

## Memorial Service for Past Department Commander Ron Gill Held on July 25, 2020

A Memorial Service for Past Department Commander Ron Gill, Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was held on July 25, 2020 in Valparaiso, IN. Brother Gill passed away in Pharr, TX on March 12, 2020. Brother Gill was a member of the SUVCW for 46 years and served as the Department of Indiana Commander in 1996 and 1997. Ron was a charter member of David D. Porter Camp, No.116, having been instrumental and key to re-chartering the camp in 1976. Before 1976 he traveled for two years to Chicago to attend the SUVCW meeting at a camp that met at a public library in the area. Through the years Ron held many positions within the David D. Porter Camp as well as in the Department of Indiana.

Camp Commander Steve Mockler and Past Department Commander Tim Beckman spoke during the service, and members of Co. D, 27th Indiana, Sons of Veterans Reserve posted the colors, fired volleys, and sounded TAPS.

Ron was not only a brother, but a friend and mentor to many in his camp and the department. Ron was such a great person and one of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. He will truly be missed.



## A Word of Remembrance



In the SUVCW, all of us have found a place. A place to honor the history of those soldiers and families that gave not only some, but in some cases, gave ALL. It is a place for us to escape into our research. A place for us to enjoy friendship with like minded individuals. It's a place for us to give back to our communities.

On March 12, 2020, our organization lost one of the most important people behind the scenes. March 12 was the day we lost Ron Gill. Ron was a member of our organization for 46 years! He first joined the SUVCW in 1974 to a Camp in Illinois, as it was the closest to his home in Valparaiso, Ind. Ron told me that he was tired of the drive and wanted to make it easier so he helped to re-charter David D. Porter Camp, #116, Department of Indiana. On a side note- those that knew Ron, know that he never took the easy road a day in his life.

Ron served as an officer in Porter Camp for nearly every year since 1976. He held all positions at the camp level at some point in his tenure. He also served in a variety of roles at the Department level, including Department Commander. He also served twice as the National Chaplain.

For those that knew Ron, can attest that no one could ever question his commitment to not only the organization, but to virtually everyone that he met.

Ron knew almost everyone in the organization or so it seemed. I first met Ron shortly after joining the organization. I was in a rut in life, and the Vice Commander of the Camp (My Father), convinced me to join, and it was after that I met Ron. I was at a point in my life where, I needed something-someway to feel I belonged, a place where I could focus on something other than my career. I was rather bored with the business meetings in the beginning and decided I wanted to do something to make it exciting for me. Having a passion for genealogy, I decided to work on the graves registration. I was going to get every grave in the county. I was gung-ho, and fired up! I remember mentioning this to Ron (mind you I hadn't really got to know him yet) and he said if I ever needed any help to just ask. Well I never was one to ask for help and, I started working diligently on the project. I had been told that quite a few of the graves were in the database already and was shown where that was.

Being undaunted, I was ready to get every piece of Information I could on these men! It was about 6 months in I found out that Ron had done most of this research already. He never mentioned to me directly. I figured it was a lesson. He was letting me find myself. He allowed me to have my own passion, my own purpose. He never pushed nor prodded, he sat back and gave hints now and then. To me this is what made him such a great leader.

I got to know Ron after bonding about the passion for finding these men. After working on the project for some time and encountering some roadblocks, he told where a box in the Porter County Library was with a lot of his records in it. And some years later, he gave to me a real treasure. He gave me his notes from his research in not only Porter County, but in others as well. This is something that I always keep close to my research area. He wanted me to seek out the answers on my own, just like he did with so many of you.

Ron always did what he could for the Camp, even in his later years. He would always help set up a tent, or sit at an encampment. His knowledge of the organization was second to none. Most people would agree that Ron was more than a member of the organization, more than a friend to many, he was a mentor to more people than any of us could count.

His passion about the Civil War, the Veterans, the history, the Camp, the Organization, the friends he met along the way, and most importantly, his family, was second to none. He embodied our long held Motto- Say it with me- Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty! I along with all of you that knew Ron, will miss our friend and mentor. We will miss our conversations, his opinions, and mostly I think we would agree, his passion. All of us that got to know Ron, need to make sure we embody the same spirit and passion that Ron did. This is how we will honor him. Rest in

Peace Ron. You will forever be in our hearts. We will miss you and honor your memory. Please share your memories on the David D. Porter Camp 116 Facebook Page, and we will get them to the National Page for all to see.

Steve A Mockler- Commander  
David D. Porter Camp #116  
Department of Indiana