

The Sunflower Picket

Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter
www. suvcwks.org

Publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

144TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

The 144th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held August 7, 2025, through August 10, 2025. The actual business meeting was on Friday and Saturday, with the National Council of Administration meeting Thursday evening and Sunday morning. This year the encampment was held in Houston, Texas.

Department of Kansas attendees were Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC; Chairman of the delegation, Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC; Roy A. Lafferty, PDC; and Alan L. Russ, PDC. Regretfully, illness and other commitments came up, reducing our representation.

The business of the Order was conducted at the business sessions on Friday and Saturday. Several resolutions to amend the National Regulations were considered by the Encampment. A few of those that were approved and could directly affect the Department are:

a. Clarifying that a brother of the Department Members-at-Large are not members of a camp.

b. Resolution from Dept. of KS to change National Regulations: *“Documented Union Civil War battle flags shall be eligible for a grant for restoration or conservation, provided they are in the public domain not in private collections.”* This resolution was originally submitted to the Kansas encampment by PDC Schmidt.

c. A miniature War Medal badge is now authorized for wear in accordance with National Regulations.

d. Approved a new bracket for Life Membership adding ages fourteen to nineteen at a cost of \$2,200.

There were several other proposed amendments to the National Regulations. Although they all matter, many of these did not directly affect department or camp activities.

The encampment provided an opportunity for all to meet and talk with brothers from across the Order. In addition to the business, it was a time for fellowship, sharing what Kansas is doing and what others are doing.

If you have never attended a National Encampment, consider attending next year at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. See the article on page 4.



Kansas attendees from left to right: Roy A. Lafferty, PDC; National Secretary Alan L. Russ, PDC; National Membership-at-Large Coordinator Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC; JVCDC Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC.

Photo by Ed Norris, PCinC, Encampment Photographer

NEW BROTHERS, JUNE 1, 2025 – AUGUST 31, 2025

Name	Date Joined	Ancestor	Camp
Hinz, Michael Ray	8/20/2025	Private Watson Boyles	Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

OUR FALLEN BROTHERS

Since April 5, 2025

“The faults of our Brothers we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.”

Name	Deceased	Ancestor	Camp
Boyd, Robert Dean II, PDC	4/25/2025	Private John Boyd	Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt
Gilliland, Donald Darrel	4/28/2025	First Lieut. David Henry Danhauer	Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka
McGovern, Douglas Edward, PCC	7/21/2025	Private Samuel Cowan (McCowan)	Corp. Patrick Coyne 1, Wichita

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Kent M. Melcher, PDC

Since becoming your Commander, I have so far had the opportunity to make official visits to four of our six camps. I assure you the Department of Kansas is alive and well.

In every visit I have learned about a variety of Camp projects that are underway or are being planned for the near future. With every passing month, the cemeteries in our communities are being tended with care: Headstones are being reset, and both headstones and monuments are being cleaned. A few new headstones are being dedicated from time to time, and in October, Humboldt Camp 9 will dedicate a new statue to remember Private John W. Poe, 35th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Private Poe died in 1862 and was buried in the National Cemetery in Jefferson City MO. His son David A Poe and family are buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Humboldt. Camp 9 brought Private Poe home to rest with his family. Poe is an ancestor of Humboldt Camp 9 Brother Dennis L. Piatt.

Our camps have begun discussing how they can participate in the Department's commitment to restore regimental battle flags that led Kansas soldiers in some of the most horrific battles of the Civil War. Those flags are precious connections to the valiant conduct of our Kansas boys. In one hundred sixty years, the flags have deteriorated and will continue to do so until they have been professionally conserved. I encourage every camp to join this effort by raising as much money as possible to contribute to this patriotic endeavor.

Dept. of KS members demonstrate a deep commitment to preserving the memory of those who fought so valiantly and selflessly to preserve the Union. That task, unfortunately, becomes more difficult with each passing year.

This is why. Some cultures understand that, symbolically, we humans die three distinct deaths. The first is a physical death, the cessation of bodily functions. Often families and friends surround their loved one as they cross the threshold. The second death is when the body is buried or otherwise disposed of, and the person's physical body can no longer be seen. The third death is when the memory of the person fades from consciousness. It occurs when finally no one remains who knew the person in life. When the last surviving real son and real daughter pass away, we will have reached the "third death" for all Civil War veterans. That will be a sad day for all of us.

Even sadder, however, is the fact that the American Civil War will reach the third death when it no longer remains in the hearts and minds of our citizens. Few people today recognize how important it is to remember the pivotal years of 1861 to 1865, which some have referred to as the Second American Revolution.

On the fourth of July each year, the independence we gained in the Revolutionary War is commemorated with a national holiday. In the recent past, Americans also once

remembered those who fought and died on the battlefields of the Civil War. But Decoration Day, "strewing with flowers" the graves of those who fell in the Civil War has been supplanted by a focus on honoring veterans of all wars who fought and died for their country. SUCVW Camps plan and carry out Memorial Day observances, and obviously they focus on remembering the Civil War. But in observances conducted by other veterans' organizations, the Civil War is often not even mentioned.

I believe the saying is true that those who fail to remember their country's history are doomed to repeat it. Perhaps the SUCVW and Allied Orders should organize a campaign to set aside annually a date to remember the significance of the Civil War in American history. Our citizens need to be reminded of the tragic events that plunged this country into the Second American Revolution, 1861 - 1865.

Our task "to keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue" challenges every member, every Camp, every Department, and the National SUCVW. The task is daunting, but we must never surrender our responsibility.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Kent M. Melcher
Department Commander

CAMP STRENGTHS, AUGUST 31, 2025

As of August 31, 2025, Kansas listed **165** brothers, including two juniors and seven dual brothers. This is a net change of **one** within the Department since March 31, 2025, which gives it a reportable strength of **156**.

<u>Camp Name & Number</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1	28	-1
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4	27	+1
Franklin Camp 5	44	0
Humboldt Camp 9	11	0
John N. Eckes Camp 10	19	+1
Old Abe Camp 16	36	0
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS	165	+1

PDC ROBERT DEAN BOYD II MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

The PDC Robert Dean Boyd II Membership Challenge was announced in D.S.O. 2 (Series 2025-2026).

