

Indiana Legion

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR JAMES M. FLOYD, JR., COMMANDER

Issue 1-23 January 2023



Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

I wish to congratulate John Auten Camp No. 8 for their outstanding job of hosting the Mid-Year Encampment on October 29th. Thank you for your hard work in making the Encampment hospitable and run smoothly. The new format was generally well-received and was the largest Encampment attendance in several years.

Please plan to attend the 137th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana on April 29, 2023 in Kokomo, Indiana. Lunch will again be served on-site.

Finally, it was with pleasure that I received General Order #11, revoking General Order #7. This, however, is not a dead issue. There will be action taken to resurrect the enhanced lineage documentation requirement at the National Encampment in 2023. I can only hope that there is more deliberate thought and consideration about the second and third order impacts to the applicants, Camps, and Departments of such action in the interim.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jim

Mid-Year Encampment Mishawaka, Indiana • October 29, 2022



Court of Honor at Mid-Year Encampment: (L to R) Dennis Rigsby, PDC; Bruce Kolb, PDC; DC Jim Floyd; Gib Young, PDC; Alan Teller, PDC.

The Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment took place on October 29, 2022 in Mishawaka, Indiana. Hosted by John Auten Camp #8, the Encampment was the first Mid-Year Encampment on the new schedule of holding the Mid-Year Encampment in the fall and the Annual Encampment in the spring. It also included an on-site lunch, where brothers were able to eat and socialize together.

Among the issues discussed at the Encampment were the Department of Indiana insurance policy, the bonding of Department and Camp officers, the reimbursement of Department officers for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, and the impact of General Order #7 on the recruitment of new members.

The ladies of Oscar and Mollie Mott Corps #1, Women's Relief Corps, also met concurrently with the Mid-Year Encampment. LGAR and WRC sisters Penny Bucks and Elizabeth Thurston were presented with the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award by Commander Floyd for their service to the SUVCW and the Allied Orders.



Department of Indiana

Officers

Commander: James M. Floyd, Jr., PCC

Senior Vice Commander: Thomas Schmitt, PCC Junior Vice Commander: Travis LeMaster, PCC

Council Member: Dennis H. Rigsby, PDC
Council Member: Dennis Hutchinson, PDC
Council Member: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC

Secretary: William R. Adams, PDC
Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Swarts
Treasurer: Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC
Patriotic Instructor: Brian Mexin

Chaplain: Alan Teller, PDC

Graves Registration Officer: David Hoesli

Historian: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

Civil War Memorials Officer: Michael W. Beck, PDC Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael W. Beck, PDC

Counselor: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

GAR Highway Officer: William R. Adams, PDC

Signals Officer: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC

Legion Editor: Jonathan Swarts

GAR Records Officer: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

Camps

 $\textbf{Orlando A. Somers \#1} \ (Kokomo)$

John W. Foster #2 (Evansville)

John Auten #8 (South Bend)

Champion Hill #17 (Huntington)

William P. Benton #28 (Centerville)

David D. Porter #116 (Valparaiso)

John B. Anderson #223 (Columbus)

Ben Harrison #356 (Indianapolis)



February

12: Lincoln Day Ceremony
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
Lincoln City, Indiana (SVR)
2:00 p.m. CST

April

15: 67th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Oak Ridge Cemetery Springfield, Illinois (SVR) 10:00 a.m. CDT

29: Department of Indiana Annual Encampment

South Branch, Kokomo-Howard County
Public Library
Kokomo, Indiana
9:30 a.m. EDT

SVR: Indicates event at which Sons of Veterans Reserve members are encouraged to participate in uniform.







PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

BRIAN MEXIN, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

The Glick Peace Walk

The Glick Peace Walk was commissioned by builders and philanthropists Gene and Marilyn Glick of Indianapolis and was intended to celebrate the lives of twelve individuals who made peaceful contributions to humanity. Gene Glick (a Jew of German extraction) was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the European Theater of Operations during the Second World War. He was a member of the 45th Infantry ("Thunderbird") Division which helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp.

