

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

December 2023

Commander's Message

Brothers of Camp 1,

The Camp Council has conferred and reported to Dept. Commander Lance that they approve yours truly, Butch Durham, to be the Interim Camp Commander for the remaining 2023 term.

My first task is to arrange for the election for 2024 Officers. This must be done now rather than after the first of the new year. I am sending an email announcing a special meeting for this purpose to be held Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The vote will be administered and tabulated by an independent party within the Order, who will conduct the election during this meeting. This will be a short but important virtual gathering – please attend!

A follow-up action will be the installation of officers, on a date and location conducive to the Department Commander and the incoming Camp Commander. Zoom would be available for remote swearing of the full slate of officers as needed. More to follow.

No matter the voting outcome, let us continue -- together -- to seek a better 2024 for this Camp!

Amid a world full of chaotic events, I wish you a peaceful and reflective time of celebration within your Faith Community during this time of the year.

I remain, your obedient servant in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Butch Durham, Interim Commander

Summary Report of the Special Meeting of 14 December 2023

The following description of the meeting has been supplied by Brother John Vander Meulen, Department Signals Officer, who attended and made available the Zoom session.

Those in attendance: Commander Todd Wilber, Craig Reves PCC, David Appleton PCC, Scott Peters, Tim Phillips, Michael Belcher, Chuck Hannaford.

Greetings Brothers. Given that the Camp Secretary was absent at yesterday's [14th] Zoom meeting, here is my summary.

Those who attended can correct me if overlook something, but I believe the consensus was to advise Department Commander Lance of the need to change the current arrangement of Camp #1, i.e., instead of folding, the Camp would remain established for the time being while members to consider two choices.

1. Allow Brother Belcher to pursue his idea of establishing a location for Camp #1 in Bell County (Temple and Belton are options). It is easier to keep the Camp name and just change its meeting location than it is to start a new Camp from scratch. He indicated there are new membership opportunities there. He is in dialog with D.C. Lance about this. As part of this, I believe the intention is to continue using a Zoom hybrid arrangement so distant Brothers can still attend meetings virtually.
2. Transfer their membership to the Dallas Camp #18

Yes, the question of annual dues needs to be answered. Assuming some Camp members choose option #1 and others choose option #2, their annual dues would either continue to be provided to Camp #1 or to Camp #18 respectively.

[signed John C. Vander Meulen,
Signals Officer, Department of Texas and Louisiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War]

From the National Patriotic Instructor

The majority of our Brothers recite the following creed at many events. Here is the history of the creed, and where its sentences originate.

The American's Creed

I BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A¹ GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE;² WHOSE JUST POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED;³ A DEMOCRACY IN A REPUBLIC,⁴ A SOVEREIGN NATION OF MANY SOVEREIGN STATES;⁵ A PERFECT UNION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE;⁶ ESTABLISHED UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY FOR WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES.⁷
I THEREFORE BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY TO LOVE IT,⁸ TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTITUTION;⁹ TO OBEY ITS LAWS;¹⁰ TO RESPECT ITS FLAG; AND¹¹ TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES.¹²

Key to the The American's Creed; 1. Closing words of Preamble to the Constitution; 2. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; 3. Declaration of Independence; 4. James Madison in The Federalist, No. X; 5. Speech by Daniel Webster, Jan. 26, 1830; 6. Preamble to the Constitution; 7. Adapted from closing words of Declaration of Independence; 8. Speech by John Hancock; 9. United States Oath of Allegiance; 10. George Washington's Farewell Address; 11. War Department Circular, April 14, 1917; 12. Oath of Allegiance.

History

The American's Creed was a result of a nationwide contest for writing a National Creed, which would be a brief summary of the American political faith founded upon things fundamental in American history and tradition. The contest was the idea of Henry Sterling Chapin, Commissioner of Education of New York State. Over three thousand entries were received, and William Tyler Page was declared to be the winner. James H. Preston, the mayor of Baltimore, presented an award to Page in the House of Representatives Office Building on April 3, 1918.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the commissioner of education of the state of New York accepted the Creed for the United States, and the proceedings relating to the award were printed in the Congressional Record of April 13, 1918. It was a time when patriotic sentiments were very much in vogue. The United States had been a participant in World War I only a little over a year at the time the Creed was adopted.

The author of the American's Creed, William Tyler Page, was a descendant of John Page, who had come to America in 1650 and had settled in Williamsburg, Virginia, and who served in the Congress from 1789-97. Another ancestor, Carter Braxton, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Still another ancestor, John Tyler, was the tenth president of the United States. William Tyler Page had come to Washington at the age of thirteen to serve as a Capitol Page.

William Tyler Page began his government career as a Congressional page in December of 1881. Later he became an employee of the Capitol building and served in that capacity for almost sixty-one years. In 1919 he was elected clerk of the House. Thirteen years later, when the Democrats again became a majority party, they created for Page the office of minority clerk of the House of Representatives. He held this position for the remainder of his life until his death on October 20, 1942.

Referring to the Creed, Page said: "It is the summary of the fundamental principles of the American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions, and its greatest leaders." His wording of the Creed used passages and phrases from the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Daniel Webster's reply to Robert Y. Hayne in the Senate in 1830.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Brian D. McManus, SUVCW National Patriotic Instructor

Upcoming Events

Dec 19 7:00 PM -- Special Camp Meeting for Election of Officers – via Zoom or telephone
To Be Announced -- Installation of 2024 Officers – In Person and via Zoom or telephone



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War.

Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic. <https://suvcw.org/>