Camps are challenged to recruit three new brothers during the period April 6, 2025, through March 21, 2026.

Qualifying Results so far are:

Camp 1.....0	Camp 4.....1
Camp 5.....0	Camp 9.....1
Camp 10.....1	Camp 16.....0

NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

On August 9, 2025, the following brothers were elected as National Officers for the term 2025-2026. Their home department and year their term ends (if not 2026) are below.

Commander-in-Chief

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC (MA)

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

Daniel W. Murray, PDC (NH)

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

Robert R. Payne, PDC (MI)

National Secretary

James R. Crane, PDC (OH) (2028)

National Treasurer

D. Michael Beard, PDC (CH) (2028)

National Quartermaster

Daryl V. VerStrete Jr., PDC (NY) (2028)

Council of Administration

Kevin L. Martin, PCinC - IPCinC (CH) (2026)

Roderick J. Fraser Jr., PDC (MA) (2026)

Shane L. Milburn, PDC (OH) (2027)

David Hann, PDC (NJ) (2027)

Gary L. Gibson, PDC (MI) (2028)

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., PCC (MO) (2028)

2026 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

March 28, 2026

The 2026 Annual Department of Kansas Encampment is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Topeka. This is the thirtieth anniversary of the Department, with the Department hosting it.

The encampment is to be held at the Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka. This will be the fourth encampment held at the Kansas Museum of History, with the others being in 1999, 2002, and 2006.

An optional Friday evening meal is being planned. Details will follow.

Please put this on your calendar as we close out our first thirty years and begin the next.

Additional details about the 2026 Department Encampment will be provided as they become available.

2026 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 30, 2026, through August 2, 2026

The 145th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is scheduled to be held Thursday, July 30 through Sunday, August 2 at the Eisenhower/Aspire Hotel, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg.

SUVCW business meetings are held on Friday and Saturday. The pre-encampment Council of Administration meeting is being held Thursday evening, and the post-encampment meeting is Sunday morning.

Optional tours (to be announced) are available on Thursday at additional expense. The traditional "campfire" and entertainment is Friday evening at no additional cost. The Allied Orders Banquet will be held on Saturday evening (additional cost).

THE STREAMERS AT THE TOP OF THE FLAG

Whenever you look at the Department flag, you might notice all of the ribbons hanging down from the top. These are the streamers which represent the various awards and events the Dept. of KS has received. But just what is up there? Well, here they are, along with a brief description of what they represent. The wording shown is what is on the streamer.

2004 Grant Trophy Award – For the Highest Percentage New Members

2005 – U.S. Grant Cup Award for Most Per Cent Increase

2006 – U.S. Grant Cup Award – Department Greatest Percent Increase

The U.S. Grant Cup award is presented to the department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period April 1 through March 31. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief. For more information, see the following article.

2006 Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award Department with Most New Members

This award is presented to the department with the greatest number of new members during the period 1 April through 31 March. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief.

2006 Marshall Hope Award – Best Department Newsletter

This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief to the Department Newsletter he judges to be the most outstanding in the Order during his term of office. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

2010 SUVCW National Encampment Host

Presented to a department which hosted a National Encampment.

Lincoln Fellow

In March 2007, the SUVCW Charitable Foundation established the Abraham Lincoln Endowment Fund to maintain funds to support the mission of the Foundation. Recognition is based upon the amount donated. Although not an award, as such, it is recognition of the financial support the Dept. of KS provided to the Foundation.

April 16, 2011 – 55th Lincoln Tomb Observance – Springfield, Ill

This streamer is not an award, but rather it is in recognition of the Dept. of KS participation in the annual Lincoln Tomb Observance.

2014 Albert Woolson Outstanding Signature Event Award – Battle of Mine Creek 150th Anniv.

Awarded for most outstanding Sesquicentennial Signature Events.

So, the next time you see your Department flag, take a moment to look at the streamers. They tell part of our history.

THE U. S. GRANT CUP AWARD

The U.S. Grant Cup Award is presented annually by the Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW. Here is a little history about it.

The U.S. Grant Cup began in 1962 when Past Commander-in-Chief and then National Counselor U.S. Grant III made an offer to the 1962 National Encampment. The following is from the 1962 National Encampment Proceedings for the Eighty-first Annual Encampment of the SUVCW, page 64:

National Counselor Grant: In two organizations, to which I belong, there is a Cup or Banner given each year to the State organization which increased its membership in the greatest proportion during that year.

I would be glad to give such a Cup to the Sons of Union Veterans for presentation to the Department each year showing the greatest gain in membership, with the Department engraved upon the Cup; and next year, it would go to another Department which might win it. Do you think that would be any good? If so, I will be glad to furnish the cup.

Commander-in-Chief Shriver: I am sure that everyone agrees that is a fine idea; and I feel sure that we would be very happy to have such an award; and we thank you, Brother Grant.

Originally, the cup was sent home with the winning department for the year, with it being brought back to be given to the next year's winner. The U.S. Grant Cup was awarded for the first time in 1963, and it was a tie between the Department of Indiana and the Department of Wisconsin. With the tie, it was then decided the cup would spend the first six months with the Dept. of WI and then go to the Dept. of IN.

Although the actual cup no longer travels, it does reside at National Headquarters, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Now, the winning department receives a streamer for their department flag.



Kansas Receives its first U.S. Grant Cup Award in 2004. From left to right: Randy Durbin, PCC; Douglas E. McGovern, Department Commander Thomas Schmidt, PCC; James R. Knopke, PCC; National Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong, PDC; Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC; Dean K. Speaks, PDC; and Alan L. Russ, PDC.

Kansas and the U.S. Grant Cup Award

The Kansas connection to the U.S. Grant Cup is the Department was the recipient of the award in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Kansas is the only department to receive the award for three consecutive years.

