



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

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suvcw-southwest.org

Department News

Department of the Southwest 9th Annual Encampment



SUVCW JVC Daniel Murray congratulates Dept
Commander Todd T Hoffay

The 9th Annual DSW Encampment was held on March 29, 2025 at the Phoenix/Tempe Doubletree Hotel, Tempe, AZ. The night prior, there was a “campfire” session at the Hotel Lounge.

Special guests included SUVCW National Junior Vice Commander Daniel Murray and DUVCW Past National President, Verna Maleski.

Honored guests included: Sisters of Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1 and Margaret Warner Wood Tent No.1, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Highlights: The DSW conducted a memorial ceremony for our fallen brothers, held officer reports, presented awards, and proceeded with the election and installation of new officers for the 2025-2026 term.

After the encampment, a beautiful grave dedication ceremony and GAR marker placement were held at Tempe’s Double Butte Cemetery for Union Soldier Jared Ryker.

Three Major awards were presented, including the first Lieutenant James Barrett Superior Performance Award to Brother John Lyons and the Dwight L. Moody Chaplain Award to Brother James Heller, PDC also the Call of Duty Award presented to Dale Enlow for his decade of service as Department Secretary and Treasurer. Great job Brothers!



DC Hoffay and PDC Prater



Officers of the Department of the SW- 2025



PDC Hooker and PDC Prater award PDC/Chaplain
Heller (c) with the Dwight L. Moody Chaplain Award



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 15, 2025, Camp Meeting Minutes

Location:

Scottsdale City Library—Mustang room
10101 No. 90th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona

Attendance: Brothers in attendance:

Todd T Hoffay, SVC, PCC, Robert Cox JVC, Scott Martorano ST, James Heller, PDC, PCC, Chaplain, Ken Hooker PDC PCC, Jeff Burgess PCC, David Swanson, PDC, Dan Huskisson, Guide, J/ROTC coord, Chuck Stuller, David Kampf. Guests: Ginny Smith DUVCW, Wendy Hays, Frank Schinzel, Al Wendt, Carmen Wendt, Tent President, DUVCW.

Opening: Commander Booth being absent, Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Hoffay 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 led by SVC Hoffay.

Call to order: SVC Hoffay welcomed Brothers, Sisters and guests to the meeting. SVC Hoffay led the rituals of Principles, Chaplain Heller gave the Divine Blessing, SVC Hoffay the American's Creed and the

Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by SVC Hoffay.

S/T report:

ST Martorano reported that a total of 10 Brothers were present meeting the quorum requirement of 6. He then made a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes from our November meeting as they have been published in the Dept Newsletter. The motion received a second and was approved.

Secretary's report: ST Martorano reported that the Camp currently has 59 members (57 Regular, 2 Associates). 7 of our members are Life Members. As of this meeting 52 members in good standing and 7 members are not in good standing due to delinquent dues payments. Brother Hooker offered to assist ST Martorano with final contact efforts before issuing drop letters to the said members. ST Martorano further reported that the Camp welcomed one new member, Brother Kenneth P. Bus. Unfortunately, Brother Bus is ill, and we'll have to postpone his induction into the Camp. Additionally, since our last meeting Brother Hoffay has had one supplemental ancestor approved and Brother Martorano has had four supplemental ancestors approved. ST Martorano discussed his recent letter/announcement to the Camp regarding the new continuous membership awards / certificates. This is a Camp level award that is separate from the service pins typically presented by the Department. ST Martorano is preparing these certificates, and they will be presented throughout the year at a meeting, if possible, but will be mailing some as well for those who cannot make the meetings. Reiterating an announcement from the National SUVCW regarding "The Banner" magazine, ST Martorano stated that the printing company that handles our Banner has informed national that they recently had an equipment failure, and the production of our Winter Banner will be delayed.

Treasurers Report: ST Martorano was pleased to report that the Camp finances remain strong, and the current balance of our checking account is \$4,739.18. However, ST Martorano did emphasize that the current level of cash will drop in the spring when we pay our per capita dues to the department and national.

Other Officer Reports: Senior Vice Commander Hoffay (SVC): SVC Hoffay provided an overview of all the activities the Camp had recently participated in including the Phoenix Pearl Harbor Ceremony, the

Scottsdale Parada Del Sol, and the Massing of the Colors event. Picacho Peak Camp 1 was honored to attend the Phoenix Pearl Harbor Ceremony with the Department of the Southwest Commander, Timothy Prater and the National SUCVW Commander-in-Chief, Kevin L. Martin and his wife Rosemary Martin.

