

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15
WIND LAKE, WIS. SUMMER 2019



Left to right - Jeff Graf, Bob Koenecke, Brian McManus and Dave Daley. Camp #15 Commander Daley accepting congratulations from National Commander-in-Chief Donald Shaw on Camp #15 winning the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award at the National Encampment.

Photo courtesy of Steve Michaels

CAMP # 15 NAMED BEST CAMP IN THE COUNTRY AT 2019 NATIONAL

INSIDE
Camp Officers
Tour Ohio Plant
Making Our Last
Soldier Markers

p. 3

Take a deep bow, Brothers - Camp #15 was designated the best camp in the country at the just completed National Encampment. National Commander-in-Chief Donald Shaw presented our camp with the award, citing our long campaign to clean up Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego as a major reason for him giving us this prestigious award.

Also cited: our Last Soldier Marker project to honor the last Union soldier in every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties and

(Award - continued on page 2)



Brother Brian McManus Given Meritorious Service Award at National Encampment

At left - National Commander-in-Chief Donald Shaw presenting Brother Brian McManus with the Meritorious Service Award

(AWARD continued from page 1)

the work of Brother Brian McManus in addressing the thorny Confederate monument removal issue in Madison, Wis.

Brother Brian, our expert on all things SUVCW, points out that the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award is given at the sole discretion of the Commander-in-Chief to the camp the Commander judges to be the most outstanding camp during his term. Camp #15 was picked over the other 250-plus SUVCW camps across the country.

"Our equivalent of winning the Super Bowl," Brother Brian noted. "Out of the several hundred camps, we are the BEST!"

Brother Brian and Brothers Jeff Graf and Bob Koenecke emphasize that the award is a tribute to every member of Camp #15. "Quite an accomplishment, and could not have been done without the hard work and support of all the Brothers in the Camp," Brother Brian noted. "To all of you I say 'Well done.'"

Amen to that, Brothers. We're doing the work of the Sons - and getting the job done, as Brother Bob Koenecke would say.

Brother Brian McManus, the steady hand at the wheel since Camp #15's founding, received a much-deserved Meritorious Service Award at the National Encampment for his exceptional service on behalf of the Sons.

"His devotion to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is of the rarest kind," Wisconsin Department Commander Jeff Graf wrote in his Department report. "Combined with his knowledge of the Order's workings, he is always the one we turn to for advice and help."

Commander Graf noted that, even though burdened with his own health problems and that of his wife, Brother Brian "showed exceptional diligence and devotion" in completing all the Camp and Wisconsin Department requirements on tax and by-law matters.

"I put this in my report because I want it in the record of the Encampment," Commander Graf ended.

To that we all offer a hearty second.

Camp #15 Officers Tour Ohio Plant Where Last Soldier Markers are Cast



Wisconsin Department Commander Jeff Graf holding a cast of a Last Soldier Marker made at the CenTec foundry in Fremont, Ohio. The foundry makes all our markers.

Just an hour west of Cleveland, Ohio is CenTec Cast Metal Products, the firm that manufactures the Last Soldier Markers we have been distributing to counties across Wisconsin the last two years. The camp's delegation attending this year's National Encampment outside Cleveland stopped at CenTec on the way to the Encampment where co-owner Brian Bowman gave us a two-hour tour of the plant.

On the tour: a demonstration of how the casting process works, with molten bronze metal - glowing red-hot at 2,400 degrees - being poured into molds. The small plant, located in a working-class neighborhood in Fremont, Ohio, manufactures hundreds of different bronze and aluminum plaques, markers and insignia for veterans, police and military organizations around the country. The side-tour, arranged by Brother Brian, was a valuable bonus to a splendid Encampment.



Camp #15's delegation to the National Encampment in August 2019: (left to right) Brian McManus, Dave Daley, Bob Koenecke (rear), Steve Michaels of Camp #1, newly elected Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris, and Jeff Graf (rear.)



Brother Jeff Graf, inspecting the Department Commander badge pinned on him at the Department Encampment in June in Boscobel.

A REMINDER

We have three Last Soldier dedications on Saturday, August 31st. Rides are available – be at the Norway Town Hall at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30th. We will overnight in Wonewoc at Brother Bob’s cabin, then drive to Iowa Co. an hour south for the first ceremony at 9 a.m.

Brother Graf Elected Dept. Commander

At the Summer Encampment in Boscobel, Wis., in June, Camp #15’s Jeff Graf was elected commander of the Wisconsin Department. Brother Graf replaces Brother Brian McManus who did not stand for re-election due to ill health on his part and that of his wife, Laura.

Commander Graf is making recruitment a top priority given that camp membership in the state is down a little over a dozen members from the previous year.

“We all need to be recruiters,” he emphasizes. “Every one of us has a friend, acquaintance, or family member that has been ‘sitting on the fence’ about joining.” Time to step up the recruiting, Brothers.

The second dedication is at 12 noon in South Wayne in Lafayette County, the third at 2 p.m. in Browntown in Green Co.



Camp #15 honor squad firing musket salute at a ceremony in Lancaster, Wis., June 8th honoring the last Civil War soldier buried in Grant County. Helping out is the rifle squad of Lancaster American Legion Post 109. On the far right are Brothers Rich Kallan and Jerry Coveney, the newest members of the camp’s honor squad.