



JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST



To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865

Vol 11 Issue 2— Spring 2026

suvcw-southwest.org

Department News

10th Annual Encampment of the Department of the Southwest Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War March 28th 2026 Tucson, AZ



(L-R) PDCs Prater, McCord, & Hooker, Brothers Guske, Bus, and Blissett, PCC enlow, PDC Swanson, Sister Burke, CC Stephens, Tent President Madtsen, DC Clark, Brother Hoffay (kneeling), PDC Hoffay, PNP Malesky, Brother Moore, CinC Tucker, CC Bouchard, PDC Heller, Guide Huskisson, Brother Bigelow



PDC Todd T. Hoffay



Commander-in-Chief Kevin P Tucker.
"Forward Brothers, Always Forward" text of his speech is attached to the end of this newsletter.



Department Commander W. Mark Clark



More from the 10th Annual Department of the Southwest Encampment



DC Hoffay presents the 2nd Annual Lt James Barrett Superior Performance Award to PDC (and your Humble Editor-In-Chief) Hooker



Past DUVCW National President Sister Verna Malesky (L) and Tent President Sister Terry Madtsen (R) present the History Preservation award to DC Hoffay (C)



(L-R) DC Hoffay, Brother Tanner Guske, CC Stephens. A proud moment for the DSW when CC Stephens announced that Brother Guske will be taking the lead in organizing the Department's 4th Camp located in and around Las Cruces, New Mexico. Good luck and Godspeed, Brother Guske!



Lt. James Barrett Award for Superior Performance

Camp News



Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 (Phoenix)

Chartered on May 11, 1996, as the first Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of February, May, August, and November. Contact: **Commander Mike Booth** (515) 689-6546; ppc1.jvc@gmail.com; or **Secretary/Treasurer Scott Martorano** (616)250-670; scottmartorano@gmail.com

Past Camp Commanders:

Larry Fuller 1995-2003 †
 David A. Swanson 2003-2006
 Robert Hannon 2006-2008 †
 John R. Conrad 2008-2010
 David A. Swanson 2010-2013
 John R. Conrad 2013-2015
 Gerald N. Bloom 2015-2016 †
 James M. Heller 2016-2018
 Jeffrey D. Burgess 2018-2020
 Kenneth J. Hooker 2020-2022
 Todd T. Hoffay 2022-2024



February 21, 2026 Meeting: Picacho Peak Camp 1 met at Papago State Park in Phoenix. 11:30-1:30 **Attendance:**

Camp Officers and Brothers:

Michael Booth - Commander; Todd Hoffay, PCC - Senior Vice Commander (SVC); Commander DSW Scott Martorano - PPC1 ST, DSW ST; DSW Historian Dan Huskisson - ROTC/JROTC Coordinator; Richard Uplinger; David Kampf; James Heller - PDC, Chaplain David Swanson - PDC, PPC1 Historian, PPC1 Council; Robert Cox – DSW Council; Randy Miller

Guests: Barbara Booth, Donna Martorano, Cathy Davidson, Janice Swanson

Opening:

Commander Booth opened the meeting of the Picacho Peak Camp No. 1, SUVCW at 11:30am and Chaplain James Heller provided the Invocation followed by all reciting the American's Creed and Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Booth declared the meeting officially open and welcomed all the members and guests.

Officer Reports:

Secretary / Treasurer Martorano (ST):

In accordance with Article 7 (VII), Section 3 of the Picacho Peak Camp bylaws, six Brothers shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at a regular or special meeting of this Camp. A total of 10 Brothers were present, meeting the quorum requirement of 6. ST Martorano offered a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes from our August meeting, as they will be published in the Department Newsletter.

Commander Booth asked for a second, which was received. Upon placing the motion before the membership, it passed unanimously. *Membership:*

Currently, there are 57 members (54 Regular, 3 Associates): 7 of our members are Life Members

Treasurer's Report:

ST Martorano announced the current balance of our checking account and stated the current balance checking, general, and memorial funds. The money in the memorial fund will be transferred to the DSW after the March Encampment. The general fund will be used to pay our per capita dues in May.

The 2026 dues collection has been completed. We anticipate 6 members will drop with the March 31st cutoff.