With the assistance of Brother Hooker, SVC Hoffay discussed the upcoming Department of the Southwest Encampment that is being held on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe, AZ. The Camp was reminded that PPC1 is hosting the event and that members' attendance is encouraged. Various details and agenda items were discussed.

Junior Vice Commander:

JVC Cox reported on the new member recruitment activities since assuming the office in November 2024, which have included successful recruitment of one new member, outreach activities with the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable organization and the encouragement of guest attendance at the Camp Meetings.

Brother Cox also donated a postage stamp collection honoring the Civil War to be used on the Camp displays during its membership recruitment activities.

JROTC Coordinator Huskisson:

Brother Huskisson provided an overview of the 2025 JROTC awards process and expressed some frustration with changes made to the process at the National SUCVW and the local school coordinators. The first award is scheduled to be presented on March 20th, and Brother Huskisson is hopeful the issues with the program will be worked out to ensure the same level of success the Camp has had in the past.

Old Business: none

New Business: -Given the strength of the Camp finances ST Martorano made a motion to provide (2) one-hundred-dollar awards annually to worthy JROTC cadets at the discretion of the JROTC Coordinator. This motion was previously approved by the Camp Council in November 2024. The motion received a second and was unanimously approved by the membership.

-The Camp further discussed the upcoming Department of the Southwest Encampment. SVC Hoffay solicited volunteers for Camp Delegates. Brothers' Cox, Huskisson and

Martorano voiced their desire to fill this role. SVC Hoffay made a motion to designate Brothers Cox, Huskisson and Martorano as Camp delegates to the Department Encampment. The motion received a second and was unanimously approved by the membership.

Brother Hooker further made a motion that the Camp membership be approved to serve as alternative delegates at the department encampment. The motion received a second and was unanimously approved by the membership. PPC1 automatic delegates will include Kenneth Hooker PCC PDC, Jeffrey Burgess PCC, Todd Hoffay PCC, David Swanson PCC PDC, James Heller PCC PDC. Other PPC1 Members not in attendance at this meeting may also be attending the encampment and qualify as an automatic delegate.

-On behalf of DSW Commander Timothy Prater, SVC Hoffay solicited a volunteer from the Camp to serve as a member of the 2025 Department Council. Brother Robert Cox announced his willingness to serve in the role upon election at the Department Encampment.

-ST Martorano discussed Departmental Order 05 (Series 2024-2025) that established the Union Veteran William Green Remembrance Committee (UVWGRC). ST Martorano discussed the project background and goals. ST Martorano followed with a motion to establish a Camp Memorial Fund for the sole purpose of financially supporting the Camp's Union Veteran memorial activities and gravestone dedication expenses. The Motion received a second and was unanimously approved by the membership. Generous brothers in attendance immediately contributed \$140.00 dollars to the fund.

Awards and certificates:

-Carmen Wendt, DUVCW- presented Brother Kenneth Hooker PCC PDC, with the Joshua Chamberlin Medal for his continuous and outstanding support of the DUVCW Margaret Warner Wood Detached Tent #1 (below).



War Service / Military Service medals and certificates:

Brother Daniel K. Huskisson – Military Service medal
Brother David Kampf- War Service medal

War Service / Military Service Certificates – medals previously awarded

Brother Robert L. Cox – Military Service medal
Brother Todd T. Hoffay, PCC – Military Service medal
Brother Scott T. Martorano – War Service medal



(L-R) JVC Bob Cox, Dan Huskisson, David Kampf, PCC Todd Hoffay. Thanks for your service, Brothers!

Elected Officer Certificate 2024

Brother Todd T. Hoffay, PCC – 2 certificates, Commander & Patriotic Instructor
Brother Kenneth J Hooker, PCC, PDC – 2 certificates, Senior Vice Commander & Camp Council
Brother Scott T. Martorano – Secretary / Treasurer
Brother James M. Heller - PCC, PDC- Chaplain
Brother David A. Swanson - PCC, PDC- Historian
Brother Daniel K. Huskisson- Guide / JROTC Coordinator
Brother Jeffrey D. Burgess, PCC – Camp Council
Brother Robert L. Cox – Camp Council
Brother Michael R. Booth- Junior Vice Commander

Continuous Membership Award

Brother James M Heller, PCC PDC- 25 year (to be presented at the Department Encampment)
Brother David A. Swanson, PCC, PDC- 25 year (to be presented at the Department Encampment)
Brother David Kampf- 25 year
Brother Daniel K Huskisson – 25 year

Brother John E. Oakley – 25 year (certificate mailed)
Brother Vernon McDannald – 25 year (certificate mailed)
Brother Barre L. Shepp Sr. – 25 year (Certificate mailed)

Past Camp Commander Plaque



PDC Hooker and PCC Todd T. Hoffay

Supplemental Ancestor Certificate

Brother Todd T. Hoffay – 1 ancestor
Scott T Martorano – 4 ancestors



Congrats to all Camp Brothers who received awards!