Of particular interest to our Order is the luminary garden dedicated to our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln, which can be found at the intersection of Washington Street and Capitol Avenue in the Circle City. The display features a timeline of the President's life built into the sidewalk with a marker giving more detail and a monument that has a likeness of his face at the end. This luminary garden is a perfect example of the Civil War memorial treasures that we can find if we open our eyes; it sits on a street corner outside my office building! The focus of this display is President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect on January 1, 1863.







CAMP DISPATCHES

ORLANDO A. SOMERS CAMP #1

Marine Visits Somers Camp

Brother Tom Schmitt gave a presentation on Civil War Marines at the Somers Camp on October 15, 2022. The presentation was much appreciated. Tom provided the history of the use of Marines during the war as well as information about the differences between uniform insignia of the day and modern Marines.







Department of Indiana Commander Jim Floyd visits Orlando Somers Camp #1 on December 17, 2022 to install 2023 camp officers.



JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP #2

Bellefontaine Cemetery Project in Mount Vernon, Indiana

Since February 2022, John W. Foster Camp #2 has been involved in a large-scale headstone project at Bellefontaine Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Six rows of what the cemetery considers "Soldiers Row" will ultimately see the replacement and/or resetting of 150 military headstones. Of these, ninety will be new replacements. Currently, there have been seventy-five headstones reset with forty-three being new.

Applications have been completed for the remaining forty-seven new replacement headstones. There are an estimated fifty soldiers that died during the Civil War at the U.S. military hospital at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. These soldiers served in Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, and Indiana regiments as well as two who served in the U.S. Navy. The project is expected to be completed by Memorial Day 2023.

The cemetery held no burial records for Soldiers Row. As a result, over two hundred man-hours have been invested in the search for records that ultimately located many of the soldiers buried in Soldiers Row. In addition, there have been several days of filling out the applications as well as headstone removal and installations.







(Clockwise from upper left) As-found condition of the rows of headstones at Bellefontaine Cemetery; the arrival of new headstones; new headstones installed (with more to be done)





New Headstone for Francis M. Floyd

On Monday, December 5, 2022, John W. Foster Camp #2 Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson, PDC, along with Department of Indiana Commander James M. Floyd, Jr., worked together to replace the headstone for a great-uncle of Commander Floyd. Francis M. Floyd served as a private in Co. F, 136th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and is buried in the Old Boonville Cemetery in Boonville, Indiana. Camp Commander David Hoesli ordered the new headstone for Pvt. Floyd.

(Left) Department Commander Jim Floyd with the newly-installed headstone of his ancestor.

JOHN AUTEN CAMP #8





Department of Indiana Commander Jim Floyd visits John Auten Camp #8 on January 14, 2023 to install 2023 camp officers.



Cultural Heritage Network of St. Joseph County

On January 18, 2023, several officers of John Auten Camp #8 attended the inaugural meeting of the Cultural Heritage Network of St. Joseph County at the Main Library in South Bend. The new group's goal is to bring together organizations, nonprofits, and governmental agencies working in the area of cultural heritage in St. Joseph County, including history, genealogy, archives, preservation, and museums. In addition to Auten Camp, it was attended by members of the LGAR, WRC, the South Bend Area Genealogical Society, the History Museum, the Walkerton Museum and several others.



(L to R) Camp Commander Bill Adams, Jim Wilson, Tom Schmitt

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

Two Last Veteran Markers Placed

On October 11, 2022, brothers from Champion Hill Camp # 17 placed Last Veteran markers on the graves of veterans in two counties. These are the first of ten counties in Northeast Indiana in which the camp will be marking Last Veteran graves. Brothers first marked the grave of Pvt. Cyrus V. Young of the 3rd Ohio Light Artillery, the last veteran of Wells County, buried in Hoverstock Cemetery in Zanesville, Indiana. The placing of the marker and the short ceremony afterward was covered by two newspapers, the Bluffton News-Banner and the Huntington County TAB. The second ceremony was for Pvt. Richard Foss of Co. A, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, the last Union veteran in Allen County, buried in Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.