So, why haven't we received the award since then? It becomes a matter of scale. In 2004 when the Department of Kansas first won the U.S. Grant Cup, our department

strength was 78. This was a 34.5% increase over the 2003 strength of 58! The 2005 strength was 97 with a 24.1% increase over 2004. The Department followed up in 2006 with a figure of 146 with a 50.5% increase over 2005. We attained those numbers with the additions of three camps and other recruiting efforts over those three years. With our current strength, we would need to be adding a net gain of thirty or more brothers just to get into the running. It can be done, but it will take effort to do so.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



WREATHS — across — AMERICA

★ **KEEP MOVING FORWARD** ★

The following Kansas camps are participating in the Wreaths Across America program in 2025, both as a remembrance to the veterans and as a camp fundraising event. If you wish to support your camp, a different camp, or all the camps, here is information for doing so:

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

Location: Maple Grove Cemetery, Lawrence

Group ID: KS0148P

Group Page: www.wreathsasscrossamerican.org/KS0148P

Franklin Camp 5, Olathe

Johnson County Memorial Gardens

Group ID: KS0168P

Group Page: www.wreathsasscrossamerican.org/KS0168P



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTS

SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

James D. Thornton, PCC

I just recently had a revelation. I had never realized it until our most recent Franklin Camp 5 meeting. Being a member of a heritage/ancestor-based organization can also be educational. Since joining the Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Sons of Confederate Veterans, I have received an extensive education in American History. All due to the presentations and programs given at the meetings I attend.

Even more amazing, when you think about it, is the fact this education isn't only from arranged expert speakers, but from fellow members who share similar interests in history. Plus, age is not a factor in the person providing the educational lesson. This really struck me at the last Franklin Camp meeting. Let me give you some examples.

At our past meeting, the presentation was given by our Junior Member, Harrington Montgomery. Harrington is only twelve years old (soon to be thirteen), but he taught this sixty-three year old something new. I learned that there were indeed soldiers who progressed completely through the ranks and rose from private to general by war's end. I had no idea that it was even possible.

At the other end of the spectrum, it was a lesson I learned during a presentation at one of my SAR meetings given by ninety-years-old Bruce Bowman that led me to do further research and develop my own presentation on a Revolutionary War battle in St. Louis. Bruce had spoken on the Battle of Blue Licks which took place in Kentucky. I had no idea the Revolutionary War spread that far west.

And then of course there is the example of Brother Lane Smith. In my opinion, Lane missed his calling in life. He should have been an American History teacher. On top of arranging and leading battlefield tours of Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh, and others, his portrayal of General Lee along with Randy Durbin as General Grant has educated hundreds in Civil War history, me included.

My point is, these types of organizations can stimulate your need to learn. They can provide an education you never thought possible by simply attending a monthly meeting. These meetings also provide opportunities for you to share your own knowledge and provide an education for others. And age is not a restriction. Our meeting prove just that. A twelve year old wanted to share his knowledge, wanted to provide an education to a roomful of guys five times his age. And he did it. In the case of my SAR chapter,

a ninety year old member wanted to teach little-known history. And he did it.

Thanks to these experiences, I have developed the presentations I give. Seeing others, whether twelve or ninety years old, stand up in front of a room to share their knowledge inspired me to dive into research and prepare the programs I hope will educate others. I thank each and every one of the speakers I have listened to for providing me an opportunity to learn.

If you have the desire to learn more about our nation's history, and have fun and fellowship while doing it, join these heritage/ancestor-based organizations and attend the meetings. You just might learn something.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jim Thornton, PCC

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Summer is starting to wind down, school is back in session, and fall is just around the corner. Fall is a great time for recruiting new camp members. Most communities have some kind of fall festival or activity. March in a parade, volunteer to raise the U.S. colors, and set up a recruiting table. Visit with people about the SUVCW and explain our organization and what you do as a camp. Most people don't know we exist. Invite them to a meeting or activity. They will be surprised. It's not too early to plan an activity around Veterans Day in November.

Having said the above, I have found what seems to be the best way for me to recruit is one on one. Ask an acquaintance or friend about their family history and see if they know if they have a civil war ancestor or if they have an interest in the Civil War. Talk to them about the organization. Invite someone you know to a meeting or activity. Hopefully they will enjoy the experience and, as they say, "the rest is history." Don't forget about family members. You may have to break the ice.

A reminder about Dept. of KS Special Order 2 dated May 8, 2025. It says in it "The Department of Kansas challenges each camp to recruit at least three new brothers (Member or Associate) for their camp during the period April 6, 2025, through March 21, 2026." How are you coming with this challenge? The time to recruit is now, because the next thing you know, it will be 2026.

I attended the SUVCW National Encampment in Houston, Texas, August 7-10, 2025. National Treasurer Michael Beard shared some interesting information in his

written National Officer report. I think you will be surprised with some of this information. He says “We must continue our focus on increasing membership. We are the oldest heritage organization, and our ancestor pool exceeds 2 million. We have 5,857 dues paying members. The Mayflower Society has an ancestor pool of 110 and they exceed 30,000 members. The same is true of the SAR and DAR, they all have significantly smaller ancestor pools than us and all hover around 30,000 members. We can’t blame our small membership on the Civil War – the SCV and UDC both have 30,000 members. This resulting difference is stark”.

Let’s close the gap one new member at a time! One of the duties of the Junior Vice Department Commander, as stated in the job description, is to assist with the recruitment and retention of Brothers (Members, Associates, and Juniors).

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Junior Vice Dept. Commander

SECRETARY

Alan L. Russ, PDC

As camps elect and install their officers for the coming year, keep a couple of things in mind as you fill out the SUVCW Form 22 (Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers).

a. Do NOT use nicknames. Use the full name to avoid future confusion.

b. Ensure the information at the top of page 1 is correct. The Initiation Fee must be a minimum of \$10.00, and the Annual Dues must be a minimum of \$40.00 plus whatever additional amount is added for camp use. This is set by the National Regulations. [National Regulations Chap 1, Art XI, Sec 1]

c. When electing officers, remember that the Camp Commander, Camp Secretary and Camp Treasurer cannot serve on the Camp Council. [NR Chap 1, Art V, Sec 1]

d. Living Past Commanders (page 4) must still be living and still part of your camp. This list is used to establish status in attending Department Encampments.

e. The form must be completed and signed by the camp council members, installing officer, incoming camp commander, and incoming camp secretary.

f. It must be sent to the Department Secretary within seven days of completion.

As always, if you have any questions, contact the Department Secretary.

