



Wisconsin *Department Dispatch*



Spring 2025

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Patriotic Luncheon Highlights and Details from the Mid-Winter Meeting



Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin, right, and his wife, National Auxiliary President Rosemary Martin, flew in from Maryland to experience Milwaukee history and hospitality at the 55th annual Patriotic Luncheon. Camp 1 CC Tom Hesse guided them at the luncheon. The event was held by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4, and was preceded by the Department Mid-Winter Meeting.

Wisconsin's Junior Vice
Commander Gary
Carlberg and CinC
Kevin Martin at Camp
#1's Patriotic Luncheon.



"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD"

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW



The Patriotic Luncheon keynote speaker, Steve Rogstad, longtime Lincoln researcher and author, discussed the Illinoisan's 1842 speech to a Temperance group. The speech was made to the Washington Temperance Society of Springfield, Ill., on the 110th anniversary of George Washington's birth.

Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa was jammed to the gills to handle the overflow crowd. Another table was set up even as the event began. It was instantly full. The event was attended by an audience of 120.



PCinC Steve Michaels escorted CinC Martin and Aux NP Martin on a tour of Southeast Wisconsin. Visits included the Mitchell Park Domes (*below*) and The Civil War Museum of the Upper Midwest (*at left*).



Unconfirmed Minutes of the Feb. 1, 2025
Department of Wisconsin Mid-Winter Meeting
Alioto's Restaurant, Wauwatosa, WI

Dept. Commander Robert Koenecke presiding.

Opening Ceremony (abbreviated and informal) Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Department Officers by Department Secretary/Treasurer Brian Peters.

Department Officers present: Commander and Iron Brigade Highway officer--Robert Koenecke; SVC--Patrick Fallon; JVC--Gary Carlberg; Secretary/Treasurer--Brian Peters; Council 1 and GAR Records Officer--John Decker; Council 2--Thomas Brown; Council 3--Jerome Coveney; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, IRS Compliance officer and Chief of Staff--Brian McManus; Patriotic Instructor--Richard Kallan; Chaplain and Civil War Memorials officer--Gerald Drought; GRO and Guard--Thomas Mueller; Historian--Scott Schable; Counselor and Signals Officer Kent Peterson (will be arriving); Camp Organizer--Kim Heltemes.

ROTC Award Coordinator David Daley was not present and has requested to step down from the position due to health issues. Commander Koenecke asked for someone to volunteer to take over this responsibility. The need is urgent due to ROTC award ceremonies occurring this spring.

Introduction of guests: National Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin

Department/Camp Officer Reports (formal written reports were not requested, voluntary information was presented)

Department JVC Gary Carlberg discussed his discovery of the grave of a civil war Medal of Honor recipient that has no indicator of this honor. His name is Captain Joseph Berger. Brother Gary is planning to obtain a medallion to attach to the stone indicating the Medal of Honor award for this soldier. When completed a dedication ceremony is planned for May 24th the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Details will be made available later.

Department Patriotic Instructor Richard Kallan gave an update on the renaming of the post office in Muskego to be the Col. Hans Heg Post Office. This has been approved by congress and signed by the President. There will be a dedication ceremony, but details are not yet available. They will be announced when available. President Trump or Vice President Vance may be invited to the ceremony.

Department Secretary Brian Peters reminded Camps to submit their Election Reports if not done already, and to start working on their Annual Reports which are due by the end of April.

Department Council completed the annual financial audit of the Department accounts and all was in good order.

Camp 56 report: In 2024, 23 last Soldier ceremonies were conducted, 2/3 of the counties in Minnesota have been completed so far; 10 headstone dedications were conducted, and 3,600 graves were registered in the GRO database. Many civil war soldiers have no headstone. Camp 56 has a volunteer who is doing research. So far there are 650 identified with no headstone. So far Camp 56 has replaced 217 headstones. 150 are to be ordered for one cemetery. There is a limit imposed of 10 per week. Fees for installing the stones can be high. Donations and grants are available and have been received to cover a majority of the costs. Growth in membership has been outstanding, going from about 25 to 61 currently. Providing a Zoom option for meetings has been a very positive thing, especially for members who are distant.

(Brother Brian McManus stated that Camp 56 should be nominated for the Camp of the Year award from National. Those in attendance agreed with that recommendation.)

Camp 4 report: Camp 4's Commander resigned from the Order. Brother Brian McManus has assumed the Commander's office in the interim. They have plans for a Memorial Day ceremony.

Camp 49 report: The last active GAR hall in Wisconsin is in Boscobel. Camp 49 has worked through the years to maintain the hall and to make many improvements. It is their meeting location and the 2024 Department Encampment was

held there. Grants from National continue to help. The Camp holds a brat feed to raise funds annually on the 4th of July weekend. They award a \$400 scholarship annually to a high school student.

Camp 2 report: Related to the Muskego Post Office renaming, Camp 2 has contact information for relatives of Col. Hans Heg and can let them know about the dedication ceremony. There are bronze plaques in Madison that list the names of Dane County Union soldiers who died in the war. These plaques are being professionally restored, and it is possible they will be ready for dedication by Memorial Day.

Camp 1 report: Recruiting/information booths were staffed at the Menomonee Falls civil war event and the German fest event in Milwaukee. Five new members were added this year. Members marched in several parades. Members worked with reenactors from the US Colored Troops group on Juneteenth celebration. Two headstones were provided for the Adopt a Soldier project. Flags were placed and Memorial Day ceremonies were conducted. The Pier family cemetery in Fond du Lac and stones were cleaned with the assistance of students. One Brother was changed from associate to lineal membership.