(L to R) Al Bowers, Rick Wiegman, Melba Edward (TAB reporter), Phil Dyer, Don Morgan.



(L to R) Don Morgan, Phil Dyer, Rick Wiegman, Camp Commander Gib Young, Al Bowers, Amber Gonzalez (Lindenwood Cemetery manager)



John B. Anderson Camp #223

The city of Columbus, Indiana is the seat of Bartholomew County. The county has memorials and monuments on two city plazas to commemorate military and public service, but nothing for those who sacrificed their lives during or as a consequence of the Civil War. For a few years, there has been talk in the local newspaper about the neglect of these sons of the county. With new plans underway to redo the plazas, Camp Treasurer Jeff Maudlin and Brother Fred Leickley wanted to revisit this issue. They wrote a letter to *The Republic*, reprinted below, which was published in the November 17, 2022 issue. The hope is that it will lead to some action to recognize Bartholomew County's boys in blue.

Why is There No Memorial to the Sons of Bartholomew County who Died during the Civil War?

The City of Columbus, Indiana as the county seat for Bartholomew County, has no monuments or memorials to a group of men who gave their lives during the American Civil War. For the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), this omission is concerning. With plans to update the plazas, there is an opportunity to finally honor those who fell. Currently the two plaza areas downtown pay tribute to Public Safety Officers, POWs/MIAs, and Veterans. The SUVCW is an organization dedicated to preserving both the history and legacy of those heroes who fought in a war that not only saved the Union but defined our nation.

We have a monument dedicated to those who lost their lives during the wars of the 20-21st centuries that is inspiring. The idea of inclusion of the Civil War soldiers was the topic of two articles by Harry McCawley that appeared in The Republic January 10, 2012 and March 31st, 2016. There were 243 soldiers from the county who gave their lives during the Civil War. The reasons for exclusion included the expense involved due to the number of names, the enormity of the task to add them, and these names would have little meaning to an audience about to enter the 21st century. Also, the idea for the monument originated from 20th century soldiers. Both articles by the late Mr. McCawley ended with a plea to do something to recognize this sacrifice. To date, nothing has been done and according to The Republic July 26, 2022 "Taking Another Look" there are plans to change the plazas.

The argument that the names would have little meaning is debatable. The men who bore those names helped end the most horrific violation of civil rights - slavery. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to our Constitution have direct outcomes from their sacrifice; abolition of slavery, citizenship, and the right to vote. Clearly for a plaza named for someone active in Civil Rights Robert D. Garton, these 243 sons of Bartholomew County who died for these rights should have their names added somewhere, somehow.

Where and how do we currently honor those from Bartholomew County who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can live not under bondage and with the recognition of being a citizen? Columbus and Bartholomew County may have another opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of our Civil War Veterans with the redesigned plazas.

A memorial would serve to continue to keep and refresh what those 243 sons of Bartholomew Country did not so long ago.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War we too, want to do something for our ancestors. We strive to document and preserve and ask the community to join us, in honoring those who gave their lives for our nation. We need something to remember, to memorialize their sacrifice - Lest we forget.

Jeff Maudlin
Frederick Leickly, MD
Camp #223 John B. Anderson
Sons of Unions Veterans of the Civil War

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

On a cold and windy Saturday morning, December 17, 2022, Co. D., 27th Indiana, SVR, participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Williams Creek Cemetery located on the north side of Indianapolis. The company delivered three volleys near the end of the service in remembrance of all the veterans buried there. In all, twenty-two known veterans are buried in this cemetery, with service spanning from the U.S. Civil War to Vietnam. Over the last several years, Ben Harrison Camp #356 has worked in this cemetery, cleaning, resetting, and installing replacement veteran headstones. Since 2020, this nearly forgotten cemetery has been maintained by a very dedicated group of volunteers.





