

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

HEADQUARTERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

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Circular 2022-2 **July 30, 2022**

Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

We are less than two weeks from the 141st National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Grand Rapids, Michigan on August 11-14, 2022.

This afternoon, I participated in a Department Commander Zoom meeting with Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette. C-in-C Paquette outlined three items that will be discussed during the National Encampment.

This circular is to inform members of the Department of Indiana of those items in advance.

- 1) The Kit Carson monument in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The monument was erected by a local GAR Post (Carson was a GAR member). This presence of this monument has been contentious for several years, and the current Mayor of Santa Fe wants the monument removed.

The monument is still in place on Federal Property and is currently “boxed up in wood” to protect it. The Federal General Services Administration (GSA) has contacted the SUVCW National Organization stating that the monument is the property of the SUVCW, *per the Deed of Conveyance of Property: GAR to SUVCW*.

The National Encampment discussion will involve the answer the SUVCW provides regarding this ownership question as it has potential ramifications to the organization. Per the opinion of the Assistant National Counselor, the Deed of Conveyance of Property: GAR to SUVCW *only* applies to GAR records and no other property. It was up to each GAR Post to determine the disposition of their other GAR property.

If the SUVCW accepts ownership of the monument, the organization could potentially be charged an unknow amount by the GSA for relocation costs. Richmond, KY has expressed an interest in the monument being relocated there – depending on the costs involved. In the end, the answer to the GSA effects how we use the Deed of Conveyance in the future.



Kit Carson sandstone monument at the south entrance of the U.S. Courthouse on Federal Place. (prior to “protective boxing”). Photo source: Clyde Mueller/The New Mexican

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/santa-fe-s-forgotten-monument-to-kit-carson/article_ec773aab-cc9c-51f0-bc3e-77582816c608.html

- 2) Gettysburg National Military Park informed the National Organization last year that decoration of state sections in the Soldiers’ National Cemetery with flags was against policy and would not be permitted. Prior to the pandemic, during Remembrance Day weekend, each grave in the Indiana Section of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery had been decorated with US and Indiana State flags. A wreath with the SUVCW flag was also placed at the section marker.

Conversation since held identified that the policy for national cemeteries is that *only* current (50 star) US flags are allowed. No other types of flags may be placed. Additionally, if US flags are placed, they must be placed on ALL graves in the cemetery. Placement of floral arrangements (such as wreaths) *is* permitted.

The National Encampment discussion will be: Does the SUVCW National Organization file a permit with the National Park Service to place flags in the Soldiers' National Cemetery for Remembrance Day? (Gettysburg National Military Park stated they would provide the flags), and if a permit is filed and approved, who/what will the flag placement work detail be?



Indiana Section – Soldiers' National Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA. Photo Source: Jim Floyd

- 3) On July 19, 2022 the SUVCW National Website was offline for approximately five hours. The reason of the outage was an error log file had grown so large the website exceeded the allotted disk space limit and therefore the web host suspended the website. A Brother (volunteer member of the Signal Corps) happened to be available to resolve the issue, however, if he had not, the outage would have been protracted.

The National Encampment discussion will involve the consideration of the SUVCW obtaining paid, professional assistance with the website.

Brothers not attending the National Encampment, please contact me if you have any input on these items.

Delegates let's please discuss further at the Encampment.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "F".

James M. Floyd, Jr.
Department Commander
Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War