



## MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as we all know, is officially observed on the third Monday in May. What some of us may not know is that since 1868, Memorial Day (created by the GAR) actually falls annually on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The following is an excerpt of "Memorial Day" as printed in the "History of the Grand Army of the Republic", written by R.B. Beath and printed in 1889:

"Early in May, 1868, Adjutant-General Chipman received a letter from some comrade then living, as he remembers, in Cincinnati, in which the writer referred to the fact that he had served as a private soldier in the Union Army; that in his native country, Germany, it was the custom of the people to assemble in the spring-time and scatter flowers upon the graves of the dead.

He suggested that the Grand Army of the Republic inaugurate such an observance in memory of the Union dead.

General Chipman thought the suggestion most opportune, and at once made a rough draft of a General Order covering this subject, and laid it, with the letter referred to, before General Logan.

General Logan warmly approved the Order, himself adding several paragraphs. The date selected, May 30, was with the idea of using one of the spring months because of their poetical associations, and also to make it late in the last spring month, that it might be possible to find flowers in the New England and extreme Northern States.

There were many who at first doubted the wisdom of instituting such an observance. It was claimed that it would unnecessarily keep alive memories of the war, and foster animosities that should be buried in oblivion. Other objections were made to the expense, and that the money for music and flowers could be more wisely spent on the living.

The Grand Army has answered this latter by increasing its benefactions year by year, and no good citizen has at any time had reason to observe any force in the first objection. It is a matter of great regret that the name of the comrade who first called the attention of General Chipman to this subject cannot now be recalled.

During the war there had been many instances of the decoration of soldier's graves, and earlier than the date of this Order a "Decoration Day" had been generally observed by ex-Confederates in the Southern States.

General John B. Murray, then a resident of Waterloo, New York, on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1866, marshaled a number of ex-soldiers in that village who decorated the graves of their dead comrades amid appropriate ceremonies. General Murray claimed during his life that he had spoken of this to General Logan at one of the Army re-unions. It is also stated that Posts in Cincinnati, upon the suggestion of T.C. Campbell, afterwards Quartermaster-General, paraded in 1867 for the purpose of decorating the graves of their dead comrades.

General Chipman, however, distinctly remembers the incident as...related, which directly resulted in the issue of the General Order's instituting a MEMORIAL Day."

The following is General Order No. 11, issued by John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, WASHINGTON D.C., May 5, 1868

*General Orders*, No. 11.

I. The 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our Regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us, a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude---the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department Commanders will use every effort to make this Order effective

By command of JOHN A. LOGAN, *Commander-in-Chief*.  
N.P. CHIPMAN

*Adjutant-General*

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After World War I, the holiday was changed from honoring just Civil War Veterans to honoring all Americans who died in any war.

*All Brothers of our Camp are urged to attend Memorial Day services, which honor all veterans who died defending our country.*

## Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

For those who have not heard of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table, here is some information regarding this premier Civil War round table organization.

The organization meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7:00 PM thru 9:00 PM from September thru May in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.

The annual dues are \$25.00, however, everyone is welcome...member or not. After you attend one or two of the outstanding programs that the round table puts on, you will quickly come to realize that the modest annual dues are more than worth it.

Speakers from throughout the nation, covering all aspects of the Civil War, give first-rate presentations. As an example, in February Ed Bearss gave an outstanding presentation on Brice's Crossroads...last year he gave one on Chickamauga.

The Scottsdale Civil War Round Table has been in existence for ten years and has grown from a few members to 120 this year. It is rapidly becoming one of the premiere round tables in the nation and has speakers booked for the next several years.

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If you have information on other like organizations please contact the editor for inclusion in future Picacho Peak Camp newsletter issues.

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### Recruiting and Retention

Our Order, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and our Camp are living heritages to the sacrifices of our ancestors. We are members, not because of anything we have done, but by the deeds of those Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who helped preserve the Union.

Membership in our Order and Camp is something to be proud of. We demonstrate that by joining and by renewing our membership. We also demonstrate that by actively recruiting new Brothers and by getting the word out.

*To Brothers who have yet to renew their membership...please do so now...(see page 5).* To those Brothers who want to assist in recruiting...pass on the information in your meetings with individuals and organizations. If you need pamphlets or the like, contact Bro. David Swanson.

We have a fine Order and Camp and need let others know! Also let them know that membership is not

restricted to "proof of ancestry." Associate membership is also available and encouraged.

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### Department of California and Pacific 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment.

Brother David Swanson and his wife Jan (who is a member of the National Auxiliary to the SUVCW) attended the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department in San Luis Obispo on March 28 & 29 and the following is a recap of the activities.

All activities took place at the Elks Club in San Luis Obispo, California.

On Friday we attended the "Campfire" which was a social gathering of Brothers representing the various Camps that make up the Department. A no host bar and great buffet were also included, along with plenty of time to meet our National Commander in Chief, Robert Grim, on a one on one basis. This started at 3:00 PM and lasted until about 9:00 PM. While many of the Brothers knew each other from previous meetings and encampments, this was a great way for all to get acquainted.

On Saturday the encampment continued at 8:00 AM. Each Camp had its display of materials and artifacts and several Camps had items for the upcoming raffle.