(L to R) Joe Beckman, Tim Beckman, Gary Walls, Tom Schmitt, Bruce Kolb, Mike Beck

Angels' Glow Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

I once heard someone use the term "Angels' Glow" and I had no idea what they were talking about.

One of my favorite battlefields is Shiloh in Hardin County, Tennessee. The National Park is outstanding and its location makes it almost unchanged over the last 150 plus years. Imagine my embarrassment when I found out that the term Angels' Glow was associated with the Battle of Shiloh.

The battle occurred on April 6-7, 1862. The Union army was made up of the combined Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Ohio. The Confederates were soldiers from the Army of the Mississippi. The casualties were 3,482 dead with 16,420 wounded. The weather did not cooperate and the rain, cold, and mud made the conditions of battle even worse. The throngs of wounded littered the battlefield lying in the rain and mud. Temperatures dropped and the mud got deeper. Wounds were open to the elements for hours and mud was everywhere. As the wounded were taken to the hospital tents for medical attention, a strange thing happened when the sun finally set. In the dark of night, some of the soldiers wounds began to glow in the dark. The physicians could not understand where the glow came from, and why it was random amongst the wounded. One thing was finally recognized: it seems that the soldiers whose wounds had glowed in the dark had a better recovery rate. This became known as the "Angels' Glow."

It wasn't until 2001 that the mystery was finally solved. Two high school students and a parent who was a scientist studying bioluminescent bacteria came up with an answer.

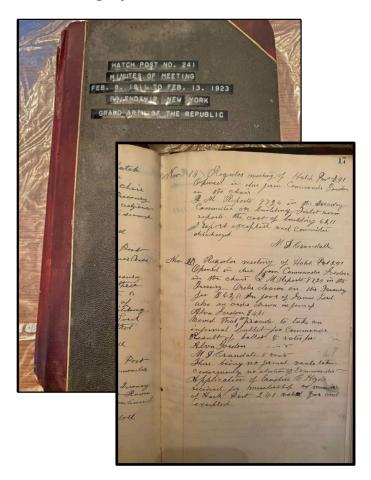
The cold, wet, and muddy conditions the soldiers endured for days caused hypothermia in some soldiers and created the perfect conditions for parasitic worms called nematodes to thrive. The nematodes have bacteria called *Photorhabdus luminescens* that live in their gut. When the nematodes eat, they have the tendency to vomit the glowing bacteria that lives in their digestive tract. As it turns out, the luminescent bacteria was not harmful and in fact kill other bacteria that are a major cause of wound infections. In essence, these bacteria acted like modern antibiotics, explaining how the soldiers whose wounds glowed had better recovery outcomes. Mystery solved 139 years after the battle.

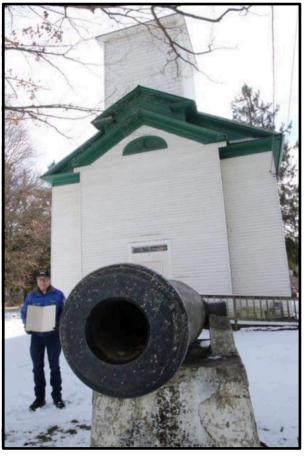


Preserving GAR History

Late last fall, Department of Indiana Senior Vice Commander Tom Schmitt, PCC was instrumental in saving an important piece of GAR history. At a historical auction in Bluffton, Indiana, Brother Tom came across a ledger book from Jeremiah Hatch Post #241 in the town of Friendship in western New York. In it, he found meeting minutes, the names of the officers and members of the post, treasurer's reports, and even canceled checks from the period 1911 to 1923. He immediately purchased it with the intent of returning it to its original home.