Guide / JROTC Coordinator Huskisson:

Brother Huskisson provided an update on the ROTC awards program and reported that awards for 2026 are in progress. He will continue to keep the Department updated as the process moves forward.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Commander Booth discussed the upcoming Department Encampment. Brother Martorano reviewed the requirements for delegates, identified which members were automatic delegates, and asked if any additional members wished to be elected as delegates. No additional members were elected. Brother Martorano then made a motion that all Camp members in good standing be elected as alternate delegates. The motion received a second and passed unanimously. Brother Martorano discussed several financial hurdles within the Camp, including the excessive expenses associated with new membership. This issue had previously been submitted to the Camp Council for review. After discussion, Brother Martorano made a motion to eliminate the purchase of a Membership Badge, name tag, and rosette by the Camp. Instead, the Camp will only purchase the certificate and will assist new members in obtaining the additional items at their own expense. The motion received a second and passed with 7 members in favor and 2 opposed.

Awards & Certificates: None this period.

New Member Inductions: New Brother Charles Randall Miller (Randy) was inducted into the Camp. Welcome Brother Randy!

Closing of the Camp Meeting: Commander Booth announced the closing of the meeting, and Chaplain Heller provided the closing prayer.

PPCI Next Meeting

Meeting updates: Meeting was held on May 16, 2026. Meeting minutes to be published in the next Newsletter. Next meeting will be on July 18, 2026 11:30 a.m. at the Mustang Library (Reading room), 10101 N. 90th Street, Scottsdale, AZ.



First known PPC1 Camp Meeting held outdoors! Brothers, Sister, and guests enjoyed the sunshine at Papago Park, Phoenix, AZ and had a nice BBQ afterwards.



Brother, J/ROTC Coordinator and Guide, Dan Huskisson enjoying the Spring weather.



General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 (Tucson)

Chartered on July 15, 2015, as the second Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of January, April, July, and October at the Golden Corral 4380 22nd Street Tucson AZ. Contact: **Commander Scott P Bouchard**; email: sbstang@yahoo.com or **Secretary/Treasurer John Lyons**; (520) 341-3914; email: lyonsj5267@yahoo.com

Past Camp Commanders:

- Robert McCord 2015-2017
- Randy McNally 2017-2018
- Robert Haley 2018-2020
- Robert Irwin 2020-2022
- W. Mark Clark 2022-2023
- David M. Swanson 2023-2024
- Robert McCord 2024-2026



April 11, 2026 Camp Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Golden Corral Restaurant N Thornydale Rd Tucson AZ Time: 09:00-11:00

Attendance:

Scott P Bouchard Commander
William Sisco, SVC
Bill Sims, JVC
John Lyons, S/T
W. Mark Clark, Chaplain, PCC, DSC
William G. Blissett, ROTC
Robert McCord, PCC, PDC
Dennis Harvey Member (Color Guard)

Guests:

Laura McCord
Shaunna Bouchard
Chantel Blissett

Opening:

(Chaplain's Blessing, American's Creed, Pledge of Allegiance)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to all Brothers on 10 April 2026. Motion to accept was seconded and approved. A synopsis of C in C General Orders and Special Orders was emailed to all Brothers on 10 April 2026.. Chaplain Clark brought up John Conrad's situation, our prayers are with him.

Initiated Brother: Joseph Wienand into the Chapter. Commander Bouchard and Chaplain Clark conducted the ceremony (photos below)



Officer reports and notes:

JVC Sims reported that he has an application for the next meeting.

Department Encampment reeport:

DC Clark gave tours of the Presidio and Ft Lowell. Department fund for purchase of GAR Stars for placement on Department wide graves. He suggested that we start with the graves in Evergreen Cemetery not in the GAR Plot.

SVR Breakfast was held

Commander Clark and his wife took CinC Tucker to El Charro after Ft Lowell and reprise of his Presidio tour. CinC Tucker changed his flight to the "red eye" from Phoenix to Boston. It was a huge honor to have the CinC at the Department Encampment.