Always check the National website at www.suvcw.org in the “Governance & Forms” section to ensure you are using the latest official forms.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Department Secretary

TREASURER & CHIEF OF STAFF

Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

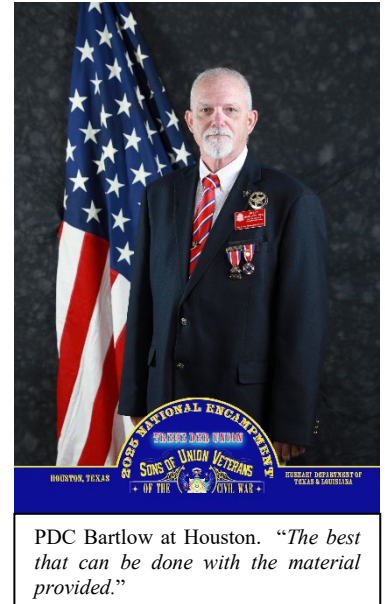
Your Department Treasurer has been busy through the summer, but not necessarily with Treasurer stuff! It is a generally quiet time, but I did attend the National Encampment at Houston with PDCs Russ, Schmidt, and Lafferty, and we had a great time.

We are about to get into the busy season, however, transitioning from outdoor cemetery and representing events to camp meetings and preparing for 2026. I will be making up a 2026 department budget to present to the council for approval, and camps will be gearing up for receiving next year's dues, filling out 990-N IRS reports, and making reports on the camps' progress. If you need any help with your camp's financial paperwork, please let me know.

Now, putting on my Chief of Staff hat, there are several things in the works of which you should be aware. Department Commander Melcher is preparing to install new officers this fall and has all those events scheduled, with the aid of PDC Schmidt and myself in some cases. He has also been busy visiting camps and continues to do so, visiting Old Abe Camp in September.

If you recall, Department Commander Melcher asked for volunteers for a department committee to prepare for the U.S. 250th Anniversary next year. So far, we have Brothers Wampler and Winters from Franklin Camp, Pat Myers from Churchill Camp, and Ron Martin from Old Abe Camp. Your camp should be asking for volunteers, but if you haven't heard of this and want to participate, let me know and I'll add you to the list. Our country only gets one 250th and as we represent a big part of its history, let's make it a great event. On another note, our National officers are planning events as well. Is there something your camp might consider doing for this momentous event?

Finally, this edition of *The Sunflower Picket* has gathered information from across the department and if you are a camp, or department elected or appointed officer, please plan to submit something for the next quarter. All the



PDC Bartlow at Houston. “The best that can be done with the material provided.”

brothers in the department need to hear from you, with encouragement of what you are doing and what is happening in your scope across the department. If, as a camp commander, you can't remember what you've done in the last quarter, look over your camp meeting minutes and Facebook postings for ideas. Let's strive for excellence in all we do. The Boys in Blue deserve our best efforts!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
PDC Rocky Bartlow,
Department Treasurer/Chief of Staff

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Michael J. Hadl, PCC

Dear Department Brothers,

I have been trying to follow all the camp Facebook pages and make "friends" with all department brothers (and sisters). If we are not friends, please send me a friend request. Also, if the camps have any guest speakers at their meetings, please post to other camps' Facebook pages. If the camps have any workdays activities, please post them also.

F C L, Mike Hadl

CHAPLAIN

Jeffrey A. Winters

What Can We Do to Honor Our Veterans?

Each year many activities occur in honor of our Veterans, one of which is Wreaths Across America (WAA), which is held every second or third Saturday in December, where wreaths are laid on graves of Veterans. What do you really know about Wreaths Across America?

Wreaths Across America is an organization whose outlined mission is: Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Remember: Anyone can sponsor a veteran's wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one who served in our armed forces. One can also sponsor, but allow the WAA, to designate a recipient among the millions of heroes who rest in honored glory among many cemeteries all over the US and abroad both.

Honor: Anyone can and should consider volunteering with WAA as we work to honor our veterans through the entire year. From laying wreaths locally, to leading a sponsorship or coordinating a ceremony location, there are many ways to get involved!

Teach: You can invite a network of friends, family, co-workers and local chapter organizations to join the WAA as we strive to honor every veteran. If there is a cemetery with veterans you would like to see honored, but don't see wreaths, work with the cemetery to see if you can encourage them to reach out to WAA to be a cemetery for

WAA! This will help WAA to honor more of our veterans nationwide.

Source: WAA.org

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC

I probably bring a little different perspective to the SUVCW as the Graves Registration Officer. I retired from the City of Winfield as the Cemetery Manager after twenty-seven years of service. The first year and a half with the city, I was the Head Lake Ranger. I started cleaning, straightening, raising and repairing headstones and monuments almost immediately after I started working in my three cemeteries.

There was no cemetery handbook to refer to. I didn't have a computer with internet to learn from. I just dove headfirst into every project I started. I learned from my mistakes daily.

When I finally got a computer installed in my office (with dial up internet), the first thing I did was to research the proper methods of stone care. I learned really quick that I had been doing everything WRONG!

The first thing I learned in headstone and marker care was "First, Do No Harm!"

As I learned the proper way of doing things, I also made various pieces of equipment to help me do my job. Most of the home-made equipment worked, but a few did not.

I also experimented with different headstone cleaning methods and cleaners. In the end, I found that D/2 Biological Solution was the safest and easiest cleaner to use. I also learned D/2 can be mixed 50/50 with water. The 50/50 mix works just as well as full strength D/2 and saves money! I still prefer to use D/2 exclusively. Before joining the SUVCW, and when I was still experimenting with other stone cleaners, I gave several presentations in and around Winfield. I may have recommended a product other than D/2 for cleaning headstones, and I apologize for that.

I've researched my family history for over forty years and have known about my ancestors who served in the Civil War, and so my interest always steered me towards all the Civil War Veterans buried in my cemeteries. I walked every inch of cemetery grounds (about sixty acres) inspecting every headstone and looked for evidence of a Civil War Veteran making sure to record my findings. If the headstone was unreadable due to biological growth, I would clean it.

