

THE WESTERN DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District



Volume 15, No. 2

Summer 2019

MEMORIAL DAY 2019

The Men of the 6th Military District Honor Fallen Veterans



McKinney, Texas
Company K, 1st U.S. Infantry, SVR



Reno, Nevada
Battery A, 3rd U.S. Artillery, SVR



Citrus Heights, California
Company B, 8th California Infantry, SVR



Eugene, Oregon
Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Headquarters Dallas, Oregon

June 2019

Brothers,

Getting the "Big Picture." That is sometimes difficult to do in any organization. Since I became your 6th Military District Commander on October 1st of 2018 it has been my goal to do just that...get the big picture of what is happening in our SVR group. Since that time I have come to greatly appreciate our former commander Major Joe Marti more and more and also to get to know a number of the unit officers better.

My adjutant Mark Stevens and I have now processed through our first annual unit membership renewal ordeal. To be honest, things did not go as well as I had hoped for but we learned a great deal. We all got the job done just not on the national schedule as proscribed. I believe that the takeaway from this first year is to "start sooner on the renewal process and do not put things off." EARLIER IS BETTER. Still, I commend all the unit commanders and their adjutants for their efforts. You are appreciated.

In terms of our very large geographic district (from Texas to Hawaii and Alaska) I regret to say that we lost one unit. The Marine Corps Guard Company Mere Island has deactivated but the unit numbers from the remaining six units show stability and/or increased membership overall. And, Captain and Chief of Staff Wayne Eder informs me that he is busy at work on a new Nevada SVR unit while Mark and I are working on our SUV comrades in Washington State to develop a new SVR unit there. Keep recruiting.

Finally, with Memorial Day now recently passed we look forward to our summer and fall activities. Let us know what you are doing! Our communications officer is Corporal Randy Fletcher, PCC who does our *Western Dispatch* newsletter. His email is cwtrooper1863@comcast.net. My adjutant is Captain Mark Stevens, PDC email CoBCorp@aol.com and my email is Yankeebugler@hotmail.com.

In Fraternity, Loyalty & Charity
Captain Steve Betschart

Left
Captain
Mark Stevens
Adjutant
6th Military Dist.

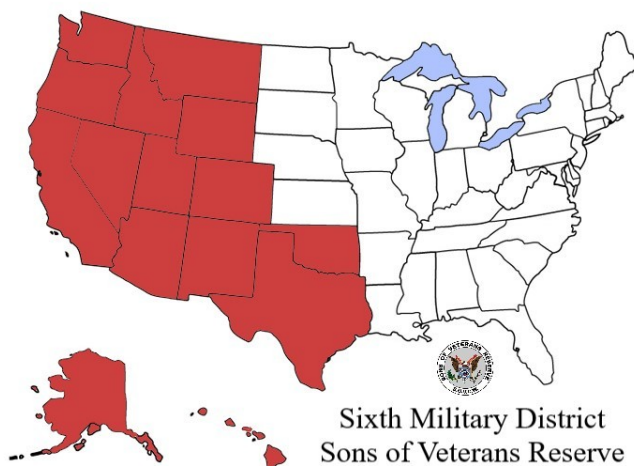
Right
Captain
Steve Betschart
Commander
6th Military Dist.



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 6th Military District has six organized units:

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



Sixth 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/>

Nevada Boys in Blue

By Capt. Wayne Elder

Chief of Staff 6th Military District, SVR

On Thursday, May 30th the William B. Keith Camp 12 hosted its annual Memorial Day event at the Woodlawn Cemetery. Camp Commander Kurtis Dumphy, along with Al Peterson, PDC lead the event which included Ladies of the Grand Army, Daughters of Union Veterans, Daughters of the Confederacy, and UDC Joseph Graham Chapter. A gun salute was provided by members of the Southern Nevada Living History Association. The annual event is held at the graves of Union soldier William Keith and Confederate soldier Joseph Graham who are buried side-by-side having become dear friends years after the end of the Civil War. The event was attended by 6th Military District Staff, along with other organizations and the public from the Las Vegas area.



Photo by Suzette Eder

California Memorial Day

By Capt. David Salyer

Company B, 8th California Infantry, SVR

The men of Company B, 8th California Volunteer Infantry, VVR were on hand for Memorial Day services at the Sylvan Cemetery at Citrus Heights, California. The Master of Ceremony was Jim Monteton, a member of Camp 22 and a Co. B member. The ceremony started with a march through the cemetery which featured members of the local police department, Sons of the American Revolution, Camp 22 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Armed Forces Veterans and the local Boy Scout troop. The procession made several stops throughout the cemetery to honor the fallen from the major conflicts. After speeches from the Chief of Police and other dignitaries, Company B fired a rifle volley salute.