Camp 8 report: Brother Kim Heltemes reported on the recent untimely passing of Camp 8 Treasurer Kurt Kirk due to brain cancer. He was only 58 years of age. Several Camp 8 Brothers and spouses attended the visitation or the funeral. He will be greatly missed. Brother Kim acquired five headstones that were installed on unmarked graves, and a dedication ceremony was conducted by the Camp. Several more are in the works. Three soldiers' graves exact location is unsure, and the cemetery will not install headstones unless the location is assured. Brother Kim is proposing placing these soldiers' names on a plaque to be displayed in the cemetery office. Several new members joined the Camp. Brother Kim also reported on the situation at the King Veterans Home where the GAR cottages have been demolished and several of the main buildings will also be demolished in the future. Resident numbers have plummeted due to veterans now being able to go to nursing homes in each county closer to family. The same situation is occurring at the other state veterans homes. It is time to reconsider our annual monetary donations to these veterans homes. Commander Koencke appointed the Department Council to report at the Department Encampment on recommendations for alternate veteran-related causes that could be considered.

Camp 15 report: A memorial dedication ceremony was conducted for Brother Sam Keith at his grave site. Brother Keith was Camp 15's commander and Department SVC at his untimely passing. He will be greatly missed. Care of the Lafayette church, owned by the Camp was discussed. It was planned to allow use of the church as a wedding venue in cooperation with a nearby business where there is a restored period farmhouse and horse carriages are available for wedding use.

Presentations:

Guest Beverly Vaillancourt from the Sauk County Historical Society gave a presentation on two projects she is working on to provide civil war educational materials to schools and to have a Wisconsin Monument placed on the Antietam battlefield. The education material is related to several soldiers' diaries in possession of the Sauk County historical society. There is a video series, and each video has an accompanying student booklet. More details can be found on the following website:

<https://saukcountyhistory.org/voices-of-the-civil-war>

Information brochures were available from Beverly.

The Wisconsin Antietam Monument project will be challenging because the National Park Service has prohibited any additional monuments on the battlefield. So, this policy will need to be challenged or changed. Beverly has sought and received support and assistance from several sources including Senator Ron Johnson's office. Also, monuments placed on federal property must have designs that are approved in advance by the Army Corps of Engineers. The engineering school at UW Platteville will be assisting with developing a design that will be approved. The American Battlefield Trust owns property on the battlefield, and they are being approached to see if a monument could be erected on their property. Typically, their property is eventually gifted to the National Park Service so that may not be an option. There was a law passed by the Wisconsin legislature in 1913 to establish a commission to work on the

(Continued from page 4)

Antietam monument, but it did not happen. There is support for this project in the form of a resolution from the American Legion and other veterans' organizations, and Beverly is requesting support from the SUVCW. The Wisconsin Department will lend its support.

A short break was taken at this time.

Reconvene

Preparation for Department Encampment June 7 at Wind Lake---

Five year interval membership certificates list to be compiled and readied.

Past Camp Commander certificates to be compiled and readied.

Nominations for Dept. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker award submissions to Dept. Commander

Council to recommend possible worthy causes for donations.

Pass the Hat for the Patriotic Fund to take place at the Department Encampment.

Patriotic Instruction: Current issues have their original source from the civil war—these are birthright citizenship and Presidential Pardons.

Miscellaneous:

Brother Gary Carlberg suggestion for recruiting is to pin the Camp's event schedule at the top of your website so it is seen easily.

Former GAR Post 112 in Minnesota is now a Masonic Lodge and Camp 56 will be using it for future meetings and presentations. Brother Gary is willing to do presentations for groups and this is another way to recruit new members.

Camp 56 is planning to form a SVR unit and do drill training with Casey's manual of arms. They have a experienced reenactor who is willing to do the training. They may also do some live shooting as a fun activity for the SVR members. This also is a possible recruiting tool.

PCinC Steve Michaels posted some photos of early Minnesota SUV leaders on Brother Gary's Facebook page, and they will also be in the next Department Dispatch newsletter. Brother Steve has compiled a history of the Sons in Wisconsin/Minnesota and will make it available at cost for any member who would like a copy for their library.

Upcoming Events:

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Saturday April 12, 2025, Springfield, ILL New venue-- Ramada Windham Hotel. There is a new ceremony coordinator.

142nd Wisconsin Department Encampment, Wind Lake, June 7, 2025, hosted by Camp 15

2025 National Encampment, August 7-10, Houston, Texas

With no further business to discuss, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer and meeting was adjourned.

The annual L followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian G. Peters, PDC

Secretary/Treasurer, Wis. Dept. SUVCW

Department of Wisconsin 2024-25 Officers and Staff



Department Commander: Robert F. Koenecke, PCC	commander@suvcw-wi.org	Eagle Scout Coordinator: Vacant	scouts@suvcw-wi.org
Department Senior Vice Commander: Patrick Fallon, PCC	svc@suvcw-wi.org	Iron Brigade Highway Coordinator: Robert F. Koenecke, DC	highway@suvcw-wi.org
Junior Vice Commander: Gary Carlberg, CC	jvc@suvcw-wi.org	Civil War Memorials: Gerald W. Drought, PCC	memorials@suvcw-wi.org
Council #1: John R. Decker, PDC	council1@suvcw-wi.org	ROTC Award Coordinator: Clarence (Skip) Parsons	rotc@suvcw-wi.org
Council #2: Thomas J. Brown, PDC	council2@suvcw-wi.org	Last Soldier Project Officer: Jimmy Johnson	lastsoldier@suvcw-wi.org
Council #3: Jerome Coveney	council3@suvcw-wi.org	Recruiting Officer: James B. Hobbins	recruiting@suvcw-wi.org
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Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Brian D. McManus, PDC	secretary2@suvcw-wi.org	Camp Organizer: Kim J. Heltemes, PDC	organizer@suvcw-wi.org
Patriotic Instructor: Richard A. Kallan	pi@suvcw-wi.org	Guard: Thomas S. Mueller, PCC	guard@suvcw-wi.org
Chaplain: Gerald W. Drought, PCC	chaplain@suvcw-wi.org	Color Bearer: Jeffrey M. Graf, PDC	colorbearer@suvcw-wi.org
Graves Registration Officer: Thomas S. Mueller, PCC	gro@suvcw-wi.org	Signals Officer: Kent A. Peterson, PDC	webmaster@suvcw-wi.org
Historian: Scott Schable	historian@suvcw-wi.org	IRS Compliance Officer: Brian D. McManus, PDC	compliance@suvcw-wi.org
GAR Records Officer: John R. Decker, PDC	gar@suvcw-wi.org	Chief of Staff: Brian D. McManus, PDC	chiefofstaff@suvcw-wi.org
Counselor: Kent A. Peterson, PDC	counselor@suvcw-wi.org		