In my opinion, that is where it all starts, out in the cemetery. Walking through a cemetery is the best way to identify Civil War Veterans. The easiest to identify are the white marble Civil War markers. When inspecting

privately owned headstones, the first thing I look for are GAR emblems. Second, I look for unit/regiment markings. If those are not visible, I then look at the birth and death dates to help determine if the man could have been a Civil War Veteran. The last thing one should rely on are the GAR grave markers (flag holders) as those can be easily moved by cemetery workers, vault men, and mischievous kids.

Record your findings with pen and paper or use your cell phone and take photos of every headstone. If the birth/death dates are within range, then the research starts. I prefer Ancestry, Find a Grave, and Newspapers.com. All three of these sites are very helpful when trying to identify a Civil War veteran.

Start with a small township cemetery near you. Grab a one-gallon sprayer filled with D/2 - 50/50 mix, a scraper, a scrub brush, and pen and paper, then get to work. Clean all the white marble CW markers and inspect every privately owned headstone in the cemetery and document. Once you

are back at home, do the research. If a Civil War Veteran is found keep the data on a spreadsheet.

It's that simple! Walking through a cemetery relieves stress. It is great exercise, and it's our duty. Now, I have to learn how to submit information to the SUVCW data base.

Joe Chrisman

Dept. Of Kansas Graves Registration Officer

EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE COORDINATOR

Eric L. Crittenden

For more information on the program please check out the National SUVCW website with the following link, contact me.

<https://suvchw.org/eagle-scout-recognition>

Eric Crittenden – Dept of KS ESCC

Email: suveweckes10@gmail.com

CAMP NEWS

PVT. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1

Wichita

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	Michael L. Halfman, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	Steven W. Hamlin
Junior Vice Commander	Timothy A. Baxter
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Council	Dale L. Rouse, PCC
	James H. Graves, PCC
	Adam P. Harrison
Patriotic Instructor	Randolph J. Colby Jr.
Chaplain	Dale L. Rouse, PCC
Historian	Michael L. Halfman, PCC
Civil War Memorials Officer	Randolph J. Colby Jr.

A Marker for Emily

Submitted by Camp Commander Michael Halfman, PCC.

It started off innocently enough with a remark by Terry Justice, PCC, that there was a Civil War nurse interred in Wichita's oldest cemetery in an unmarked grave, and somebody ought to do something about it. Our camp has been active in restoration work at Highland Cemetery for well over a decade. Even if we didn't know where she was or even what her name was, with around 16,000 graves spread over approximately twenty-five acres, I thought, how difficult can that be? So I raised my then in the ranks doofus hand and said "I can do that." Over the course of the subsequent two years, I reflected frequently on how much easier it would have been to have kept my big mouth shut.

After some months of research, I found Emily C. Tucker Haines Harrison and started the process of obtaining a marker from the Veterans Administration. She was not the nurse I was sent out to find, however. I did find the original nurse in question some months later, but that's another story.

Our original application to the Veterans Administration for a headstone to mark her service was declined on the basis that nurses did not qualify. That ruling was confirmed on our appeal, citing a section of public law in which the word nurse does not in fact appear in any of its manifold pages. Ask me how I know. Her great, great grandson, Reverend Ward Eugene Haines, former Wichitan whose further research had been tracked down in Ohio, appealed to his Ohio senator. Despite Emily's one time residence there, subsequent marriage, and childbearing within the state, the letter only yielded the suggestion that we touch base with a senator from Kansas. Only after a year and a half and a second and final judicial review of our submitted VA rulings and congressional actions in rebuttal did we ultimately get approval for a marker for Emily.

In the meantime, the memorial company that had agreed to accept and place her marker closed its Wichita office, so it was back to doing research to find their home office. Once discovered in Idaho, it was then a series of calls and e-mails to find someone willing to acknowledge their earlier agreement (Wichita? We don't have an office

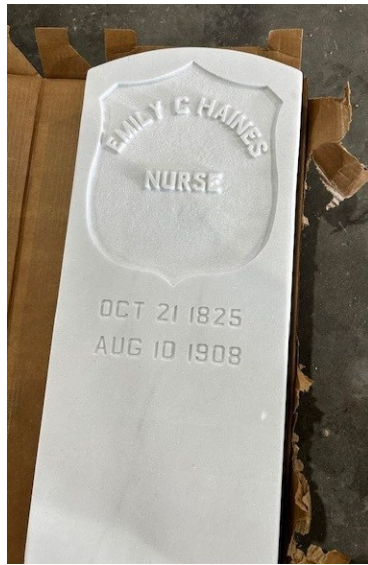
there.) and notify the recalcitrant VA of where to ship the marker.

The marker was duly manufactured and shipped to the company's Parsons address where it was duly unloaded and set in a corner for several weeks. Parsons had not been involved in its acquisition and didn't know its provenance; Idaho HQ was not on the VA's list of those who needed to know, and the now privatized VA help line was still showing the marker to have been turned down on appeal and refused to discuss what they considered to be an unauthorized and non-existent stone. Only when Mr. Big Mouth once again entered the fray, more fool he, were cages rattled and its location discerned.

Installation is tentatively scheduled for mid-September with a dedication and Celebration of Life proposed for October. You are all invited and you can be sure said Big Mouth will let you know when you can come and hear the rest of Emily's story.

It was the long way around the barn, to be sure, but a delightful, rewarding, and enriching one I deeply cherish. One for which I am immensely grateful. One I would do again in a heartbeat.

Michael Halfman
Camp Commander



Left to right: Michael R. Hinz, Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC; Michael A. Todd, PDC; Michael J. Hadl, PCC; Dennis L. Lawrence, PCC; Justine Burton; and Michael D. Heck, PCC. (The dog wished to remain anonymous.)

Photo by W. Patrick Myers, PCC, Camp 4

Cemetery on the northeastern edge of Lawrence. Seven members of the camp gathered on site by 8 a.m. to try to beat the heat on this hot summer day. The camp held two other workdays this summer. One was at Maple Grove Cemetery and one at Pioneer Cemetery, which is near the Kansas University campus in Lawrence. The Maple Grove Cemetery was established in 1861 and is a relatively modest cemetery, but it is home to approximately seventy Civil War veterans. The camp also uses this cemetery for its Wreaths Across America event in December each year.