We also attended living history events at Fort Point California and Alcatraz Island last September. Unfortunately, due to the fires at Paradise California, Veteran Day celebrations were cancelled due to poor air quality.



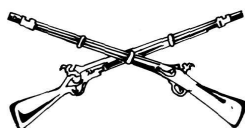
1st Sgt. Grayson Marchese and Cpl. Kevin Marchese

READY ... AIM ... FIRE!

The crowd favorite at any SVR ceremony is always the three volley musket salute



*Pecan Grove Cemetery
McKinney, Texas*



*Pioneer Cemetery
Eugene, Oregon*



Memorial Day in Oregon

*By Capt. Steve Betschart,
Commander 6th Military District, SVR*

On Monday, May 27th the Col. Edward D. Baker Camp and Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR participated in our annual Memorial Day event at the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery.

This event was conducted with the Lane County Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thirteen members were in attendance. Baker Camp Commander DH Shearer gave the invocation and also read the Letter from General John L. Logan (Commander - Grand Army of the Republic) that officially created Memorial Day. The SVR firing detail was led by Captain Mark Stevens and 1st Sgt. Tony Pasillas. This group included Pvt. Dean Long, Pvt. Gary Wolfson, Pvt. Phil McQueen, and Corporals Tim O'Neal and James Anello. The Color Guard included Color Sergeant Mark Hagedorn, Pvt. James Harnish and Cadet Chase Stoddard.

Baker Camp member Stephen Holgate presented the Gettysburg Address as President Lincoln. Captain Steve Betschart (Co. B Commander) and DH Shearer closed the program with echo Taps.

After the VFW program, members gathered at the headstone of former commander Harold Slavik to conduct an induction ceremony for those who had not yet taken the SUVCW oath. Cadet Chase Stoddard, James Harnish and Dean Long all gave their pledge to the Sons of Union Veterans (administered by Camp Commander DH Shearer) and received their medals.

*Color Guard from
left to right*

*Cadet
Chase Stoddard*

*Color Sergeant
Mark Hagedorn*

*Corporal
Jim Harnish*



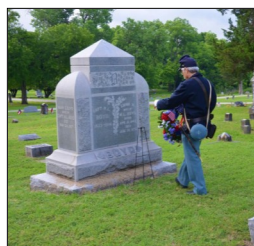
North Texas Memorial Day

*By Cpl. Don Gates
Adjutant Co. K, 1st U.S. Infantry, SVR*

Historic Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas, celebrated a traditional Memorial Day Ceremony on the grounds of the cemetery.

At 8:00 AM, prior to the main program, Camp 18 in conjunction with Co. K, 1st US Infantry, SVR and friends from the North Texas Reenactment Society conducted a separate memorial service for Civil War veterans. Brother Paul Ridenour, PCC, acted as chaplain and gave the invocation. Camp 18 Commander, Rick Erder presented a reading from Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Brother Chuck Sprague, PDC, Read the roll of honor of the union veterans interred and Commander Erder placed a wreath for the union veterans on the Boyd monument. Brother Bryan Powers commanded the firing party that fired three volleys in honor of the veterans. The firing party consisted of Brother Don Gates, PDC, Brother John Eger, along with Robert Mathis and Robert Burrage of the North Texas Reenactment Society. After completing the service for union veterans, the firing party and colors marched to the confederate monument erected by the Wells camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Sergeant Mathis read the inscription from the confederate monument in Arlington National Cemetery and Brother Ridenour, PCC, read the closing prayer. Flags with silk flowers were then placed on the graves of the union veterans and a flag with a wreath was placed on the grave of past Camp 18 member William Fleming, a Vietnam Veteran.

The main program began at 10:00 AM and consisted of a ringing of the church bell, a presentation of colors, speeches, a rider less horse, calling of the roll of honor, volley firing, taps, retreat of colors and a fly by with a UH-1 Iroquois (Huey) helicopter. Camp 18, Co. K, 1st US Infantry, SVR and friends from the North Texas Reenactment Society participated in the main program by providing a color guard and firing party.



Camp Commander Erder places a wreath on Boyd Monument.