Discussed the Importance of CinC Tucker's Special Message # 16 on the Appomattox surrender anniversary April 9th

National Encampment update: This year's event will be in Gettysburg and instructions were given to members to apply to be a voting participant by contacting the Dept Secretary. Please watch the SUV CW Web page for hotel and registration information.

Other activities: DC Clark suggested that Cdr Bouchard circulate a Special Notice on Memorial Day activities, Flagging Evergreen Cemetery on 22 May 2026 at 0800 AM, Parade is 25 May 2026 at 0830 AM (parade steps off at 0900). We will meet at 3025 S Kinney Rd. Tucson, AZ 85713. We need to get a count for the parade. For those who will help pick up the flags by 5 PM on the 25th of May at Evergreen Cemetery.

Brother Lyons volunteered to check the status of GAR Stars on the graves with the cemetery.

JROTC/ROTC: Brother Blissett reviewed the status of the JROTC and ROTC award program and displayed the award package that he currently distributes. He also distributed a 4-page report. Brother Sims volunteered to make a "Virtual Cemetery" of Evergreen Cemetery Civil War veterans. Brother Hyer had a binder with all the information. Whereabouts are unknown.

Next Meetings: Camp 29 August 2026, 0900 Same location. National Encampment July 29th through August 2nd 2026.

RHGM2 Next Meeting

August 29, 2026, 9:00am at Golden Corral on Thornydale RD, Marana.

Presentation:

Commander Bouchard gave a Juneteenth presentation (summary)

- Juneteenth (June 19, 1865) symbolizes the delayed but eventual enforcement of emancipation in Texas, highlighting the complexities of freedom in the post-Civil War South.
- Texas's role as a stronghold of slavery and Confederate support shaped the unique historical trajectory of emancipation there.
- The economic, political, and military activities of Texas during the Civil War were significant to the Confederacy.
- Juneteenth celebrations evolved from local community observances to a national symbol of African American freedom and heritage.
- The federal recognition of Juneteenth in 2021 reflects a growing acknowledgment of the holiday's importance in American history and culture.

Great Job, Brother Blissett!

Closing: Chaplain's Benediction, Closing Charge adjournment were given. Next meeting April 11 2026.



General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 (Flagstaff)

Chartered on September 11, 2015, as the third (and final) Camp-at-Large in Arizona, it meets during the months of January, April, July, and October at various northern Arizona locations. Contact **Commander Richard Stephens** (928) 772-1320; r@almsysinc.com or **Secretary/Treasurer dale enlow** (928) 715-5109; dale_enlow@hotmail.com

Past Camp Commanders:

- David A. Swanson 2015-2017
- Mark J. Haynes 2017-2019
- Dale E. Enlow 2019-2021
- William C. Smith 2021-2022
- Timothy D. Prater 2022-2023



Opening:

A meeting of General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at Taverna Moderna Restaurant, Flagstaff, AZ. in person AND virtually via Zoom. The official business meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Camp Commander Richard Stephens. Secretary / Treasurer / Historian, dale enlow called the roll of Camp Officers with nine Officers reporting present. Commander Stephens welcomed Brothers and guests: Ten (10) total Brothers (5 via Zoom) were present, fulfilling a quorum. Brothers In attendance: S/T & Historian dale enlow PCC, Council Member / Memorials Officer Avery Frantz, Patriotic Instructor Jim Heller PDC (Zoom), Sr. Vice Commander Joe Hogan (zoom), new dual member and Past Department Commander Ken Hooker, Chaplain David McKee, Guard David Moore (Zoom), Past Department Commander / Council Member Tim Prater, Commander Richard Stephens, Past Camp Commander William Smith. The Commander and Brothers present stated the principles of our Order and Camp Chaplain David McKee invoked the Devine Blessing. The assembled Brothers and guests offered the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with recitation of the Americans Creed.