Why was Wisconsin's 1st Camp organized in Waukesha?

Who was the disgruntled Wisconsin Dept. Commander who formed his own order, "The Sons of the GAR?"

How did Lincoln's Birthday observance in Wisconsin begin?

What was Wisconsin's connection to Memorial University?

Who was the Wisconsin brother who formed the state's first VFW post?

How did Wisconsin's Allied Orders help rebuild Cushing Park?

Why were silent movies shown at a Wisconsin Dept. Encampment?

Who was the Auxiliary sister who organized a second camp in Madison?

Where are the Department's Memorial benches located?

Were there any minority Camps in Wisconsin?

Who was the 40-year Wisconsin brother who met a violent death at the hands of an ex-convict?

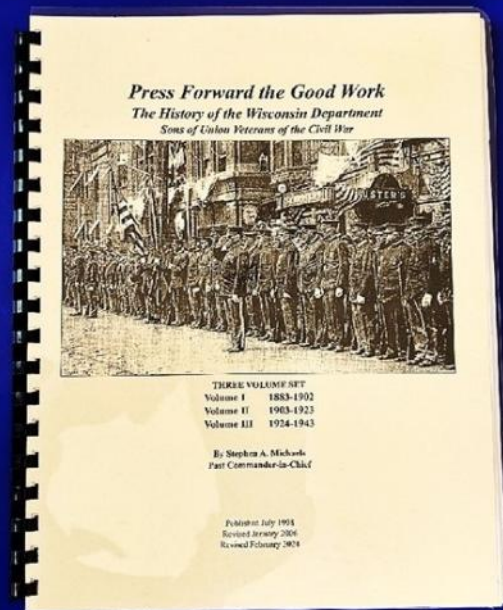
The answers to these and other fascinating questions in ***"Press Forward the Good Work: The History of the Wisconsin Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War."*** On sale now.

Our Wisconsin Department's History:

The first 60 years in 160 pages! The struggles, the triumphs!

Fully illustrated. 54 Department Commander bios. Four appendices.

Reserve yours now for delivery at the 2025 Wisconsin Dept. Encampment on June 7th. price: Only \$25. Email pcincmichaels@sucvw.org to reserve your copy.



Department Events Calendar

May 26:

Memorial Day

June 7:

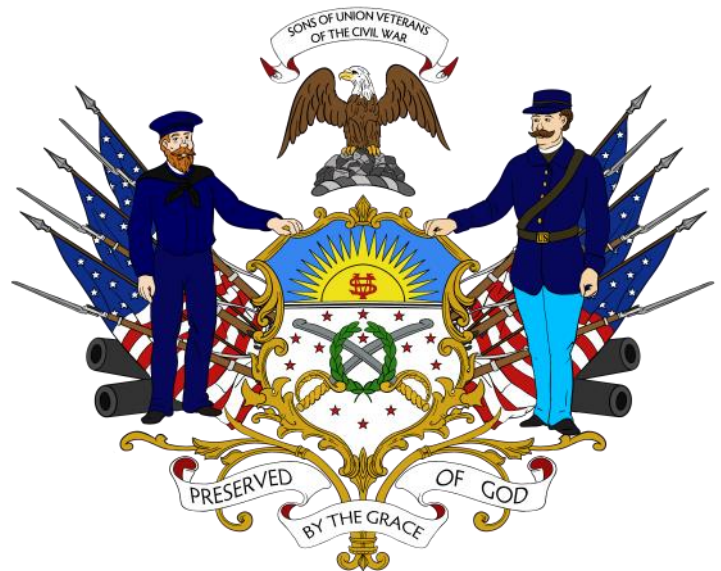
142nd Wisconsin Department
Encampment, Town of Norway Village
Hall (hosted by Camp 15)

July 4:

Independence Day

August 7-10:

144th Annual National Encampment,
Houston, Texas



Wisconsin Department Pioneers

Patrick Francis Sheehy

"A Fiery Patriot"

Patrick was born January 1, 1872 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His inspiration came from his grandfather, who fought under Commodore Perry in the War of 1812. His father, Patrick, Sr., served Co. C, 13th Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry, "the Bucktails," from June 1861 to June 1864.

"Top Sergeant" (Patrick, Jr.) Sheehy served in the 9th U.S. Infantry from 1890 to 1893 and fought in the battles of Powder River, Wounded Knee, and Yellow Creek. He enlisted again in 1895 and served throughout the Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion, a period of six years. In 1917, after some months of duty on the Crawford County Board of Review, he tried to enlist, but was rejected for service because of his age. He then presented his honorable discharge as a non-commissioned officer in the Regular Army and was accepted. He served nearly seven months as a shipyard guard at the Scotmor Yards, Oakland, California. Afterwards, he served as chairman of the Soldiers & Sailors Relief Fund in Crawford County. Two of his brothers had served in the Spanish American War.