It so happened that Brother Tom had been in touch at about the same time with Bill Stump, the commander of Colonel Augustus van Horne Ellis Camp #124 in Goshen, New York (on the other side of the state), who had requested information about an unmarked grave in Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne. Brother Tom mentioned the ledger to Commander Stump who alerted the Allegany County local historian, Craig Braack, and Friendship town historian Mark Voorheis about the ledger and arranged for it to be returned to the Friendship GAR Hall. Once the book was back home, local Friendship residents found the names of many of their ancestors in the ledger, including Mr. Voorheis, whose great-grandfather had been Hatch Post Commander. It proved to be a great example of cooperation between SUVCW brothers across Departments—all starting with Brother Tom's sharp eye at the auction and his determination to present this invaluable piece of our history.





Friendship, NY Town Historian Mark Voorheis with ledger in front of Friendship GAR Hall



SULTANA MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE UNION VETERANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES APRIL 27, 1865, AS A RESULT OF THE STEAMSHIP SULTANA EXPLOSION ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SEVEN MILES NORTH OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. THESE VETERANS HAD SURVIVED THE CIVIL WAR, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN PRISONERS OF WAR.

THE SULTANA WAS BUILT FOR 400 PASSENGERS AND CREW. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 2,300 INDIVIDUALS WERE ON BOARD AND THAT 1,700 LOST THEIR LIVES.

THE VETERANS ON BOARD WERE FROM ALABAMA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, MISSOURI, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA, AND FIVE UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS.

THE SULTANA REMAINS THE LARGEST MARITIME DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

ERECTED IN 2023 BY
THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
BEN HARRISON CAMP #356 AND
DESCENDANTS OF THOSE VETERANS

This month, Brother Bruce Kolb, PDC, of Ben Harrison Camp #356, announced that the plague for a future Sultana Memorial has now been made. Brother Kolb and Brother Tim Beckman, PDC have for some time been working on a way to commemorate the 1,700 victims of the explosion of the steamboat Sultana on April 25, On that day, she was 1865. primarily carrying recently released Union prisoners of war, many of whom were Hoosiers. This remains country's worst maritime the disaster.

At the 2022 Department Mid-Year Encampment, a proposal was approved for the Department of Indiana to provide funds for the purchase of a commemorative plaque (pictured above). Brother Tom Schmitt, PCC has arranged for the Veterans National Memorial Shine and Museum in Fort Wayne to donate the stone on which the plaque will be mounted. When complete, the monument will then be part of the outdoor memorials at the Veterans Memorial Shrine.

Mother George Honored

On a beautiful fall day, October 22, 2022, Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne was the setting for a ceremony to honor Eliza E. "Mother" George. Mrs. George was a civil war nurse who went above and beyond the call of her duties in caring for the sick and wounded, to whom she became known as "Mother George." She would eventually contract typhoid fever and die in May 1865. Her burial in Lindenwood Cemetery on May 16, 1865 was conducted with full military honors, an extremely rare honor for a civilian to receive.

The event was organized and presided over by Department of Indiana Senior Vice Commander Tom Schmitt, PCC. Eight local veterans organizations participated in the ceremony, which featured the laying of wreaths at her grave and remarks by President Abraham Lincoln, Department of Indiana Commander James M. Floyd, Jr., National WRC President Elizabeth Thurston, and Sister Linda Floyd (herself a nurse) of Oscar and Mollie Mott Corps #1, WRC. The colors were presented and volleys were fired by Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, SVR. The ceremony was a wonderful event to honor this Civil War hero. After the ceremony, many attendees also visited the nearby Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum, where Brother Schmitt is an active volunteer, to view its excellent collection and moving outdoor memorials.









Franklin - 1864

"It was the evening of the year and the evening of the Cause ... "

The wind blew ill through the Tennessee hills, it found them on that hard ground. The truest of men, the strongest of limb, uniforms of blues, grays and browns.

Gray legions once more had marched north as before

to challenge the enemy bold.
Legions in blue had marched the night through to that ground so stark and cold.

No mailed royal knights marched to that fight nor no nobleman richly horsed.

In that wartorn land t'was the common man who would chart the nation's course.

Franklin, some say, was a deathtrap that day; others say t'was made for that fight. But it mattered not, for to that spot fate marched them throughout the night.