Chaplain: Chaplain McKee advised that he has created an opportunity for Brothers attending the meeting to submit prayer requests. Ill Brothers included Avery Frantz, Tim Prater, and David Moore. He then* announced the birthdays (Apr-May-Jun) Robert Boyd (4/11), Gregg Hecathorn (4/8), Jim Heller (6/27), Joseph Hogan (4/7), Daniel Mason (5/5), Hal Reniger (6/12), John Ruggles (4/8), Paul Sangster (6/14), Lynn Scott (6/21), David Swanson (6/28), John Thorne (5/7), David Williamson (4/29) and recently departed Brother Jerry Bloom (6/26) **Happy Birthday, Brothers!**

Commander: CC Stephens advised that the minutes of the October Camp meeting had been distributed to all Brothers and no additions or corrections had been received. A motion to approve as distributed was seconded and passed.

Treasurer:Treasurer's Report: the 2026 1st Quarter report has been completed and approved by the Camp Council and Commander. Current checking account balance was reported. JROTC Scholarship / General Funds were reported. Camp merchandise sales netted \$66.93. Camp membership now stands at 38 total members / 34 Primary. (a loss of 7 due to non-renewal General Discharges)

Reading and disposing of orders: S/T Enlow advised there were no National General Orders, 3 Special Orders, 2 Special Messages, and 6 Department Orders issued since our last meeting. A brief summary of each was given. All orders/messages have been forwarded to the membership.

Commander:

New Dual Member Welcome –Kenneth Hooker
PDC and Dept. Newsletter Editor
He was issued his membership card and Camp name tag indicating his qualifying ancestor as: Pvt. Edson Hooker, Co. F, 1st Regt. NY Cav and his supplemental ancestor as: Pvt. George C. Moore, Co A, 9th NY Heavy Artillery. **Welcome Brother Hooker!**

New members:

none

Old Business:

Last Union Veteran marker Mohave County, AZ has been installed on the headstone of Pvt Henry Leffler, Co G, 12th WI Inf. The ceremony will be held May 9th at 10am at Mountain View Cemetery in Kingman, AZ and combined with a new headstone dedication for Corp. Francis Farley, Co E, 19th IA Infantry. We are still working on the Last Union Soldier buried in Apache County (which should complete our northern Arizona Counties)
PDC Prater advised 2 new Eagle Scouts have been honored since the last meeting
S/T, historian enlow advised no progress on creating the “throwback” GAR style Camp portrait collage and still needs head and shoulders photos of Brothers wearing their SUVCW medals and period headgear.



Private Leffler



Corporal Fraley

USG3 Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on July 18, 2026 at Augie’s Restaurant, Prescott AZ, 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45.

Encampment report:

-Commander Stephens reported on the recent 10th Annual Department Encampment held in Tucson, AZ. We were honored to have SUVCW Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Tucker attend as the installing officer. He gave an inspiring address calling on all Brothers to continue the struggle to preserve our Union!
-Brother Mark Clark was elected as our new Department Commander
-Paperwork was completed and signed to begin the organization of the Col. Albert J. Fountain Camp No. 4, in southern New Mexico!
-Our own Brother Guard, David Moore was awarded the 1st Annual Pvt. Geo. Johnson / Pvt. Wm. Leonard Award. Huzzah!!
-Our newest member PDC Ken Hooker was awarded the 2nd annual Lt. Barret Award!!
-The Silent Auction raised over \$400 and sales of the beautiful 10th annual Department medal added even more to the Department’s Memorial Fund.

New Business:

2026 ROTC/JROTC Certificates are being distributed. We hope the issues with late deliveries will soon be eliminated with the naming of a new National Coordinator (Roger Leturno)
-2026 Memorial / Decoration Day May 25th
-Brother Prater will attend the Prescott City Council meeting advocating for a Memorial Day proclamation.
-Gettysburg Address presentations:
PDC Tim Prater @ Prescott Citizens’ Cemetery
PCC Dale Enlow @ Prescott National Cemetery
PDC David Swanson @ AZ Veterans Memorial Cem. At Camp Navaho
-2026 National Encampment, Gettysburg, PA 7/30-8/02
-Illinois grave marker dedication
Commander Stephens is traveling to the midwest to conduct a ceremony for his g-g-gfather, William Smith. They expect around 25 descendants to attend!
-The Williams Patriot Day Parade is scheduled for September 12th
-A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed requesting the Camp to submit a letter to the AZ State Board on Geographic and Historic Names, in support of naming a wash in the Phoenix area after deceased SUVCW Brother David Turner (grandfather of Brother Avery Frantz)

New Business (cont):

-Discussion on implementing the Gerald N. Bloom Honoring the Defenders of the Union program, a program to place GAR flagholders on Union Veteran graves within the Department
-Department Order 2026-27 No. 03

Encourage donations to the program and surveys of northern AZ cemeteries.