On January 3, 1906, he first married Annie E. McGovern (1882-1952) and they had one daughter, Esther Frances (1906-1951). This marriage did not last and this may have had to do with Patrick's inability to hold steady employment. He had various jobs throughout his lifetime. They included: laborer, driver, bar tender, grocer, clerk, foreman, millman, salesman, tool factory worker and a washman on the railroad.

On October 18, 1916, he married Anastasia T. Mezera (1876-1973) at LaCrosse and soon after, the couple moved to Prairie du Chien.

Sheehy had joined the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., in Philadelphia in 1894 and transferred to Fort Crawford Camp #3 upon relocating to Prairie du Chien. He was a fiery speaker with an intense loyalty to the Flag. For that reason, throughout his life, he was known as Patrick Henry Sheehy. According to PDC Siggelko, he was also a "good hearted type that would give away his last dollar and his last coat to feed or keep warm a brother. Loyal to his friends and ready to stand up for them at all times and under all circumstances."

After World War I, Br. Sheehy took an active interest in the affairs of the Wisconsin Division. In 1921, he was elected junior vice commander and the following year, division senior vice commander. He served as a delegate to the National Encampment in 1923 and again as division senior vice in 1925. When the 43rd Wisconsin Division Encampment was held June 14-16, 1926, in Racine, Sheehy was finally elected commander, even though he was not present because of sickness.

Prairie du Chien's VFW Post, McKinney-Tyler Post 1945 was organized in 1931 and P.F. Sheehy was a charter member. Despite his active role there, he served as treasurer of Crawford Camp #3 through the 1930s. He was also a charter member of the local chapter of the Red Cross.

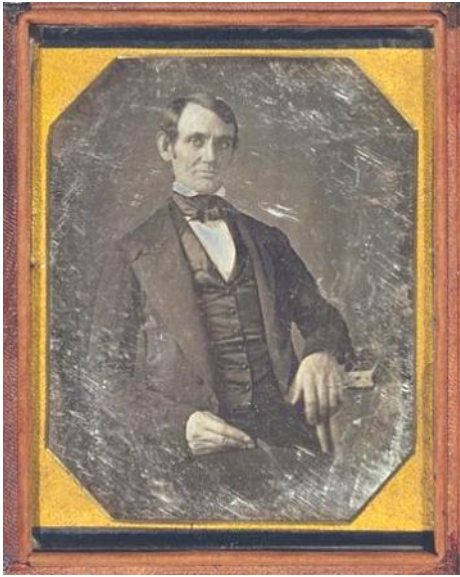
He died October 26, 1945, and was buried in Prairie du Chien's Calvary Cemetery.

Information from:

- *Ancestry.com*
- *History of the "Bucktails" Kane Rifle Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps (13th Pennsylvania Reserves, 42nd of the Line) by Osmund Rhodes Howard Thomson and William H. Rauch; Electric Print co, Philadelphia 1906*
- *Military Service & Patriotic Activities - Prairie du Chien 1932*
- *The Banner, October 1927*

PDC Kent Peterson provided this item by political historian and columnist Heather Cox Richardson at the Camp 1 meeting of Feb. 12, Lincoln's birthday. Cox Richardson has 3 million followers on Facebook. (This column no longer is available there, but the fulltext of Lincoln's "Lyceum Speech" is available online.)

On Jan. 27, 1838, Abraham Lincoln rose before the Young Men's Lyceum in Springfield, Ill., to make a speech. Just 28 years old, Lincoln had begun to practice law and had political ambitions. But he was worried that his generation might not preserve the republic that the founders had handed to it for transmission to yet another generation. He took as his topic for that January evening, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions."



Lincoln saw trouble coming, but not from a foreign power, as other countries feared. The destruction of the United States, he warned, could come only from within. "If destruction be our lot," he said, "we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

The trouble that Lincoln perceived stemmed from the growing lawlessness in the country as men ignored the rule of law and acted on their passions, imposing their will on their neighbors through violence. He pointed specifically to two recent events: the 1836 lynching of free black man Francis McIntosh in St. Louis, Mo., and the 1837 murder of white abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy by a pro-slavery mob in Alton, Ill.

But the problem of lawlessness was not limited to individual instances, Lincoln said. A public practice of ignoring the law eventually broke down all the guardrails designed to protect individuals, while lawbreakers, going unpunished, became convinced they were entitled to act without restraint.

"Having ever regarded government as their deadliest bane," Lincoln said, "they make a jubilee of the suspension of its operations; and pray for nothing so much as its total annihilation."

The only way to guard against such destruction, Lincoln said, was to protect the rule of law, on which the country was founded.

"As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so too the support of the Constitution and Laws, let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor....

"Let reverence for the laws ... become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars."

Lincoln was quick to clarify that he was not saying all laws were good. Indeed, he said, bad laws should be challenged and repealed. But that the underlying structure of the rule of law, based in the Constitution, could not be abandoned without losing democracy.

Lincoln did not stop there. He warned that the very success of the American republic threatened its continuation. "Men of ambition and talents" could no longer make their name by building the nation – that glory had already been won. Their ambition could not be served simply by preserving what those before them had created, so they would achieve distinction through destruction.

For such a man, Lincoln said, "Distinction will be his paramount object, and although he would as willingly, perhaps more so, acquire it by doing good as harm; yet, that opportunity being past, and nothing left to be done in the way of building up, he would set boldly to the task of pulling down."

With no dangerous foreign power to turn people's passions against, people would turn from the project of "establishing and maintaining civil and religious liberty" and would instead turn against each other.