The group spent this workday in the African American section of the Maple Grove Cemetery. They were able to basically complete their work in this area. They raised and straightened multiple headstones and cleaned approximately twenty stones. A local Lawrence resident, Justine Burton, heard about the workday and came out to see the group in action. She has relatives buried in another section of the cemetery and was not aware of the African American Civil War soldiers that are in this area of the cemetery. She indicated she was going to do some research on some of the men that are buried there now that she is aware of its significance.



Tom Schmidt, PDC

Secretary Churchill Camp # 4

SGT SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4

Lawrence

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	W. Patrick Myers, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	Michael D. Heck, PCC
Junior Vice Commander	George E. Goff Jr.
Secretary	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Treasurer	Michael A. Todd, PDC
Council	Joseph L. Bodine
	Brent D. Whitten
	Paul Jefferson, PCC
Patriotic Instructor	Michael J. Hadl, PCC
Chaplain	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Historian	Michael J. Hadl, PCC
Graves Registration Officer	Dennis L. Lawrence, PCC
Civil War Memorials Officer	Paul Jefferson, PCC

Submitted by Camp Secretary Tom Schmidt, PDC

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 held their last cemetery workday of 2025 on Saturday, August 16, at Maple Grove



FRANKLIN CAMP 5*Olathe***Camp Officers**

Camp Commander	James D. Thornton, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	Matthew T. Archambault
Junior Vice Commander	Jeffrey A. Winters
Secretary	Daniel W. Stilley
Treasurer	Richard T. Miller
Council	Ronnie R. Thompson
	Richard N. McPherson
	James P. Edgington
Patriotic Instructor	Lane D. Smith, PCC
Chaplain	Floyd E. Guliford
Graves Registration Officer	Joshua S. Gillihan-Young
Historian	Roger B. Miller
Civil War Memorials Officer	James P. Edgington
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	Lane D. Smith, PCC

*Submitted by Camp Commander Jim Thornton, PCC***Camp Meetings Continue Through the Summer**

In early 2024, it was brought forward by several brothers of Franklin Camp 5 that they would enjoy adding camp meetings during the summer months. At this time, the camp did not meet in July, August, or December. A vote was taken to amend the camp bylaws regarding regular meetings and meetings were added for July and August while still skipping December. For December, the camp now holds a “Christmas Dinner Gathering” for the brothers and their wives/guests where no camp business is transacted and it is only a social event.

So far, 2024 and 2025, there has been no drop-off in meeting attendance for the July and August meetings. Franklin Camp meetings average about twenty brothers at each meeting, year-round.

The summer of 2025 started with a local World War II history presentation during the June meeting. Dr. Dan Desko, president of the Wyandotte County Historical Society and founder/CEO of the B-25 History Project, presented a program on the B-25 Bombers and how they were built right here in Kansas City, Kansas. He went into detail on how the B-25 was constantly evolving throughout the war, with improvements and alterations being made on the fly in KCK, eventually ending up with the eighth generation (B-25H) being the final version. Dr. Desko demonstrated how vital a role Kansas City played in the war effort.

Franklin Camp’s July meeting featured a special treat. The evening’s presentation was given by Junior Member Harrington Montgomery who is all of twelve years old



(soon to be thirteen). Soon after joining the SUVCW and Franklin Camp, he had offered to give a presentation on his Union ancestor and was scheduled for July. So, in front of a packed house (over twenty in attendance), Harrington presented “General Daniel McCoy – From Private to General” and brought along for show and tell his Great3 Grandfather’s saber and ceremonial sword. He truly impressed a room full of “old guys” with his knowledge and Power-Point slide show.

Franklin Camp’s summer meetings ended with a presentation at the August meeting by Camp Commander Jim Thornton on “The Women of the Border War.”

The brothers of Franklin Camp were proven right. Summertime meetings were well attended. Good presentations and conversations all year long!

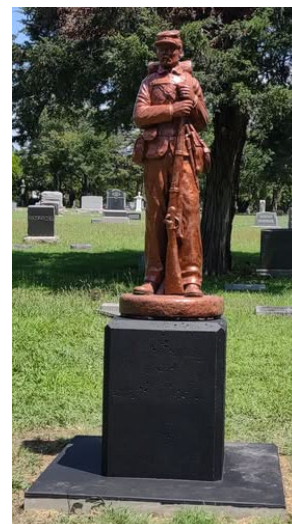
**HUMBOLDT CAMP 9***Humboldt***Camp Officers**

Camp Commander	Rocky D. Ansell
Senior Vice Commander	Randy A. Downey
Junior Vice Commander	Barrett E. Young, PCC
Acting Secretary/Treasurer	Barrett E. Young, PCC
Council	Bridger P. Keyes, PCC
	Barrett E. Young, PCC
	William F. Schomaker
	William F. Schomaker
Patriotic Instructor	Bridger P. Keyes, PCC
Historian	Rocky D. Ansell
Civil War Memorials Officer	

*Submitted by Camp Commander Rocky D. Ansell.***Camp Happenings**

Brother Dennis Piatt has been working diligently cleaning and resetting grave markers in the GAR section of Mt Hope Cemetery in Humboldt, where several of his family members are interred.

Dennis has also placed a new GAR statue at the cemetery. The statue is in memory of Pvt. John W. Poe, 35th Missouri Infantry Volunteers. He died in 1862 and is buried at the National Cemetery, Jefferson City, MO. His son, David A. Poe, and family are buried at Mount Hope. A dedication ceremony is being



planned for early October. Additional information will follow.

Brother Piatt’s great-great-grandfather, Abram Foland, served in Co. A, 104th New York Infantry, as a Private. Huzzah!

In Remembrance

Humboldt Camp #9, Senior Vice Commander, Randy Downey’s mother passed away 21 June 2025.

Maxine Boyd passed away August 7, 2025. She was the mother of Brother Robert Dean Boyd II who died April 25, 2025.

May the Creator bring comfort to these families.
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty
Rocky D Ansell, Commander

PVT JOHN N. ECKES CAMP 10

Winfield

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	Terry E. Justice, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	David W. Taylor
Junior Vice Commander	Dustin L. Jones
Secretary/Treasurer	Eric L. Crittenden
Council	Gregg L. Talkington
	Gordon L. Hare
Patriotic Instructor	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Chaplain	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Graves Registration Officer	Joe E. Chrisman, PCC
Historian	Terry E. Justice, PCC
Civil War Memorials Officer	Joe E. Chrisman, PCC
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	Eric L. Crittenden

Grave Marker Dedication, October 4, 2025

Submitted by Kent M. Melcher, PDC.