National Graves Registration Database indicates Union burials:

- 23 Mohave County
- 146 Yavapai County
- 34 Coconino County
- 7 Navajo County
- 12 Apache County

ROTC/JROTC:

-2026 ROTC/JROTC Certificates are being distributed. We hope the issues with late deliveries will soon be eliminated with the naming of a new National Coordinator (Roger Leturno)

2026 Marion Prater JROTC Scholarships
Our Scholarship Committee has selected this years' recipients:

- Kaille Moorhouse, Prescott HS \$1000
- Felise Concha, Hopi HS \$500
- Nieves Laloo, Hopi HS \$500

CONGRATULATIONS, Cadets!!

Cadet Moorhouse



Cadet Concha



Cadet Laloo



“Good of the Order” comments and discussion:

-Past Department Commander Hooker appealed for volunteers to assist him in the production of the Department Newsletter

-Announcement of a headstone dedication ceremony to be held May 30th at the Liberty Cemetery, Goodyear, AZ

Presentation: Brother enlow gave a presentation about Poet / General William Lytle and his birthday premonition.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on July 18, 2026 at Augie’s Restaurant, AZ, 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45.

Closing: Chaplain McKee then delivered the closing prayer and closed the Bible.



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST

Last Union Veteran of Mohave County:

-The U. S Grant Camp #3 held a Last Union Veteran Ceremony and Headstone Dedication in Kingman on May 9, 2026. These important rituals were done in collaboration with Company G, 1st CA Inf. The Last Veteran Ceremony honored Pvt. Henry Leffler, Co. K, 39th WI Inf. who died on July 15, 1931 and the Headstone Dedication was at the grave of Corp. Francis Farley, Co E 19th IA Inf. who died on November 9, 1916. Corp. Farley's grave had been with a marker since 1917. Present were Department Commander and 1st Sgt, Co. G, 1st CA Inf. W. Mark Clark and his Wife Stacy, Grant Camp Commander/DSW SVC and Corp. Co. G, 1st CA Inf. Rick Stephens, DSW Patriotic Instruction and Co.G 1st CA Inf. Private David Moore, Dale Enlow, PCC, Grant Camp Secretary/Treasurer and David McKee Grant Camp Chaplain. The ceremonies took place at the Mountain View Cemetery, Kingman, Arizona. (Photos below)



Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. Camps in Arizona & New Mexico

1886

Grant Camp No. 1 (Flagstaff)

1891

Phil Sheridan Camp No. 2 (Phoenix)

1901

R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 11 (Tucson)

1909

Kit Carson Camp No. 1 (Albuquerque)



SONS OF VETERANS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Brother Rick Stephens, CC attended a headstone dedication for Pvt William Francis ("Frank") Smith, 112th Regiment, Co. C, IL Infantry.

Private Smith was Commander Stephens' GG Grandfather whose headstone was broken last year. He took it upon myself to get the headstone replaced and on April 18, 2026, the headstone replacement ceremony occurred at Red Oak Cemetery, Cambridge, IL.

With Brother Rick in the picture are Brothers from the Department of Illinois. IL Department Commander Michael Zafran (opposite me with the 2-star general outfit) was of tremendous help in organizing his "troops" for this ceremony. The Kewanee Veterans Council provided a 21-gun salute and TAPS.

NEWS FROM Company G, Sons of Veterans Reserve, text by W. Mark Clark, First Sergeant

The Department of the Southwest is one of the newest Departments in the SUVCW. Since its founding in 2015, establishing an SVR unit has been a goal. This past Fall, a serious effort was begun when Dr. Wayne Eder, PCC, the 6 th Military District Commander asked Department SVC W. Mark Clark, PCC to begin recruiting brothers for a unit. Commander Eder had secured seed funding which greatly assisted in this effort.