Lincoln reminded his audience that the torch of American democracy had been passed to them. The Founders had used their passions to create a system of laws, but the time for passion had passed, lest it tear the nation apart. The next generation must support democracy through "sober reason," he said. He called for Americans to exercise "general

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intelligence, sound morality, and in particular, a reverence for the Constitution and laws.”

“Upon these let the proud fabric of freedom rest, as the rock of its basis; and as truly as has been said of the only greater institution, ‘the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.’”

What became known as the Lyceum Address is one of the earliest speeches of Lincoln’s to have been preserved, and at the time it established him as a rising politician and political thinker. But his recognition, in a time of religious fervor and moral crusades, that the law must prevail over individual passions reverberates far beyond the specific crises of the 1830s.

At the March meeting of Camp 1, junior member Lucas Nguyen, age 10, gave a patriotic presentation about these two drummer boys. He relied on a 2006 book, "Boy Soldiers and Soldier Boys: Children in the Civil War Armies," by Robert P. Broadwater.

Somebody I found interesting when I started reading was the story of a boy in the 8th Michigan Infantry, Co. B.



Robert Henry Hendershott (1850-1925) was a waiter before enlisting at age 12. One day, he heard a soldier mentioning the 8th Michigan. Robert soon enlisted.

He served in six major battles. At one point, Robert attempted to get on a boat but was told to get off or he would get killed, which he obeyed. Not entirely though – he hopped onto the stern and floated across the Rappahannock River in the icy, December water. He eventually got to the shore and found and grabbed a musket!

In search of souvenirs, he found MANY things. He even found a torn Confederate flag! In one house, he opened the door to find an injured Confederate soldier. He ordered the man to surrender and brought him back to the lines. Soon, the general ordered the boy to come and talk with him. The general said, “You keep that up, you will be in my place!” Sure enough, years later Hendershott became a general. Robert was given a disability discharge on Dec. 27, 1862. He died on Dec. 26, 1925 at age 75. He is buried in Forest Park, Ill., near Chicago, at Forest Home Cemetery.

A Wisconsin drummer boy was John D. Walker, born in 1851. He was in the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry, joining in Racine on Sept. 1, 1862. Walker was captured by the Confederates two times. In March 1863 he and the 22nd were captured by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest’s cavalry. When Walker saw his whole regiment was surrounded, he destroyed the drums to prevent them from being captured. Due to his young age, it was noted he could pass through the Confederate lines back to Union forces. Gen. Braxton Bragg, however, was not happy and ordered that he be sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Va. Five days after Walker arrived, he was released. He was given a disability discharge a few months later, on Dec. 28, 1863, because the experiences took a toll on him.

He died in 1913 at age 62 and is buried at Belvidere Cemetery in Belvidere, Ill.

More material about Robert Henry Hendershott is at https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68783111/robert_henry-hendershott/photo

More material about John D. Walker is at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117413035/john-dearborn-walker>



John Dearborn Walker was less than 12 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army, the youngest soldier to be mustered into service. Later, he met President Lincoln.

Camp News & Activities

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1—Milwaukee



PDC Tom Brown organized a special School of the Soldier – to learn the basics of commands, formations, carrying a rifle and marching in formation. Class members picked things up at various speeds. The instructors were DSVF Patrick Fallon and Brother Joe Fallon. The school was held March 30 at the Camp's meeting site in Wauwatosa.

– The Camp 1 Facebook page honored the 160th anniversary of Appomattox by running a six-part series of articles. The topics included the battle at Fort Damnation (Fort Mahone near Petersburg) on April 2, one week before Appomattox, including a man in C.K. Pier's 38th Wisconsin Infantry who was killed there. Plus items on three men (two from Wisconsin, and one from Pennsylvania who is buried at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee) who earned the Medal of Honor in that region on April 2.

Some of the items first appeared in the Camp newsletter a decade ago. See each story at <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger/>

Right – For the first time since 1951, all five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic worked together successfully under one roof at Kenosha's Civil War Museum. Members spoke about their organizations and manned exhibits, showing their patriotic and public service work.



– Milwaukee's new archbishop, Jeffrey S. Grob, quickly agreed to preside over the Camp and Auxiliary's Memorial Day commemoration at Calvary Cemetery.

Grob, a Wisconsin native and an auxiliary bishop in Chicago, was named by Pope Francis to the Milwaukee job last November. Chaplain Dean Collins, an ordained deacon, promptly sent him a letter. Grob was installed on Jan 14, and Collins approached him personally in following days. Collins then informed the Camp:

"He showed me his phone calendar and our Memorial Day Mass was listed! He is looking forward to our Memorial Day ceremonies and to firing the cannon."

Memorial Day is Monday, May 26. The Mass begins at 10 a.m., and the Camp event immediately follows, at about 11.

Grob's two predecessors, Jerome Listeck and now-Cardinal Timothy Dolan, presided multiple times at the Memorial Day event and firing of the Cushing's Battery cannon, with auxiliary bishops appearing in several other years. The crowd for Listeck two years ago topped 400.

Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 ~ Madison

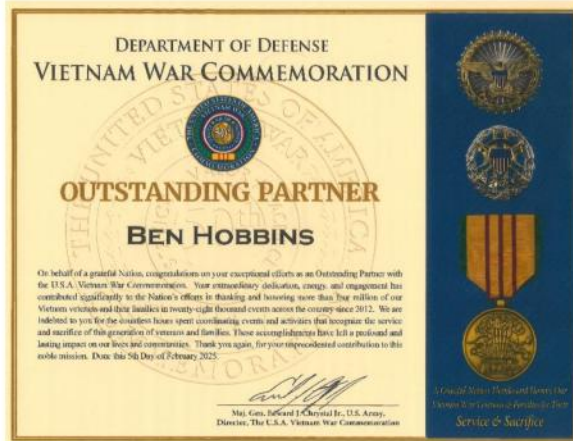
Department of Defense Major Gen Edward J Chrystal Jr., US Army issues "Outstanding Partner" commendation to Ben Hobbins



PRESSER

March 3rd, 2025 4pm, Indian Wells, CA:

Ben Hobbins is Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp #2 Colonel Henry Harnden in Madison, WI, a Dual Mbr with Camp #15 General John F. Hartranft in Harrisburg, PA, and Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, CA Commandery. He was recently honored by the Department of Defense, earning a National Service Award for DOD's Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) Program as an official Program Partner in a solemn ceremony. Ben is on the National SUVCW America 250 Birthday Committee while his daughter Ashley-Anne is a Sister with the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Detached Tent #23 Mary Chesebro Lee, Delavan WI, also belonging to the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States, DC Commandery.



Dept of Defense VWC Director, Maj General Edward J. Chrystal Jr., US Army, issued Ben an "Outstanding Partner" national service award. The DOD flew Western District Vietnam War Commemoration Program Director Major Alec Lange, US Army to make the Official Presentation.

The presentation took place at the Indian Wells, CA



City Hall at the adjoining "General Ike Eisenhower Walk of Honor" monument. The beautiful monument honors our past President, Supreme Allied Commander and 5-Star US Army General Ike Eisenhower, area Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and Indian Wells Veterans and is just a mile away from Indian Wells Tennis Gardens, hopping with the BNP Paribas Tennis Tournament in full force.

After the Indian Wells presentation, the DOD event entourage removed to visit Ike Eisenhower's Church, City of Palm Desert ECO Community Presbyterian Church, as Ike and his wife Mary "Mamie" wintered here for many decades during his Presidency and into retirement. Lastly, the DOD entourage departed for a visit to another of Ike and Mamie's namesakes, Rancho Mirage's "Eisenhower Health" Medical Center, that turned "50" only recently, located only a few miles from famous Sunnyslands.

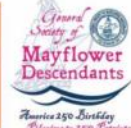


"Daughter Ashley-Anne Hobbins and I feel humbled by the Department of Defense's efforts to honor selected official Program Partner Civilians, symbolically, at the sunset of the program April 2025, only a year before America's 1776 to 2026, 250th Birthday" stated Ben Hobbins.

The National Freedom and Liberty Tree Project is the principal acting DOD Vietnam War Commemoration Partner represented by Exec Dir Ben Hobbins and Secretary Ashley-Anne Hobbins. "California SUVCW and MOLLUS and our National OFPA 250 Birthday Founders to 250 Patriots program is thrilled to project goodwill to our American Vietnam Veterans. We have an extensive network of bloodline and military organization partnerships that work in joint efforts to celebrate the Nation and mark America's 250 years" adds Ashley-Anne.

"We thank the Department of Defense for working so effectively with our nonprofit, NFALTP, over the years, allowing us to organize, and help celebrate our Vietnam era Veterans and all Veterans, America, our Military branches, our Flag, Constitution, Family and Community values across the nation" added Ashley-Anne, "we join NFALTP, SAR, DAR, SUVCW, DUVCW, MOLLUS, DOLLUS, Colonial Dames 17c, OFPA, Mayflower, Society Sons, Daus 1812".

"It has been an honor to honor our men and women Veterans who served, many who gave their last full measures of devotion to the nation, and who still serve the USA, every one of them. Thank you, Major General Edward J. Chrystal Jr and all the men and women, at the Department of Defense for this National Service Award. We Honor All Veterans, Period(c)."



Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 - Madison continued



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
THE UNITED STATES VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION
241 18th SOUTH, SUITE 101
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

26 Sep 2024



Dear Ben Hobbins,

On behalf of a grateful Nation and The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration staff, we commend you on being an *Outstanding Partner*! Since the inauguration of this commemoration in 2012, your efforts have faithfully represented our country by selflessly championing support from media and influencers within your communities on behalf of Vietnam veterans and their families. You have volunteered countless hours of labor from recognition and hometown events to impressive productions that thanked and honored thousands of Vietnam veterans and their families. As such, your efforts have placed you alongside the top one percent of the organizations participating in this noble mission. Congratulations on this extraordinary accomplishment!



Your dedication and initiative contributed significantly to this national tribute, whereby more than 4 million veterans and their families have been recognized for their service and sacrifice through 28 thousand events over the past 13 years. While truly amazing, your indelible impact cannot be measured in numbers, but rather in the hearts and faces of those whose lives were touched and will never be the same again. Your worthy efforts have helped facilitate healing and bestow honor to these veterans, their families, and our communities.



In recognition of your exemplary achievement, we hereby present you the enclosed *Outstanding Partner* certificate of appreciation. Thank you for your incredible support of this generation of patriots, their families, and of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Chrystal Jr.,
Major General, U.S. Army
Director



Ben Hobbins

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, CA Commandery
Camp Commander, SUVCW Camp #2 Col Henry Harnden, Madison WI
Camp #15 General John F Hartranft, Harrisburg, PA Dual Member
SUVCW National America 250 Birthday committee
WI MN Dept Recruiting Officer
WI America 250 State Commission
Madison Veterans Council
SUVCW Life Mbr

Exec Director

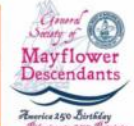
National Freedom and Liberty Tree Project

Ashley-Anne Hobbins

Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States, DC Commandery
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Detached Tent #23 Mary Chesebro Lee

Secretary

National Freedom and Liberty Tree Project



Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 - Madison continued

Camp #2 Colonel Henry Harnden Forms Ceremonial Color Guard Spring 2024



March 16th, 2024 Camp Meeting: Camp Commander J. Ben Hobbins establishes the Camp's first "Ceremonial Color Guard", appointing SVC Tom Trimble Ceremonial Color Guard Commander. CC Hobbins describes in PI, the important role of the Drummer Boy on Civil War battlefields. CC describes pivotal battlefield scenes such as those involving Drummer Boys Chickamauga Clem and 12th Corps Wm Logan "Willie" Geary, a CC relative. Bro Felix is intrigued.