Private John N. Eckes Camp 10, Winfield, invites the brothers of the Department of Kansas to attend the dedication of a headstone to honor Sergeant Isaac H. Bonsall, Company H, Second Ohio Volunteers, who fought with his Company at First Bull Run.

At the beginning of the war, Bonsall was already a professional photographer. When his ninety-day enlistment ended, he remained in Washington, D.C., hoping to create a partnership with famed Civil War photographer Matthew Brady. The deal never materialized, and Bonsall returned to Cincinnati where he rejoined his regiment.

However, Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, Commander of the Army of the Cumberland, retained Bonsall as a military photographer, and assigned him to the Army Engineers. Passing himself off as an itinerant photographer, with his wagon and equipment he proceeded into middle Tennessee where he photographed bridges, rail junctions, and mountain passes. Bonsall’s photographs laid the

groundwork for what would become famous as the “Stealing of the General,” the Union military raid that occurred on April 12, 1862. He was the principal photographer at the Battle of Chickamauga. Found among some of his photographic plates in Arkansas City, KS, was a previously unknown photograph of Abraham Lincoln.

After the war, Bonsall settled in Arkansas City, Kansas, and operated a successful photographer’s studio. As a Quaker, Bonsall violated his non-violent principles. When he died, his son had him buried without formal ceremony and never provided his father with a headstone. Eckes Camp Commander, Terry Justice, a military historian, did extensive research into this unique soldier, and located the grave in Riverview Cemetery in Arkansas City.

The headstone dedication will take place on October 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The grave is adjacent to the GAR section in the center of the cemetery.

OLD ABE CAMP 16

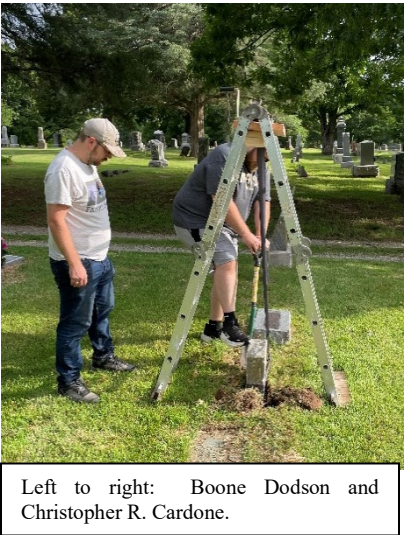
Topeka

Camp Officers

Camp Commander	J. Thomas Morgan
Senior Vice Commander	Ronald H. Martin
Junior Vice Commander	Robert J. Reeves
Secretary/Treasurer	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Council	Craig E. Dunstan, PCC
	Ronald H. Martin
	Jack A. Sanders
Patriotic Instructor	K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC
Chaplain	Ronald H. Martin
Graves Registration Officer	Jerry W. Reiman, PCC
Historian	Christopher R. Cardone
Civil War Memorials Officer	Jerry W. Reiman, PCC
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	Gary W. Kraus, PCC

Submitted by Camp Secretary Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

Since our last report focusing on Memorial Day, Old Abe Camp has been busy, mainly with cemetery work. We’ve been working all summer at Rochester Cemetery in North Topeka. It’s not as big as Topeka Cemetery, our normal hideout, but has enough work to keep us busy for the entire summer. The last time we worked there was in “the old days” of PDC



Left to right: Boone Dodson and Christopher R. Cardone.

Russ’ youth, and they need a renewed effort. (Ed. Note: The camp held its workday at Rochester Cemetery April 8, 2000)



Left to right: Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC; Camp Commander J. Thomas Morgan; and Ronald H. Martin

Rochester has a significant GAR section and we've been working on cleaning headstones there. We've also made our way around the cemetery, section by section, raising, cleaning, and straightening stones. We've even found a few that were about to be lost to history under the grass and dirt and have been able to get them up where they won't be forgotten.

The usual suspects were working there: Camp Commander Tom Morgan; Conrad Fisher, PDC; Camp SVC Ron Martin; Chris Cardone; Jerry Reiman PCC

(the ramrod and scout); Rocky Bartlow, PDC; and one month we even had Boone Dodson and his dad Steve. Steve is a retired history teacher and likely source of Brother Boone's lust for history.

We've been making adjustments to our headstone puller, which was modeled after brother Dennis Lawrence's fine version. Ours isn't as nice but it is getting the job done.

We plan to continue our workdays into August, September, and October and hope to finish Rochester Cemetery.

In other news, we have Steve Kays attending our meeting in September to speak on Johnny Shiloh (John Clem), and our illustrious Department Commander will be in attendance. In October, we will have local historian Bill McFarland speaking on Civil War uniforms. Also, there's a rumor that Trisha Johnson, a supporter of our cemetery work and donator of D2, will speak to us in October.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Rocky Bartlow, PDC
Camp Secretary

OFFICIAL

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

2025-2026

Department Commander	Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Sr. Vice Dept. Commander	James D. Thornton, PCC
Jr. Vice Dept. Commander	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
Secretary (term exp. 2028)	Alan L. Russ, PDC
Treasurer (term exp. 2028)	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Council Member (IPDC)	Conrad M. Fisher, PDC
Council Member (term exp. 2026)	James H. Graves, PCC
Council Member (term exp. 2026)	Barrett E. Young, PCC
Council Member (term exp. 2027)	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Chief of Staff	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Patriotic Instructor	Michael J. Hadl, PCC
Chaplain	Jeffrey A. Winters
Counselor	K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC
Historian	Joshua S. Gillihan-Young
Graves Registration Officer	Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC
GAR Records Officer	Gregg L. Talkington
Civil War Memorials Officer	Joshua S. Gillihan-Young
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	Eric L. Crittenden
Signals Officer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

Between June 1, 2025, and August 31, 2025

August 18, 2025 (Remote) Meeting

1. A regular meeting of the Department Council was held on August 18, 2025, for the purpose of discussing and acting upon the business that came before it.
2. Approved the minutes of the May 5, 2025, Council meeting.
3. Approved new Department Form 1 for use in requesting reimbursement from Department funds.