As a long-time Civil War living historian, I was pleased to undertake the challenge. Over the Fall, through emails, Zoom and phone calls and attendance at Camp meetings, and with the support of Department and Camp officers, the effort proved fruitful. Commander Eder's goal of 11 enlisted men was exceeded and Company G, First California Infantry Volunteers, SVR was stood up on January 1, 2026.

I will serve as its initial First Sergeant. The Company's two Corporals will be Department Commander Todd Hoffay and Department JVC Richard Stephens, CC.

Considering the choice of Company G, 1 st CA Inf. as the unit to memorialize was an easy decision. The California Column had passed through Tucson as it pushed Sherod Hunter's Confederates out of the area. It then established the Post at Tucson. While Company G was not in the lead, one of its Sergeants, George O. Hand, left his diary, which has been published as *The Civil War in Apacheland* (Neil B. Carmony, ed. High-Lonesome Books, Silver City, 1996).

Following the mustering out of the Company at Ft. Craig, NMT on August 31, 1864, Sgt. Hand returned to Tucson where he lived out his life as a bartender and saloon owner and the janitor of the Pima County Courthouse. He also left a highly regarded map of the town. He died in Tucson in 1887 and is buried in the GAR plot of Tucson's Evergreen Cemetery where the brothers of the Gen. RHG Minty Camp #2 decorate his grave (and all the other graves in the plot) every Memorial Day. Having Sgt. Hand's diary allows us special insight into the life of soldiers in the New Mexico Territory. The Company will undertake its first official actions at the upcoming Department Encampment on March 28 th in Tucson, serving as the Color Guard. It will also participate in a Flag raising at old Ft . Lowell, an Indian Wars post from 1873 to 1891.

The flagpole is in front of the adobe remnants of the post hospital, one of the physicians who served there was Walter Reed who played a key role in the control of Yellow Fever. I am excited at the new initiative in the Department of the Southwest. I believe the establishment of Company G will provide the Department with a strong vehicle to pursue with vigor, Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker's key goals of Reinforcing Fraternity and Fellowship, Growing and Retaining Membership and Promoting Public Awareness and Outreach.



Sgt Hand



Flag raising at old Ft Lowell

J/ROTC award presentations from the Department of the Southwest



Tristyn Krolak Deer Valley HS



Carlos Smith Vista Grande HS



Pedro Mendoza Sahuarito HS



Rudy Fragoso, Skyline HS



Trestyn McNeish Red Mountain HS



Dixon Williamsson Westwood HS



Axel Perez Alhambra HS



Baraka Mtajiri Cortez HS

J/ROTC award presentations from the Department of the Southwest (cont)



Fernado Linares Thunderbird HS



Ryan Oliver Cactus HS

Congratulations to all the deserving Cadets who received awards! Outstanding young men and women of our communities across Arizona. This is a very important function of our Department and a great way to give back a little to the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow!

Also **very special thanks** to our presenters, Brothers and Sisters of the order, including Dan Husskisson, David Kampf, Scott Martorano, Dennis DeAtley, Mark Clark PCC, and Sisters Verna Maleski PNP and Maura Mackowski. Great Work Brothers and Sisters!!!

More Around the DSW!

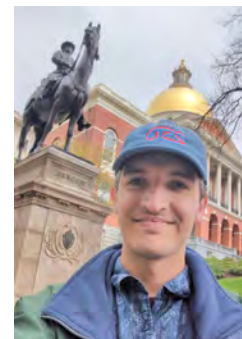


(Top L) Brothers Martorano and Heller PDC presented the Sons of the American Revolution, Saguaro Chapter President Dave Huyck with the SUVCW Good Citizen Award for their numerous activities associated with the 250 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Additionally, as detailed in Department Order 04 (2026-2027) Scott covered the activities of the Department of the Southwest for the group and presented a 10th anniversary badge



(L) Brothers Booth CC and Hoffay DC installed stakes for the GAR markers at Pioneer Cemetery in March 2026

(R) Brother Tanner Guske visited Boston recently. On hot tip from yours truly, he went to see the statue of **General Joseph Hooker!** Huzzah Brother Tanner!