In a nutshell the Saturday agenda follows: Registration, opening ceremony, camp reports, department officer reports, Sons of Veterans Reserve report, Auxiliary to the SUVCW, and special reports. Following this was the business session which consisted of items such as the nomination and election of officers, appointment of officers, and committee appointments. This was completed just before the 1:00 PM Installation Luncheon. The agenda after lunch was the key note address by CinC Robert Grim, installation ceremony, raffle and closing ceremony. At about 3:30 PM all walked to a cemetery across the street for a memorial service at the GAR plot.

The enthusiasm in each Camp was very obvious by the number of projects each completed during the previous year. This enthusiasm was also evident at the Department level and carried through the entire encampment.

All in all, there were approximately fifty Brothers, wives and Sisters attending the encampment.  
(continued on page 5)

117<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of California & Pacific



Pictured above are (left to right) Department Commander Brad Schall, National Commander-in-Chief Robert Grim, Jan and David Swanson, and Dept. Senior Commander Linn Hoadley (Linn is also the National Member-at-Large Coordinator. Since our Camp is part of the National Department-at-Large he is our Department Junior Vice-Commander.)



Memorial Service at the Grand Army of the Republic plot, San Luis Obispo, California

During Saturday evening, many attendees meet at a local restaurant for a no host CinC dinner, which included another opportunity to meet and socialize with him and others.

I can't stress how *fun* and educational this encampment was. This was not only a great way to meet other Brothers of our Order, it was a great excuse to spend time in San Luis Obispo and surrounding areas...which by the way is great wine country and more than one vineyard and winery was visited!

Department Senior Vice Commander, Linn Hoadley, went out of his way to make our visit a pleasant one and he and all the other Brothers succeeded.

The Department of California & Pacific currently comprises nine Camps...eight in California and one in Nevada.

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### **New...Raffle at the next Camp Meeting...**

Bro. John Coon has graciously donated an unopened CD entitled "The Civil War (original soundtrack recording)," from the PBS film by Ken Burns. This has an original value of \$139.00 and will be raffled off at the next Camp meeting...one ticket for \$1.00...six tickets for \$5.00. This is a great way to build up our treasury for future programs.

Hopefully, these raffles will be a part all future Camp meetings. In order to make these successful, Brothers who have items they wish to donate...books or other items...should bring these to the next and subsequent meetings.

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### **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Resolution of Support.**

With the war in Iraq in full force, the following resolution can be found on the first page of the SUVCW website...[www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

"Resolution of Support"

"Having been chartered by Congress as a patriotic and fraternal Order, one of the principle objects of the Sons on Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is to proudly honor *all who have patriotically served our country in any war.*

**Therefore**, as thousands of our nation's volunteer military personnel serve us again in harm's way, the SUVCW National Council of Administration, on behalf of our entire membership,

hereby formally declares our gratitude for, and support of, all who bravely serve our country in its armed forces."

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"Keep pegging away"

A. Lincoln

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### **SUVCW TRIVIA**

Currently 37 states and the District of Columbia have SUVCW Camps.

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### **Camp Officers for 2003**

*Commander:*

Larry Fuller (480) 945-9816

*Sr. Vice-Commander:*

Bob Bohannon (480) 527-1515

*Jr. Vice-Commander:*

David Swanson (480) 515-2798,;

e-mail: [DavidJan1854@cs.com](mailto:DavidJan1854@cs.com)

*Secretary:*

Jerry McKenzie (602) 234-1672

e-mail: [eclecticdog@msn.com](mailto:eclecticdog@msn.com)

*Treasurer:*

Jerry Bloom (602) 955-3091

*Camp Council:*

Dick Graffin (602) 870-1728

Jim Greaves (623) 544-8977

e-mail: [jimgreaves@mindspring.com](mailto:jimgreaves@mindspring.com)

Bob Young (602) 841-7037

*Chaplain:*

Bob Baxter (602) 276-3892

*Camp Historian:*

Bob Hannan (480) 380-9153

e-mail: [suvcw82@aol.com](mailto:suvcw82@aol.com)

*Graves Registration:*

Duane Branson (928) 286-1756

e-mail: [Duane1956@sol.com](mailto:Duane1956@sol.com)

*Newsletter Publisher:*

David Swanson

**MEETING NOTICE & LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

Our next Camp meeting will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2003 at noon. This will be a joint meeting with the Founders and Patriots of America.

Location: Coco's Restaurant  
4514 E. Cactus Rd. (602) 996-9851

All Brothers, wives and guests are invited to the spring meeting of our Camp.

The speaker will be our Camp Historian, Bob Hannan, who will give a presentation about the Irish Brigade.

The buffet lunch menu consists of: Chicken and pasta with broccoli; chopped steak with sautéed onions and mushrooms; salad bar, rolls, apple cobbler, unlimited coffee, tea and soft drinks. The cost is \$14.00 per person.

Please complete the form below and mail as indicated.

**LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS & ANNUAL DUES FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon Reservations:                      Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for calendar year 2003 are \$31.00    Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail to the Camp Treasurer. *If you cannot attend and have not paid your 2003 dues, please do so by completing and mailing this form.*

Make checks payable to: Picacho Peak Camp #1 SUVCW

Mail to:

Jerry Bloom, Camp Treasurer  
4323 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Way  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
Phone (602) 955-3091