Presentations: Two brothers conducted outstanding presentations. SVC Hoffay presentation covered the difference between the musket ball and the “Minnie” ball used during the Civil War. The origins, ballistics and use of each were covered with the use of visual examples and artifacts. This topic opened a lively conversation and was well received by the membership.

Brother Jeffrey Burgess conducted a second presentation on the Union Civil War Casualties in Arizona. The presentation included an overview of the various engagements, locations and participants. As a highlight to the presentation Brother Burgess discussed his recent trip to the San Francisco Area and his visit to the National Cemetery at the Presidio. Brother Burgess was able to locate the graves of Pvt. Johnson and Pvt. Leonard, both casualties of the Battle of Picacho Pass.

Closing—There being no further business Chaplain Heller asked the blessing of God on our deliberations. SVC Hoffay brought the meeting to a close until our next meeting May 17, 2025, at Mustang Library
(Note: These minutes are not official until approved at the next camp meeting.)

PPC1 Next Meeting

Our meeting on May 17th, 2025, will be held from **12:30 PM to 3:00 PM**. The location will be the Mustang Library 10101 N. 90th Street Scottsdale, AZ 85258. Please note that the meeting start time is one hour later than the usual 11:30 AM start time.



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 E 22nd Street Tucson AZ. Contact: **Commander Robert McCord** phone (520) 982-5057; email: rdmcii@aol.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



April 19, 2025, Camp Meeting Minutes

Location: Golden Corral 4380 E 22nd Street Tucson AZ
Saturday April 19, 2025, 1030 – 12:30

Attendance:

Robert D. McCord PDC, CC
Scott P. Bouchard SVC
John W. Lyons S/T
W. Mark Clark Chaplain
Dennis P. Harvey, Guard
Bill Sims Camp Council
Guests:
Shaunna Bouchard
Stacy Clark
Laura McCord
No Zoom

Opening:

(Chaplain's Blessing, American's Creed, Pledge of Allegiance) Meeting began at 10:30

Approval of previous Camp minutes: approval of 11 January 2025 Minutes. The Minutes were distributed via email on 18 April 2025 to all Brothers. Motion to approve and seconded.

Reading and approval of Treasurer's report: All Brothers received the report via email on 18 April 2025.

National General Orders:

A synopsis of the C in C General Orders was sent to all Brothers via email on 18 April 2025.

Report of Brothers/Families in distress: Bill Sims said that Brother William Sisco was in the hospital.

Committee Report: Committees: JROTC two medals have been scheduled for presentation. Evergreen Cemetery for Plaque. No report.

Unfinished Business: Placing flags at the GAR plot. We will be meeting at the plot on 23 May 2025 at 0800 to place flags. We did an Eagle Scout presentation and JROTC Medal.

Presentation: Commander McCord gave a very interesting presentation on how medals are worn properly. He also had keen knowledge on medals from the time of the GAR.

New Business: The Tucson Estates parade is on 26 May 2025 at 0800. We are looking for a good turnout so we can have a flag in the parade. Brother Clark did the registration. We have six people who need name badges. We took a vote to see who would be interested in the SVR, only two people voted for it. It was Tabled for another date. Looking for speakers for our meetings.

Closing: Chaplain's Benediction, Closing Charge adjournment at 12:30 PM.

Next Meeting The next meeting is 12 July 2025 at 1030 at the Golden Corral on Thornydale Road in Marana.

(Note: These minutes are not official until approved at the next camp meeting.)

RHGM2 Next Meeting

The Camp will meet at Golden Corral 6865 N Thornydale Rd Tucson AZ on July 12, 2025, at 10:30 AM.



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



General U.S. Grant Camp No. 3, April 10, 2025 meeting minutes

Call to Order by Commander Rick

Stephens: meeting of General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at the Taverna 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 and Secretary / Treasurer dale enlow called the roll of Camp Officers with seven Officers reporting present. Commander Stephens welcomed guests: Linda McKee, Pat Horton, Brigid, Vincent & Jeff Enlow plus Joe Hogan. Joel Johnstone (NBM for initiation), Robert Jones (new Camp member transfer), Bill Blissett (General RHG Minty Camp), John Conrad PDC & Department Commander Todd Hoffay joined the Zoom. 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. Thirteen (13) total SUVCW Brothers (10 USG3 Camp members) were present, fulfilling a quorum.