Department of the Southwest— Officers 2026-2027

Past Department Commanders

John R. Conrad 2016-2017
David A. Swanson 2017-2018
Robert D. McCord 2018-2019
Gerald N. Bloom 2019-2020
James M. Heller, 2020-2021
John R. Conrad 2021-2022
Robert D. McCord 2022-2023
Kenneth J. Hooker 2023-2024
Timothy D Prater 2024-2025
Todd T. Hoffay 2025-2026



Commander:

W. Mark Clark
y @ctnerntnB i o ckt@qo



Senior Vice-Commander:

Tkj ctf 'C0Ugr j gpu'EE
tB cm u{ ukpe@qo

Color Bearer: TBD

Scott P. Bouchard, CC
sbstang@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Ueqw'V"

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ueqwo ctvqcpqB i o ckt@qo

Department Council:

John W. Lyons, dale e. enlow,
PCC. "Kenneth P. Bus"

Chaplain: O ctm'LOJ c{pgu."

REE j c{pgu; B htqpkgtpgv

Patriotic Instructor: F cxkf "

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Graves Registration Officer

Tqpcrf 'J {gt
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Historian: Ueqw'V'O ctvqcpq

ueqwo ctvqcpqB i o ckt@qo

GAR Records Officer:

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Civil War Memorials Officer TDB

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Timothy D

Prater PDC
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Counselor:

Robert D. McCord, PDC
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ROTC/JROTC Coordinator/Guide:

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Color Bearer: TBD

Signals Officer:

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Todd T. Hoffay, PDC
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Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Kenneth J Hooker PDC
editor.suvcw.dsw@gmail.com





SUVCW BROTHERS: Did you serve in the 3rd Infantry Division, US Army?

I served in the 2/15th Inf, 3rd Inf Div (Mech), in West Germany in the early 1970s. The 15th Infantry Regiment dates to the start of the Civil War, created in the Regular Army in 1861.

If you were ever assigned or attached to any element of the 3rd Inf Div, we invite you to join the Society of the Third Infantry Division!

I serve on the national executive committee and am Editor of the Society's magazine, "The Watch on the Rhine." We are always recruiting!

You will find that some of the goals and purposes of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division overlap, as both are Congressionally chartered legacy organizations committed to the preservation of the memories of U.S Soldiers who served the Republic, to include those who sacrificed their lives in combat. Both organizations are intentional about promoting patriotism and service to our Nation. There are even opportunities to represent both organizations together at appropriate times.

Join us in the Society at www.society3rdid.org, or contact me for information. We want to welcome fellow SUVCW Brothers and Dogfaces to our ranks in the Society of the Third Infantry Division!



Bill Blissett

**General R.H.G. Minty Camp No.2 (Tucson), Department of the Southwest
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Email wgbusaret@aol.com Tel. (520) 982-6830

10950 N. La Cañada Dr., #10206, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-5949

C-in-C Tucker's address to the Dept of the SOUTHWEST ENCAMPMENT March 2026

OPENING

Commander Hoffay, officers, Brothers, family, friends, and honored guests, I thank you for your gracious welcome, and for the bond of fraternity that unites us in this place. It is a profound honor to stand before you here in Tucson—a city whose roots reach deep into the earliest chapters of the American Southwest—and to address this Encampment. We gather not only in fellowship, but in purpose.

A REPUBLIC PRESERVED—A DUTY INHERITED

There are moments in the life of a nation when its future hangs by a thread, when the accumulated hopes of generations stand in peril of being lost. Such a moment came in the spring of 1865. In a quiet Virginia village, amid fields worn by war and men weary beyond words, the great conflict that had torn this nation asunder reached its conclusion. At Appomattox Court House, a war that had tested the very survival of the Republic came to its end. The armies ceased their struggle. The guns fell silent. And the Union endured. But let us understand this clearly: the preservation of the Union was not the end of a story. It was the beginning of a responsibility.

A WAR THAT REACHED EVEN HERE

Yet we do this history a disservice if we confine it to the well-known fields of the East. Because the Civil War was not bounded by rivers or ridgelines—it stretched across a continent. It reached into lands like this: into deserts, where the sun bears down without mercy; into mountain passes, where silence carries weight; into distant outposts, where the flag of the United States stood alone. Here, in the Southwest, the struggle for the Union took on a different form, but it was no less decisive.