4. Approved motion to allow camps to submit certain limited numbers of Form 30 to the Department Secretary by email. These actions are ones which require neither supporting documents nor funds. Paper copies will continue to be submitted by the Department to National Headquarters.

ORDERS ISSUED

General & Special Orders

June 1, 2025 – August 9, 2025

CinC Kevin L. Martin, PDC

- G.O. 19 - Getting to Juneteenth – Challenges Then and Challenges Now
 G.O. 20 – Independence Day – An Opportunity to Grow
 G.O. 21 – Tragedy in Texas
 G.O. 22 – Establishment of Department of Arkansas
 G.O. 23 – Revocation of William B. Keith Camp 12 Charter
 G.O. 24 – Passing of ASUVCW PNP Margaret Atkinson
 G.O. 25 – Their Sense of Duty, Our Sense of Duty
 Special Message 4 – National Encampment in Houston
 G.O. 26 – Passing of PCinC Donald Braden "Brad" Schall
 G.O. 27 – National Awards and Recognitions

General & Special Orders

August 9, 2025 – August 31, 2025

CinC Kevin P. Tucker, PDC

- G.O. 1 – Assuming Command
 G.O. 2 – Strategic Priorities for the Strengthening and Advancement of the Order
 G.O. 3 – Proper Wearing of the Badges of the Order

Department & Special Orders

June 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025

Commander Kent M. Melcher, PDC

DEPARTMENT ORDER 5 (SERIES 2025-2026) July 9, 2025
ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF CAMP OFFICERS

1. References:
 - a. SUVCW National Regulations Chapter I, Article V, Sections 2 and 3.
 - b. Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter II, Article III, Section A.
2. In accordance with the above references, a camp shall elect the Camp Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Camp Commanders, Camp Council, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) at a regular meeting of the Camp between the first meeting in August and the first meeting in December, inclusive.
3. The officers of the Camp shall be installed at a regular meeting of the Camp to be held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting in January, inclusive, by the Department Commander or a person designated by him.
4. All camp secretaries shall notify the Department Chief of Staff (chiefstaff@suvchwks.org) of the date their camp will be installing its officers. This notification should be submitted no later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of installation.
5. Camp officers are normally elected at one meeting and installed at the next meeting; however, it is permissible to hold elections and installation at the same meeting, provided the meeting is held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting of December, inclusive. Camps cannot install officers in August, and they cannot elect officers at a January meeting.
6. The Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (Form 22) should be completed and signed immediately after the installation of officers. Ensure you are using the current version of the form. It must be forwarded to the Department Secretary within seven days of installation, along with a current roster of the camp.
7. As Department Commander, I plan to install the camp officers for as many camps as I can. In the event of a conflict, I will designate someone to perform the installation for me.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 3 (SERIES 2025-2026) July 9, 2025
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN, KANSAS DELEGATION
TO THE 2025 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

1. I will be unable to attend the SUVCW National Encampment August 7 through 9, 2025, in my role as Department Commander.
2. As such, and in accordance with National Regulations Chapter III, Article II, Section 2, I hereby appoint Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, as Chairman, Kansas Delegation to the 2025 National Encampment. This includes his authority to act on my behalf to fill any vacant delegate position or positions with a qualified alternate delegate.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 4 (SERIES 2025-2026) July 23, 2025
DEATH OF PAST CAMP COMMANDER DOUGLAS EDWARD MCGOVERN
AND DECLARATION OF PERIOD OF MOURNING

1. It is with sadness and regret I announce the death of Past Camp Commander Douglas Edward McGovern, Emeritus, on July 21, 2025. PCC McGovern was born on April 15, 1946, at Schenectady, New York. See below for funeral information.
2. Brother McGovern joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on October 8, 1999, as a member of Indian Nations Camp 3, Tulsa, Oklahoma, which at that time was part of the Department of the Southwest. He proudly honored his great-great grandfather Samuel Cowan (McCowan), who served as a Private with Company F, 17th Regiment Illinois Infantry from May 25, 1861, until May 14, 1866. Brother McGovern transferred to the Corp. Patrick Conye Camp No. 1 on February 28, 2002, and maintained his membership with the camp until his death.
3. Brother McGovern was elected and served as Camp Commander for Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1 for 2004, earning him the honor of Past Camp Commander.
4. In addition, Brother McGovern served as the Department Civil War Monuments Officer from 2005 through 2020, when his failing health no longer allowed him to continue. Almost all of what is shown on the Monuments and Memorials Database on the Department website is through the hard work and dedication of Brother McGovern. It remains as his legacy to the Department of Kansas.
4. Over those many years with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Brother McGovern was recognized at all levels, including the Captain Patrick H. Conye Award for Brother of the Year in 2005, the Leander Stillwell Outstanding Achievement Award in 2010, and Department Emeritus Status in 2023. Additionally, at the National level, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for especially meritorious service to the Order in 2007.
5. A memorial service for Brother McGovern will be on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 10:30 AM. The service will be held at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 1550 N. Chapel Hill St., Wichita, Kansas.
6. I am ordering the Department charter and all Department of Kansas camp charters to be draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this order. Additionally, members should wear either the black "In Memoriam" ribbon or the black band on the drop of their membership badge in accordance with National Regulations Chapter V, Article VI, Section 9.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PDC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

IN CONCLUSION

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF *The Sunflower Picket*

From Memorials Officer Article, Fall 2007

The following is a brief extract from an article in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Sunflower Picket*. The article was written by our recently departed brother, Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Emeritus, when he was serving as the Dept. Memorials Officer.



"As brothers travel around the state, take the time to stop and appreciate some of our heritage. The Washington City WRC memorial is a World War I mortar!" The bronze plaque on the base reads, "in memory of the ~ Grand Army of the Republic ~1861-1865 ~presented by ~ Women's Relief Corps ~ 1934".

Brother McGovern added additional information to the website describing it as German Howitzer gun, although he stated it looks much more like a mortar.

The Sunflower Picket

The Sunflower Picket is the official publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Editor: Alan L. Russ, PDC – email: secretary@suvchwks.org

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Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material. [G.O. No. 7 (Series 2021-2022)]