



Captain Alexander McRae Camp No. 4 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of the Southwest is now forming in Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Captain Alexander McRae Camp No. 4 is currently being formed in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is the first Camp to be formed in the state and hopefully it is just a start.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, the SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The GAR, formed in 1866, was our national's largest and most influential Union Veteran's organization.

In December 2015 Arizona and New Mexico were established as the Department of the Southwest by the national organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Arizona has three Camps and with the rich Civil War history of New Mexico it certainly deserves to have its own Camp.

If you are a male descendant, (son, grandson, great grandson, nephew, grand nephew, great grand nephew, etc.) aged 14 years or older, of a Union Civil War soldier, sailor, marine, or member of the Revenue Cutter Service who served honorably in the Civil War and are interested in becoming a *charter member* of the Captain Alexander McRae Camp No. 4, now is your chance.

Associate membership is also available for those who don't have a Civil War ancestor but have an interest in the SUVCW.

For more information please contact the Captain Alexander McRae Camp Organizer David Swanson at: swanson1854@yahoo.com, or by phone at 480-599-9143. You can also mail inquiries to him at PO Box 17173, Munds Park, AZ 86017

For more information regarding the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War please read the following page and also visit: <https://suvchw-southwest.org> or suvchw.org

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a volunteer, non-profit, charitable, fraternal, patriotic and educational organization similar to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which was the largest Union Civil War veterans' organization. The SUVCW is officially recognized as the GAR's legal successor, receiving its Congressional Charter in 1954 (Public Law 605).

MISSIONS

Honoring Union Veterans

The SUVCW cooperates in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war. The Order participates with other organizations in the proper observance of Memorial Day (May 30th), which was established by the GAR in 1868, seeks out and marks the graves of Civil War veterans; observes the care and upkeep of Civil War Memorials and brings any failure to do so to the attention of the proper authorities.

Preserving & Perpetuating the GAR

The SUVCW assists in the preservation and making available for research, the documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members. The Order ensures that the condition of signage along U.S. Route 6, the GAR highway, is properly maintained. The SUVCW supplies scholarships, funding to the annual Lincoln Memorial and Tomb Ceremonies, and to the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ceremony, which includes the country's largest Civil War parade, held on the third Saturday in November. Grants for Civil War Memorial preservation are also provided. Meetings and Encampments (conventions) are still conducted according to the tradition and rituals of the GAR.

Patriotic Education

The SUVCW's patriotic education includes teaching patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and respect for our Flag. Each year, the Order conducts presentations to schools and communities. The SUVCW encourages the proper teaching of American history in our schools. It keeps the public informed of activities and measures that violate or may weaken the spirit and purposes of our country's Constitution and institutions. It promotes and broadly sustains the American principles of representative government, of equal rights and impartial justice for all.

ORGANIZATION

The SUVCW has 26 state-level organizations (Departments), representing 36 states and over 200 local chapters (Camps) across the country. A National Membership-at-Large is also available for those who live in states that are not yet served by a local Camp.

The highest governing body of the SUVCW is the National Encampment, chaired by an officer of the corporation, whose title is Commander-in-Chief. Officers and Departmental representatives convene annually at the National Encampment to conduct corporate business and to elect officers. Officers at the Camp and Department level are also elected annually to carry out SUVCW plans and programs.

The National Organization publishes the quarterly Banner, containing news of activities in the various Departments, at the National level, and other items of interest to the membership. Many Camps and Departments also publish newsletters, keeping their members informed of local meetings, programs and events.

ACTIVITIES

Camp and Department activities vary, but all work in support of the organization's missions.

Patriotic presentations during regular Camp meetings and historical outings increase the knowledge of the Camp and make for a more informed membership. Presentations are given to schools, historical and genealogical organizations. SUVCW members participate in a variety of ceremonies, designed to honor Union veterans of the Civil War and veterans of all U.S. conflicts. The most important of these is Memorial Day. Other local ceremonies may be held on Lincoln's Birthday, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day. Many camps hold a grave re-dedication ceremony when a Union soldier's worn headstone has been replaced with a new one. Union soldiers' grave registration efforts are part of a National program. They also participate in similar events when historical plaques and monuments are introduced or restored in their community and when requested to assist local veterans' groups.

Many Camps and Departments promote the ideals of good citizenship and patriotism that the GAR advanced by presenting awards to deserving Eagle Scouts and ROTC cadets, recognizing their achievements. In addition, the SUVCW's assess and preserve Civil War battlefields and artifacts, Grand Army monuments, facilities and records in their communities. Much pleasure is to be gained by associating with dedicated people and realizing preservation accomplishments. Annually, many Camps also contribute money to Civil War battlefield preservation.