THE CONFEDERATE REACH INTO ARIZONA

The Confederacy cast its gaze westward, seeking not only independence, but expansion—toward the Pacific, toward vital routes, toward this vast and strategic land. In 1862, that ambition reached this very place. Confederate forces entered Tucson, raising their standard in this desert settlement, near the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson. For a brief and uncertain moment, the authority of the United States was pushed aside—not in theory, but here, on this ground.

THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN

But the Union answered. From California came a column of soldiers whose march remains one of the great feats of endurance of the war. They crossed deserts, endured heat that

pressed the strength from the body, followed the fragile lifeline of the Butterfield Overland Mail route. At Apache Pass near Fort Bowie, they fought for water, for passage, for the right to continue forward. And forward they went, mile by mile, step by step, until the Union returned to Arizona. Tucson was reclaimed. The Confederate presence disappeared. And the flag of the United States rose again over this desert.

THE FRONTIER SOLDIER

This was not the war of great formations and grand charges. Here, the war was carried in endurance: in lonely posts, in long patrols, in the quiet determination of soldiers who knew that even unseen service could decide the fate of a nation. They held the line—not for recognition, but for the Union. Their service was no less essential. For a nation is preserved not only by great victories, but by faithful service, wherever it is required.

WHAT THEY ENTRUSTED TO US

What did they leave behind? Not merely a reunited country. Not merely a restored flag. They left a trust, a charge, a responsibility—to ensure that what they preserved would not be forgotten and would not be taken for granted.

A NATION WORTHY OF THEIR SACRIFICE

From their sacrifice came transformation. Slavery was abolished. Citizenship defined. The promise of the Declaration of Independence brought closer to reality. But those achievements were not self-sustaining. They required remembrance. They required vigilance. They required citizens willing to carry forward the meaning of the Union.

ARIZONA'S PLACE

And because the Union endured, this land endured within it. From the Presidio to the mail routes to the forts that marked the advance of the nation, Arizona's story unfolded within a preserved Republic. The flag that flies over Tucson today does so because others carried it here and refused to let it fall.

THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

We now approach a great milestone in the life of our nation. This year, the United States marks two hundred and fifty years since its founding. That anniversary will invite reflection. But reflection alone is not enough. For the question before us is not only what the nation has been, but what we will do with what we have inherited. Our nation's founding declared a promise. The Civil War tested it. And the Union ensured it would endure.

THE CALL

History calls. It calls across time, across distance, across generations. And today, it calls to us. Brothers, memory is not passive. It is not the quiet keeping of names and dates. It is an active duty—to speak, to teach, to remind, to ensure that the meaning of the Union remains alive in every generation.

FINAL CHARGE

The soldiers and sailors of the Union preserved this Republic when its future was uncertain. They chose duty over comfort, sacrifice over safety, country over self. They carried forward the promise of 1776 when it was in jeopardy. And when their work was done, they entrusted that legacy to those who would come after them. The Grand Army of the Republic once bore that responsibility. Now, it rests with us. As Commander-in-Chief, I am mindful: we are not merely heirs to their legacy. We are guardians of it. We are stewards of a sacred trust. We are the voice of Union soldiers and sailors in our own time. And if we do not carry that voice forward, it will fade. But if we do our duty, it will endure. Let us prove worthy of that charge.

PRESENT DUTY

And, Brothers, as we carry forward their memory, as we honor the past, we should not forget those who serve today. Today, American servicemen and women are serving in faraway lands not unlike this one, fighting, sacrificing, placing themselves in harm's way on our behalf. They serve under the same flag—a flag preserved by those we remember here today, for the same enduring principles. Let us remember them, support them, and pray for their safe return home.

CLOSING

In Fraternity. In Charity. In Loyalty. And here, in this desert where the Union once returned and held, let us resolve that we will carry forward the memory, the meaning, and the unfinished work of the soldiers and sailors of the Union, so that what they preserved shall endure—not only in history, but in us. Forward, Brothers!!!— always, forward—in the sacred work of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.