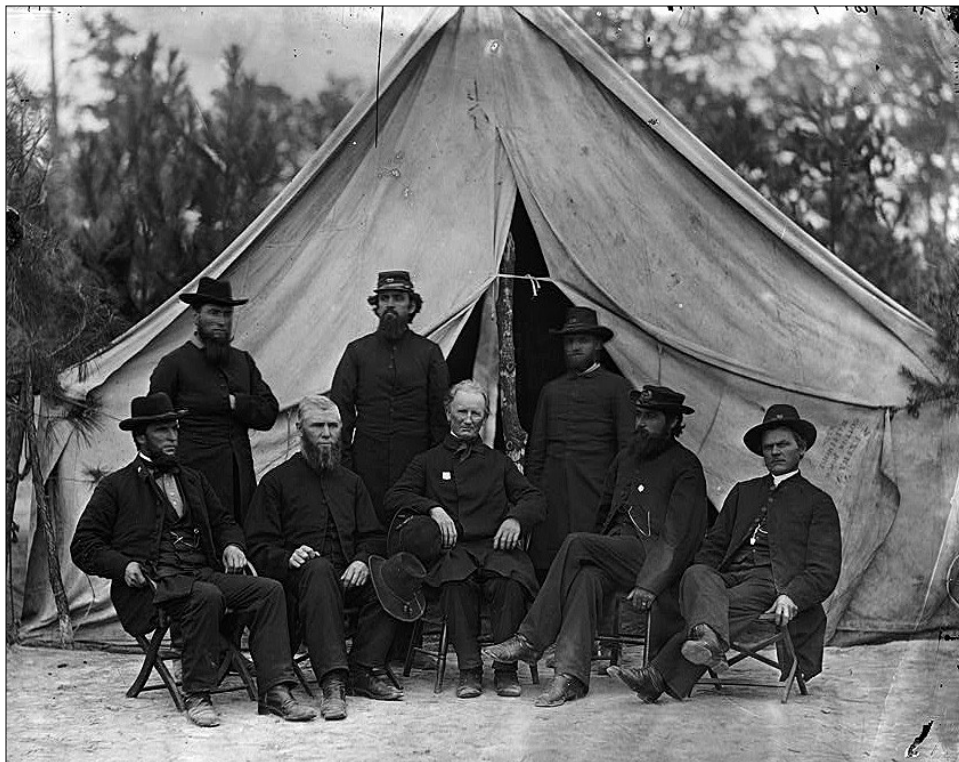
A long time ago I gave up the childish view that how many gifts I got determined how good Christmas was going to be.

Rather, I have found for myself, that the miracle of Christmas is discovered as I become closer to family and friends and, even more, become closer to the miracle of Christmas in my heart. How is it possible that a defenseless little baby could speak a word of hope and love to the entire world? Ah, this is the miracle of Christmas.

Yet, the miracle is, I believe, still around us. And so my wish, as a Christian, for all of us this Christmas season is, "May God's gift of love be seen once again in all of our lives." May the star still shine — May the gift be once more born into our world. God bless you all.

God bless you all.

Chaplain Gary Dickey
6th Military District, SVR



Chaplains of the 9th Corps at Petersburg, VA October 1864. Library of Congress.

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.

The 6th Military District currently has seven 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)***

