

THE WESTERN DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District



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Summer 2021

FAREWELL TO MAJOR BETSCHART

By Capt. Mark Stevens SVR

I am proud to report on the Memorial Day activities of Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

We had sixteen uniformed SVR report to Dallas Cemetery in Polk County, Oregon for our ceremony at eleven o'clock in the morning. General John Logan's order establishing Memorial Day was read by Baker Camp Commander D.H. Shearer. In addition to our usual Memorial Day observation, we had Brother Steve Holgate portraying President Lincoln read a letter of condolence sent to the mother of a fallen son during the Civil War. Brother Holgate presents by far the best Lincoln impression I have seen. Appropriate prayers were offered by Chaplain Tony Pasillas; floral tributes were placed by the ASUVCW and the DUVCW.

We also reserved a portion of the ceremony for honoring the late Major Steven Betschart, commanding officer of the SVR's 6th Military District. There was a moving last roll call and the formal casing of his command colors which will be shipped to successor 6th MD commander Major Wayne Eder.

The ceremony concluding with the traditional three volley musket salute by the SVR honor guard and the playing of Taps by Commander Shearer. We had between sixty and seventy members of the public attending.



Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR - Memorial Day 2021 in Dallas, Oregon

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Headquarters Kingman, Arizona

June 2021

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

A few thanks are in order. A HUGE thank you to each of our unit commanders (and adjutants) for getting your annual report packages submitted in a timely manner. Thank you to Brother Randy Fletcher for getting out our Western Dispatch newsletter, it is always a pleasure to read. Many thanks to all members of the 6th



Maj. Wayne Eder with his son and namesake

Mayer and his unit have been bringing on new members for Battery H, 3rd US Artillery. Thank you, Robert! Keep in minds that the more members your unit recruits, the more opportunity for rank promotions become available. Please review the Regulations of the SVR for unit requirements.

A big thank you is in order for all of you that participated in Memorial Day ceremonies. This is the true role of both the SUVCW and SVR and it is our honor to remember the sacrifices of the "Boy's in Blue". It was a huge honor this year to have my son, Wayne L. Eder II participate in his first official capacity as a junior member, even firing our Battery A, 3rd US Artillery's Coehorn Mortar for the first time. For those of you with children and grandchildren I hope that you are getting them involved so we can pass on the legacy of the SUVCW and SVR, otherwise our organizations will simply die. What a travesty that would be.

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

Military District Staff for all you do to keep our team together.

Now for the big one. A very special and heartfelt thank you to our beloved Adjutant Captain Mark Stevens. I do not believe that our members have a clue as to the responsibilities of this man. Gathering annual reports, submitting documents, coordinating activities, all the while serving as one of our unit commanders. Captain Stevens makes my job easy, as well as making each of us look fantastic to the National SVR. Thank you, Mark. I encourage each of you to drop Captain Stevens for his service to the SVR. Like myself, Captain Stevens is also a retired Fire Chief and uses his organizational skills to keep the 6th running smoothly.

I hate to sound like a broken record BUT please keep up your recruitment efforts! Chief of Staff Captain Robert

Tribute in Southern California

On Saturday, May 29th SUVCW Gen. George Stoneman Camp 18 held a Memorial Day Service in Honor of all of America's fallen service men and women. The ceremony took place at the Grand Army of the Republic monument which is surrounded by the graves of Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans. The twenty-five minute service was not as elaborate as in past years but it was sincere and fitting. The small audience enjoyed the ritual. The service began as usual with greetings from Camp Commander Brian Stephens which was followed by an invocation from Camp Chaplain Bill Daley, PCC. The Camp 18 Color Guard, made up of Brothers Rudy Velasco III, Benny White, Rudy Velasco IV and Steve Doyle, presented the National and Camp flags as the National Anthem played and amplified through a disc player. Camp Commander Stephens continued with an educational Memorial Day address followed By General Logan's General Order #11.

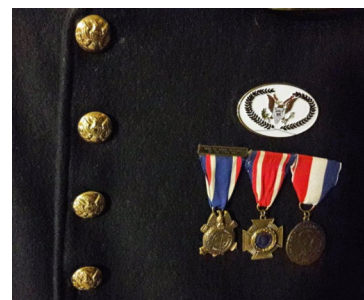
After Brother Michael Emmett recited the *How Sleep the Brave* poem, Brother Burt Hogue read the names of the six Camp 18 Brothers that have answered the Final Muster since the Camp was chartered in 2011. Camp Jr. Vice Commander John Morris presented a wreath to the G.A.R. monument, stepped back, saluted and remarked aloud that "a grateful nation thanks you" then returned to his seat. Camp Chaplain Daley began the closing of the Ceremony with the benediction which lead to a musket salute delivered by the Camp 18 Color Guard followed by the playing of Taps by Bugler Kasey Borders. The Memorial Service closed with the family members and Camp Brothers in attendance leaving fresh flowers along the headstones in the G.A.R. Circle.



SVR STAFF OFFICERS



Two of the staff officers of the 6th Military District attended the Memorial Day service in Dallas, Oregon. Pictured on the right is 2nd Lieutenant Randy Fletcher who serves as the Public Information Officer for the 6th MD and is the editor of the Western Dispatch. One the left is Captain Mark Stevens who serves as the adjutant of the 6th MD in addition to his duties as commander of Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR.



