

# The Western Dispatch



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT  
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

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*2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant George Hansen directs the firing party to fire three volleys at the dedication of Brother William Francis Fleming's grave (see story below).*



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings SVR Brothers,

As we move towards Veterans Day and the resounding echo of the 150th commemoration of our perpetual Commander Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, let us remember our Country's fine heritage and history by continuing to honor our heroes for their immense sacrifice. I cannot commend you enough for your efforts and dedicated service throughout Memorial Day weekend and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. As a Union of Brothers, many hours of time and money has been spent throughout our 6<sup>th</sup> Military District to continue in our goals of teaching history and raising awareness of the ultimate sacrifices made in the name of Freedom. Our men have demonstrated the same courage and prevalence as our forefathers at National Cemetery Events in our Region. You should be very proud of these efforts.

I am very privileged to announce I have approved the formation of the newest unit in our district under the command of Brother Michael Drouin, currently of Co. B, 8<sup>th</sup> California. Aptly nicknamed "Sutter Rifles", the 49th Regiment California Volunteer Infantry is forming in the Sacramento area to serve as a dedicated honor guard and will be in full operational status

## FAMILY GATHERS IN OREGON TO HONOR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

Descendants of Union veteran Rudolph Hummel gathered to honor their ancestor at Hummel's grave in Portland's Multnomah Park Cemetery. Although Hummel's grave is marked by an impressive private headstone, there is no inscription to indicate his military service. Patricia Gunnels, a Hummel descendant and a member of the DUVCW, contacted the Baker Camp and arranged for a bronze GAR marker to be added to the grave plot.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Military District Staff**

**Maj. Will Tisch**  
COMMANDER

**Capt. Wayne L. Eder**  
ADJUTANT

**Capt. J.C. Marti**  
CHIEF OF STAFF  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rev. Dr. Glen Alan Dickey**  
CHAPLAIN

before the end of the year. For more information on the unit, please send a message to [49<sup>th</sup>Cal@gmail.com](mailto:49thCal@gmail.com). Congratulations, boys! Huzzah!

Please remain safe and I thank you for all your continued dedication and service.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Major Will Tisch*

Major Will Tisch  
Commanding Officer  
6<sup>th</sup> Military District  
Sons of Veterans Reserve



A rededication ceremony was held on at the gravesite on Saturday, July 13th. The Baker Camp and the Sons of Veterans





Reserve were joined by members of the DUVCW, the Patriot Guard motorcycle honor guard, VFW Post 180 from Gresham, and over a dozen Hummel descendants.

Company B, 71<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR led the ceremony which featured a presentation of the colors; invocation and benediction by Rev. DH Shearer, chaplain of the Baker Camp; a history of the life of Rudolph S. Hummel present by Ms. Gunnels; the introduction of three generations of the Hummel family; a musket salute and *Taps* played by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. **Steve Betschart**.

Hummel served in the 16<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry until discharged due to a gunshot wound. He later reenlisted in the 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin



*Camp Commander and Private Drake Peddie offers condolences.*

## TEXAS SON MEMORIALIZED BY BROTHERS

On Saturday August 17, 2013, the brothers of the Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth, camp 18, Department of Texas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) gathered at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas, to perform a memorial service honoring the passing of camp member and Brother **William Francis Fleming**. Camp Commander Pvt. **Drake Peddie** conducted the ceremony and presented the family with a framed certificate of Mourning and a SUVCW challenge coin. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant **George Hansen**, commander of Company K, 1<sup>st</sup>

U.S. Infantry, 6<sup>th</sup> Military District of Sons of Veterans (SVR) was on hand to direct the volley salute firing party and Brother **Larry Johnson** provided a fife and drum accompaniment. Department Commander Cpl. **Donald Gates** was also in attendance to make a presentation to the family of an SUVCW flag holder and a copy of the Banner that maker Brother Fleming's passing. Camp and Department Chaplain **Donald Sielert** led the assembled party in prayer. Brother Fleming's son, William, gave a heartfelt eulogy. Commanders Peddie and Gates made their presentations to Brother Fleming's widow, Connie. Services were concluded with the playing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, a three volley salute and a closing prayer.