April 20th 2024 Camp Meeting, Felix Clemens CCG Drummer Boy accepts appointment as Ceremonial Color Guard Drummer Boy and Junior Patriotic Instructor. Camp #2 agrees to sponsoring the purchase of his CCG Drummer Boy uniform. Shortly thereafter, his uniform is acquired. Camp efforts commence to find a Drummer Boy Drum for our Felix.

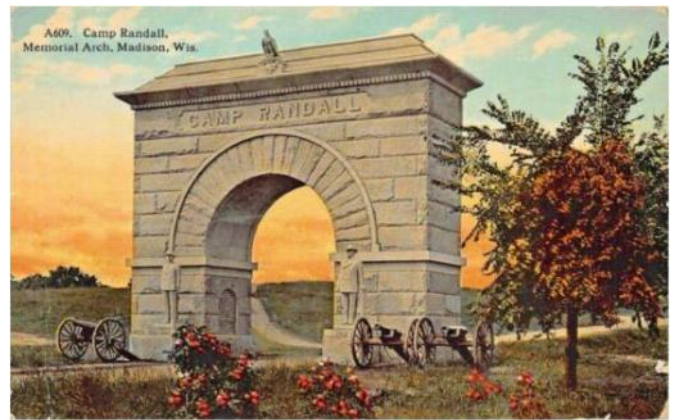
May 27th, 2024 Camp #2 Colonel Henry Harnden conducts Memorial Day Ceremonies at Union Rest at Forest Hill Cemetery, Ceremonial Color Guard participates in traditional ceremonies at Union Rest. In Civil War Veterans Solidarity, Camp 2 pays respects to the Boy of Confederate Rest adjacent to Union Rest.

June 2024, CCG Commander Informs Camp #2 on the gift of a Drummer Boy ceremonial drum, from the Boys of Company B, 2nd WI Vols. Inf. Huzzahs abound!

November 9th, 2024, two days before the State Wide Veterans Day ceremony at the Capitol next door November 11th, a well-publicized "Ceremonial Drum Transfer Ceremony" was conducted by Camp #2 Col Henry Harnden at the 1912-dedicated Camp Randall Memorial Arch at Veterans Memorial Park. The Drum Transfer Ceremony was organized by CC Hobbins and SVC Trimble with the Boys of Company B, 2nd WI Vols. Inf. and with participation of Bros Decker, Campbell, Schable, Hembel. DUVCW Tent 23, DOLLUS was represented by sisters Pat Blackmer, Linda Tanner Freitag, AA Hobbins; Mary Parker represented the DAR along with these same Sisters. A close-knit Clemens family attended, including Felix's grandfather from Appleton, an accomplished percussionist himself. After the Ceremony, the entire entourage departed for nearby Babcock Dairy Store for ice cream, soup and sandwiches.

Ceremony bloodline and Veterans participants were well represented, in solidarity, as follows: the SUVCW and DUVCW, MOLLUS and DOLLUS, the SAR and DAR, the Sons and Daus War of 1812, the Aztec Club, Veterans of WI VFW and Legion Posts, the Madison Veterans Council, WDVA, WVM, the America 250 efforts of the Mayflower Society, the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century.

In the next issue of our WIMN *Department Dispatch*, a more detailed write up will be featured on this Ceremonial Drum Transfer and the importance of such an event on the Sacred Grounds of Camp Randall Veterans Memorial Park.



Camp Randall Mustering Camp Memorial Arch and Park
(Dedicated 1912)



Col. Hans C. Heg, Camp #15—Wind Lake



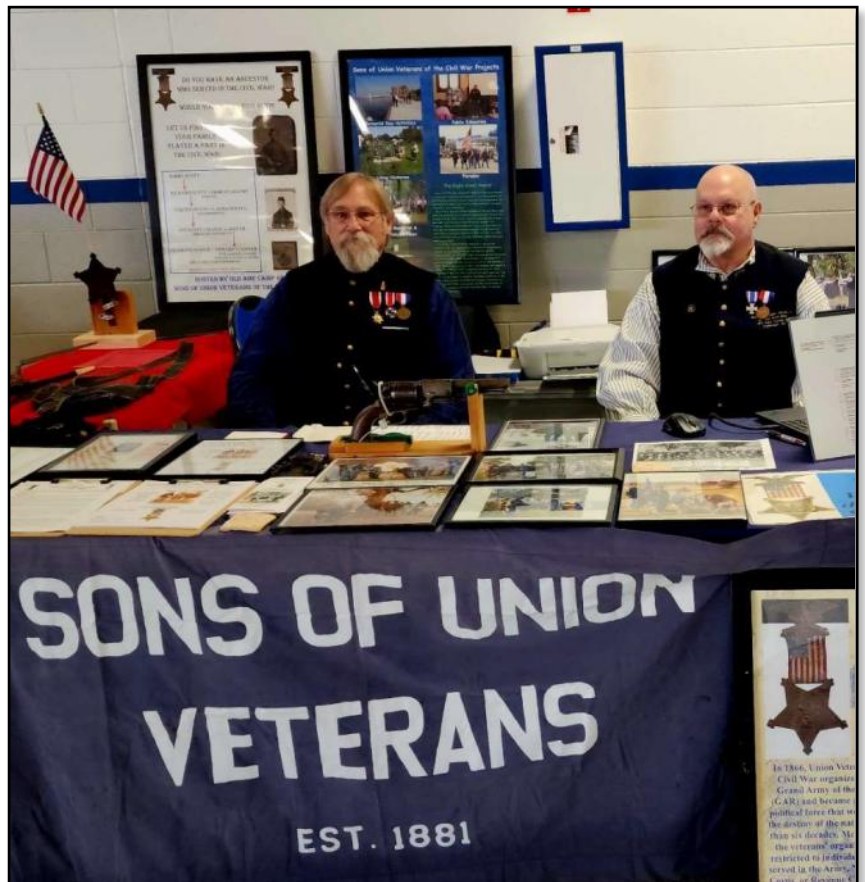
Brothers from Camp #15 and the SVR's Iron Brigade Guard participated in the Annual Lincoln Tomb Observance.