At the edge of the town, Illinois held the ground by Ohio and the cannoneer's guns. Indiana reliant, Michigan defiant, stood by the best of Kentucky's sons.

Odin's northern sons, their race not yet run, had turned to meet the foe.

Across the bare ground, the gray band's bold sound filled the air and stirred the soul.

Eyes watched to the south as the Rebels poured out on the plain where death would soon ride.

Banners on high caught every man's eye, and 'forward' surged the gray tide.

With a strong measured tread came the gray dread;

a host twenty thousand strong. Over each doomed step the war shadows crept, whispered duty, "on - go on". Standing on the crown of that sloping ground waited patriots of long ago.
With a veteran's will, they would fight for the hill against the advancing foe.

The waiting has ceased, the power unleashed swept over the first Federal line. With dauntless soul, only matched by the foe Southrons broke the main Union line.

With deep Northern yells, Yanks rallied in the Hell, Their cannister tore Southern men. And the line was restored, Union once more.

Twas not to be broken again.

As dusk turned to black, charge followed attack: still Reb answered the bugle's call. But each Southern attack was fiercely thrown back shattered by the deadly blue wall.

On into the night they carried the fight. With their muskets and in 'hand to hand'. They fought with no gain, by the musket's own flame; silhouetting each struggling man.

Then it was past; the storm died at last that had ragingly struck at the town.

Many brave men wept over hundreds who slept for the ages in hallowed ground.

In desperation born came the deadly storm; now gentle quiet reigns o'er the field. Honor now stands on each true Southern man, and the north men who would not yield.

The hope was all gone yet the Cause lingered on in thought, in mind, and in the air. "By the blood on the sword t'was a nation forged from the honor of those who had dared."

Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC Huntington, Indiana 1986



Meet...

Brother Brian Mexin entered the Order as a Member of Ben Harrison Camp #356 in October 2021 and subsequently joined Company D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, SVR.

Brother Mexin completed the SUVCW

Memorial University Officer Training Course in November 2021 and has served Camp Memorials Officer, Camp Chaplain, n Department Patriotic Instructor.



He was elected Junior Vice Commander of Ben Harrison Camp for the 2023 calendar year.

Brother Mexin was born on Robins Air Force Base, Georgia and graduated from Purdue University. He traces his direct Civil War lineage through his great-great-grandfather George T. Silvers, Private, Company K, 94th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, who served from August 11, 1862 through February 1, 1865.

Brother Mexin has been a paralegal for nearly sixteen years and has spent most of that time working for Simon Property Group, which is the largest owner of shopping malls in the United States and is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has worked in the areas of litigation, bankruptcy, and contracts.

Brother Mexin attends Town and Country Christian Church in Shelbyville, Indiana and enjoys reading, walking, auto touring and spending time with friends and family.

Brother Mexin is married to the former Julie Klemann of Boise, Idaho. They first met as children in base housing at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Between them, they have six sons and two daughters.

Department and General Orders

Department Orders - Series 2022-2023

#6 - Elizabeth Thurston and Penny Bucks Awarded the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award (October 29, 2022)

Department Circulars

#2022-4 - General Order #11, Camp Officer Installations, Indiana Legion, Holiday Season (December 18, 2022)

General Orders - Series 2022-2023

#9 - Passing of Brother Brigadier General Henry E. Shaw, Jr. (October 17, 2022)

#10 - Passing of Past Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert (November 4, 2022)

#11 - Revocation of General Order No. 7 (November 22, 2022)

#12 - New and Revised Forms (November 22, 2022)

#13 - Reinstatement of Brother Eric D. Richhart, PDC (December 3, 2022)

#14 - Passing of Past Commander-in-Chief Donald W. Shaw (December 15, 2022)

#15 - Revised Form 3 (January 1, 2023)

#16 - Passing of Past Commander-in-Chief Keith G. Harrison (January 13, 2023)

Full documents are available at http://suvcwin.org (Department) and http://suvcw.org (National).