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

SOUTHERN NEVADA MEMORIAL DAY

By Dr. Wayne Eder



Ceremony at the grave of Civil War veteran James Ladd



Placing coins on the grave of Private Ladd

On May 31st Battery A, 3rd US Artillery SVR in conjunction with the Senator Edward Dickinson Baker Camp 31, Department of California & the Pacific honored Private James H. Ladd (1841-1934) of the 49th and 18th Indiana Infantry. Private Ladd is buried in Goodsprings, Nevada, south of Las Vegas. This year's visit afforded more participation by the Camp and public with six Brothers and approximately fifteen members of the public participating. Unit & Camp Commander Dr. Wayne L. Eder, Department of CA & the Pacific JVC and 6th MD SVR Commander, led the ceremony and discussed the practice of placing coins on veterans graves as members of the local historical society questioned the practice. A three volley salute was fired from a reproduction 12-pound Model 1841 Coehorn Mortar. The Camp's newest addition, Junior Member Wayne L. Eder II participated and fired his first artillery (blank) round from the mortar.

Private Ladd participated in the Vicksburg Campaign 1862-1863 and was involved in fighting at the Battle of Champion Hill.



New SVR Member Wayne Eder II participates in his first event as a member.



Camp 31's new flag carried by Adjutant Jimmie Bodenhamer.

Photos by
Suzette Eder

DISPATCH FROM RENO

By Kurt Dietrich

SUVCW Camp 25 participated in a Memorial Day remembrance at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Reno, Nevada. Also present were members if the DUVCW, Sons of the American Revolution, VFW, Boy Scouts. Our special guest was U.S. Congressman Mark Amodei representing Nevada's 2nd Congressional District.

Brothers Hess, Linscott and Dalton participated with the SAR in a three shot musket volley.

Immediately after the Memorial Day remembrance, Camp 25 participated with the Knights of Pythias for a new headstone dedication of John Swindells of the 96th Illinois Infantry.



Left to right: Brother David Hess; a Sister of the DUVCW; U.S. Congressmen Mark Amodei; and Brother Donn Dalton.



A new military headstone for Pvt. John Swindells, Company D, 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Report from the 6th Military District's newest unit: Battery H, 3rd United States Artillery

SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY

By Sgt. Stephen Johnson, SVR

Because Memorial Day activities were cancelled this year at San Francisco National Cemetery due to Covid restrictions, several SUVCW Brothers decided we needed to do something to honor veterans and their families.



Sgt. Johnson's photo from the San Francisco Chronicle.

So we decided that at the very least we could post ourselves at the entrance to the cemetery so we could salute the veterans and families who were coming to pay their respects. We had no idea what the reception would be, and we were overwhelmed by the response -- people were so grateful that we were there. Vets wanted to thanks us, families wanted their children to meet us (we gave out flags to the kids), people had all sorts of questions to ask (Why are Civil War soldiers buried here? Where are the Buffalo Soldiers buried? Where is Pauline Cushman - the Union spy - buried?, etc.) My fellow members of the SUVCW had come from afar that day (Monterey, Tracy, Oakley) to be there and we were very glad we made the effort. It was touching to see the Vietnam vet crying for his lost buddy as he left the cemetery,

the parents who brought their kids to teach them the meaning of Memorial Day, the elderly Chinese woman who wanted to talk about her husband who was in the U.S. Army, or the 100 year old vet who had been in the Battle of the Bulge being driven around the cemetery by his grandson.

It was a time when wearing a Union uniform had a real meaning and a real message. It was a great day.



Gary Hormel and Stephen Johnson of Gen Alfred Pleasonton Camp # 24 welcome Memorial Day visitors to San Francisco National Cemetery.



Commander Robert Mayer of the Pleasonton Camp and Br. Randy Hawkinson of Abraham Lincoln Camp # 10 salute visitors at the gates of the cemetery.



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)***



Sixth Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S TENT

I participated in a recent (and very much pandemic reduced) Memorial Day service to give honour and prayers to those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom and country. I included the following words I wrote in honour of two young men who gave their lives on the battlefield. I knew both of them, baptized them, and officiated their funerals. I dedicate this column to them in these words for Pvt. Cory Hiltz and Pvt. Adam Rosema.

Elegy to a Fallen Soldier

*We follow you with heavy steps behind your casket lifted proudly.
Too young a hero to have fallen so far away and too dear,
Yet to our hearts you are yet so near.*

*You could not have been braver nor made us more proud,
Yet the hollowness of our hearts bears our tears of unrealized hopes for the years.*

*Flag unfurled and rifles fired pierce the silence of the grave
And remind us of your courage and your country that has called you brave.*

*The sound of pipes and bugle bring solemnity and Taps
Reminding us of something more perhaps.*

For beyond our mortality stands the eternity of God.

*So to rest young Soldier — we salute you — you have faithful been — It is up to us your battle now to win and work and pray
for peace as we honour you so that you will not have died in vain.*

Stand down brave soldier and now safely rest.

*The Lord is nigh and God bless your soul into eternity
And angels hold you in their arms and keep you safe. Amen.*



Following the service, I escorted out the dignitaries from the service playing the bagpipes and the tune, “When the Battles O’er” which goes: “Where the green grasses and flowers grow. Of the brave lads of long ago. There is peace where there once was war. Sleep in peace, now the battle's over. Where the cool waters gently flow. For those brave lads of long ago. As their banners of long ago. Stepping lightly to meet the foe.”

God bless you all.

Chaplain Gary Dickey
6th Military District, SVR