Old Abe, Camp #8 - Fox Valley

2025 Echoes of the Past Trade Fair

On Saturday, February 22nd, and Sunday, February 23rd, 2025, Old Abe Camp #8 had a table set up at the annual Echoes of the Past Historical Trade Fair located at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh. Here, camp members answered questions from the public about who we are as an organization.

Attendees were particularly interested in the cemetery work done for veterans in unmarked graves. Members also assisted the public in looking up qualifying ancestors for prospective members. Members in attendance included Brother Kim Heltemes and Brother Kirby Scott (pictured in photo on the left). Brother Jim Schumann was also present for the event, although not in the photo. The camp would also like to thank Past Department Commander Tom Brown from C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 in Milwaukee for coming up to Oshkosh on Saturday to help with the event. Camp #8 members are encouraged to support the booth at events like this as it creates awareness in the community and keeps the organization active.



Boscobel GAR Hall Phase 3 Repairs

Phase 3 for 2025 – Structural repair and plaster work

In the early 20th Century a pass-through window was installed between the then kitchen and dining room on the first floor of the Hall. The Sons and Women's Relief Corps used these spaces when holding fundraising events and socials, particularly for oyster dinners and crawfish boils. When the window was added insufficient support was installed which has led to cracking in the plaster around the opening in both rooms. This year's project is to install the proper support header for the window and then repair the plaster that will necessarily be disturbed in opening up the walls around the window. Current estimates are that entire project will cost \$4,500.00. The lumber will cost about \$500.00, Demolition/Dumpster \$500.00, labor \$1000, with an additional \$2,500.00 for plaster repair. The hope is to have the work done before the end of 2025.



On a related note, Brother Gary Young was given an appreciation award by the Boscobel GAR Hall Preservationists for all his past work on the GAR Hall.



Col. William Colvill Camp #56 - Minnesota



SVR Commander Matt Nyquist presenting at the Boys in Blue Symposium on March 29, 2025.

Photo Credit: Susan Hynes

year. Camp Commander Gary Carlberg has done stellar work reaching out to the American Legions and VFWs to secure additional funds to keep this important work done. As previously reported, his dedication also helped obtain a Dept. of Veterans Affairs grant, which is necessary for this work to continue each year.

The Camp will hold its spring meeting at the Masonic Lodge 28 in Clearwater, Minnesota, at 10:00. On May 3, we are conducting a Live Fire with the North Star Volunteers in Harris, Minnesota. Please visit our YouTube Channel: "Col. William Colvill Camp 56 SUVCW."

Camp 56 has another ambitious schedule planned for 2025. Some members participated in the Boys in Blue Symposium in Mankato, where we set up a booth to recruit and complete research. Commander Gary Carlberg, Sr. Vice Commander Mike Huttner, and a few other camp members attended the event on March 29. SVR Commander Matt Nyquist gave a first-person account of Pvt. James Karmany, a local Civil War veteran. Bryce Stenzel, President of the Boys in Blue, was also in attendance.

On April 12, we will have the same setup for the Twin Cities Civil War Symposium. We plan to conduct at least twenty Last Union Veteran Ceremonies, and if everything falls into place, we plan to complete the state in 2026.

In addition to our Last Union Veteran work, the camp will conduct two Medal of Honor ceremonies for William Nichols and Joseph Berger at the Kinkead Cemetery (Alexandria) and Oakland Cemetery (St. Paul) on April 26 and May 24, respectively.

We have one Headstone Dedication Ceremony planned in Houston at the Stone Church Cemetery on August 9, with another eleven in the planning stages. We could do more, but much of it depends on funding during the



Camp 56 Commander Gary Carlberg and Sr. Vice Commander Mike Huttner conducting on-the-spot research at the Boys in Blue Symposium this March.

Photo Credit: Susan Hynes



Department of Wisconsin 142nd Annual Encampment
Hosted by Col. Hans C. Heg Camp # 15

Saturday, June 7, 2025
Town of Norway Hall
6419 Heg Park Rd.
Wind Lake, WI 53185

Registration should be received by Saturday, May 31, 2025. The Registration Fee is \$7 per person.

Tours of the grave of Col. Heg, the statue of Col. Heg, and the Heg Museum will be available. This information is available on the www.suvcw-wi.org web site, or from your Camp Commander.

Lunch will be available for a \$8.00 fee in the Town Hall or at local restaurants. Coffee and snacks will be provided for the morning meeting. Payment can be made in person.

SUVCW Department of Wisconsin – 142nd Encampment Registration

Make checks payable to “SUVCW, Col. Hans C. Heg Camp 15” and return no later than **May 31, 2025**.

Remove lower portion and mail registration form and payment to:

Brian McManus
7919 W. Wind Lake Rd. Unit 5
Wind Lake, WI 53185
Deadline: May 31, 2021

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Affiliation _____

Number of registrations x \$7.00 _____ PLUS number of meals x \$8.00 = _____

Total enclosed \$ _____
