



**Department Orders
Department of the Southwest
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



**DEPARTMENTAL ORDER 03
(SERIES 2025-2026)**

**Past Department Commander Gerald N.
Bloom**

September 1, 2025

Brothers of the Department of the Southwest:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Brother, Gerald "Jerry" Bloom.

As a Past Camp and Department Commander, along with the many other positions and responsibilities he took upon himself over the years, Brother Bloom's service as a founding father and guiding light to our Department cannot be overstated.

He fulfilled his duties, and much more, with a dedication that few of us could hope to match, always with a gentle good nature that ensures that those of us lucky enough to have known him will always remember him with tremendous respect and great fondness.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to Jerry's daughter and our Sister Susan of Margaret Warner Wood Arizona Tent #1 and to all the Bloom family.

Attached please see the recent short tribute to Brother Bloom, written by Brother David Swanson, on the occasion of his 90th birthday in July. By Department Order, all DSW Charters and Badges will be draped in black in honor of our lost Brother for 30 days from this date.



Ordered this 1st day of September 2025, in the City of Scottsdale, State of Arizona



Todd T. Hoffay, Department Commander

ATTEST,



Scott T. Martorano, Department Secretary

DEPSW 25-0901-001 DO 25-26 003



A Tribute to Brother Jerry Bloom, PDC

By David Swanson, PDC

I was honored when Department Commander Todd Hoffay asked me to write about Brother Jerry Bloom in celebration of his upcoming 90th birthday (in June) and the current 30th year of his membership in the SUVCW. While he is no longer able to attend meetings, it's a privilege to recognize someone whose dedication, genuine camaraderie, wit and humor continue to inspire those around him.

I first met Gerald Nigh Bloom—known to virtually everyone as “Jerry”—when I joined Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 in 1999, and we've been friends ever since.

What has Jerry done over the years? Let's start in 1996 with the chartering of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, it's only fitting to start here as Jerry was a charter member and has remained dedicated to it ever since. But his involvement doesn't stop there as he is also a charter member of the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2, the General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 and the Department of the Southwest!

And here is another remarkable detail: he joined the SUVCW as a Member-at-Large in September 1995 before Arizona had any Camps! Jerry is the only Brother in the Department of Arizona who is a charter member of all three Camps and the Department! No other Brother holds that distinction.

Besides being a charter member of everything, what else has he done? Well, once again we start with Picacho Peak Camp: In 2003 he took over the Secretary/treasurer office until 2015 when he became the Camp Commander. I remember this because I took over the Secretary/Treasurer office and I was sure happy when he took that job over again in 2016! Jerry continued to hold this office until 2022.

On August 2, 2015, the General U.S. Grant Camp held its first organizational meeting and Jerry offered to take on the Secretary/Treasurer office. The Camp was officially chartered in September 2015, and Jerry remained in that office until 2020 (he was still the Secretary/Treasurer of the Picacho Peak Camp during this time as well).

Department of the Southwest offices: On December 3, 2015, the Department of the Southwest was officially chartered and during its Special Encampment in March 2016 Jerry was elected to the office of Department Council. In 2017 he was the JVC, in 2018 the SVC, and in 2019, two months shy of his 84th birthday, Jerry was elected Department Commander.

This is just a short recap of some Brother Jerry Bloom's service to our Order. It doesn't include the many activities both on a Camp and Department level that he engaged in year after year.