## UNIFORM PRESENTATION TO DUVCW TENT

On August 10, 2013, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant **Tom Helmantoler**, PCC of Co. 5<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry traveled to Granada Hills, CA to present a Civil War Uniform and Artifacts program to Cornelia Hancock Tent No. 10, DUVCW. He was invited to do this by DUVCW National President and Tent President, Carole Morton who saw it previously at the Tent in Temecula. Tom had inquired with Carole as to whether she might want the presentation for her own Tent. Tom saw some old friends made at the National Encampment in Los Angeles in the summer of 2012 as well as making many new ones at Hancock Tent. The day also included an excellent potluck meal for all to which Tom contributed a Julian apple pie. No one ever seems to refuse such a contribution and Tom never has to worry about spilling any leftovers in his car!

The program went quite well as Tom showed his three uniforms (cavalry enlisted, infantry enlisted, and infantry 2<sup>nd</sup>



Lieutenant staff officer), plus his great-great-grandfather's medal given him by the State of West Virginia in 1866, Minié balls from an unidentified battle, as well as replica pistols of the style used by Gen. Grant, and that used by JW Booth to assassinate President Lincoln. The program lasted about 90 minutes plus questions. Other than the 140 mile one-way drive to the San Fernando Valley and back, and the five traffic jams encountered (four on the return trip), the day was quite pleasurable.



## BATTERY A TAKES NEVADA BY STORM

**B**attery A, 3<sup>rd</sup> US Artillery continues to be one of the most active SVR units in the district, participating in Civil War events throughout Nevada and California. Battery A, which has been nominated for a Unit Citation by SVR Staff for their recent efforts of the last two years, appeared along with its sister Battery, Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Light Artillery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gardnerville event. SVR members **Wayne Eder, Ray Ahrenholz, Brian Worcester,** and **Ken Auld** were all present at the school day for Douglas County on September 13<sup>th</sup>, discussing Civil War subjects with over 350 school children. In addition, the artillery participated in five battle reenactments, firing a total of 85 rounds during the three day event from both the 12 pound Mountain Howitzer and 24 pound Coehorn Mortar. Members have also represented the Battery in events in Anderson, Ca and Fort Mervine.

Battery members look forward to supporting the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address (see ad) in Sacramento on November 19, 2013 at 10 o'clock a.m. at the GAR plot of the Historic City Cemetery.

Finally, Captain Wayne Eder will be representing the SVR 6<sup>th</sup> Military District Staff at the annual Remembrance Day Events taking place on November 23, 2013 in Gettysburg, PA and continues working with members throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> Military District to increase enlistments for 2014.

Captain Wayne Eder has been accepted as a member of Lincoln's Generals and will be involved in "first-person" impressions of Union Officer's in the coming years. <http://www.lincolngenerals.org/>



*Captain Wayne Eder with Senior Vice Commander in Chief Sergeant Tad Campbell at Fort Mervine*



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Veterans Day will soon be upon us. Veterans Day is dedicated to honor all those who have served in the nation's armed forces. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I, which took place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Congress changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day arouses three emotions in most Americans: **solemnity**, because it celebrates the veterans who have defended our great country; **sadness**, because so many have lost their lives in the process; and **pride**, because they fought so valiantly.

The supreme value that our veterans have fought and died for from the American Revolution to now is freedom. America is a country of freedom without which, life is empty.

Say a prayer this Veterans Day for those who serve and give a prayer of remembrance that those men and women, having served, may now rest in peace.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*The Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey*

Chaplain

## ABOUT THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

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 reenactments.

Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) 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. Units and individuals must file an application for membership. Minimal annual dues are charged all SVR members.

Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact either:

Major Gen. Robert E. Grim - *Commanding Officer*  
5367 SR 72 South, Sabina, OH 45169-9425 (937-584-4622)  
Email: robertgrim@dragonbbs.com

OR

Col. Donald E. Darby - *Adjutant General*  
1382 Western Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601 (740-772-6081)  
Email: darby@horizonview.net

**SVR**

SVR Commemorative

**Challenge  
Coins**

In Full Color

Gettysburg Commemorative

First in a series of coins commemorating the SVR and the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Coins are \$5.00 each plus shipping of \$3.00 for up to 6 coins. Shipping for 7 - 12 coins is \$6.00.

For 13 or more coins, call for price on shipping.

**Make checks payable to: TAG-SVR**

Mail to: Col. Donald E. Darby  
1382 Western Ave.  
Chillicothe, OH 45601-1107  
P# 740-772-6081  
e-mail: darby@horizonview.net

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