Brothers In attendance: Eagle Scout Co-Ordinator and Past Department Commander Tim Prater, Chaplain David McKee, Council member John Horton, S/T & Historian dale enlow PCC,

JVC Lynn Scott (zoom), Dick Melick, David Moore, Department Commander Todd Hoffay (zoom), Commander

Richard Stephens, Past Department Commander John Conrad, new members Joe Hogan. Joel Johnstone, and Robert Jones.

Chaplain McKee advised that PDC David Swanson' wife, Jan was undergoing surgery and offered prayers for her swift and complete recovery.

Chaplain McKee then announced the April, May, June birthdays: Gerald Bloom (6/26), Robert Boyd (4/11), Gregg Hecathorn (4/8), Jim Heller (6/27), Joseph Hogan (4/7), Daniel Mason (5/5), Hal Reniger (6/12), Zachary Reniger (5/23), John Ruggles (4/8), Paul Sangster (6/14), Lynn Scott

(6/21), David Swanson (6/28), John Thorne (5/7), David Williamson (4/29). Happy Birthday, Brothers!

Secretary's Report: S/T Enlow advised that the minutes of the January 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's Report: the 2025 1st Quarter report are being reviewed by Camp Council and Commander Stephens. Checking account balance and the JROTC Scholarship Fund totals were reported. Camp membership now stands at 44 total members / 39 Primary.

General Orders: S/T Enlow advised there were 6 National General Orders, 1 National Special message, 2 Department Orders, and no Camp Orders issued since our last meeting. All orders have been forwarded to the membership. A summary of each was given.

Commander: New Member Initiations

Joseph Hogan and Joel C. Johnstone, NBMs Hogan and Johnstone were initiated into the Camp and presented a member's badges, name tags, rosettes, members certificates, and membership cards. Brother Hogan's qualifying ancestor was Cpl. Benjamin I Noe, Co F, 47th KY Vol. Mounted Inf. Brother Johnstone's qualifying ancestor was Cpl. James L. Howie, Co

K, 141st PA Vol Inf. Brother Jones was welcomed as a transfer into our Camp from the Department of IL and his qualifying ancestor was Pvt. John H. Dunn, Co E, 35th IA Infantry. Welcome Brothers!



Officer Reports: PDC Prater gave a summary of the recent 9th annual Department of the Southwest Encampment held on March 29th in Tempe, AZ.

Good turnout of 55 Brothers, Sisters, and guests.

Brother James Heller was recognized for his exceptional work as Chaplain.

1st ever Lt. Barrett, Department of SW

Brother of the year was awarded to John Lyons, S/T of General RHG Minty Camp No.2, Tucson, AZ

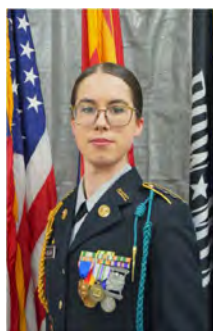
Old Business: Still working on Last Union Veteran markers for Mojave, Navajo, and Apache Counties, Brother Horton has been working with the cemeteries in Winslow for marker placement. We are looking to schedule the ceremony for either May 3rd or 17th. Commander Stephens advised that the project to secure and install a headstone and GAR marker on the unmarked pauper's grave of Pvt. William Green. Pvt. Green was murdered in 1920 while being robbed of his meager pension check.

All Camps are donating toward the marker installation costs of \$1k+.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Grant Camp to donate \$250.

New Business:

PDC Prater announced the 2025 recipients of the Marion Prater Memorial JROTC Scholarship: \$1k to Brigid Enlow, (grand niece of S/T dale enlow below, left) of Coconino High School JROTC



\$1k to Payton Tachenne of Hopi Jr/Sr High School Army JROTC (above, right)



(L-R) CC Stephens, Brigid Enlow, Her Father Vincent Enlow, Grandfather Jeffrey Enlow, PDC Prater. Vincent and Jeffrey are proud USN Veterans!

Brothers Prater and Melick advised we are getting more involved with the Eagle Scout recognition program. With 9 presentations this year.

We have 2 members on the Eagle Scout Council (Stephens/Prater)

Several ROTC/JROTC awards ceremonies are scheduled across northern Arizona and New Mexico. Volunteers are needed to represent the SUVCW and to present our certificates and medals

2025 Memorial Day activities

We will participate in a pre-cleanup and flag installation at Prescott Citizens' Cemetery

The Gettysburg Address will be recited by Camp Brothers during the ceremonies at:

- Camp Navaho Veterans Cemetery
- Prescott Citizens Cemetery
- Prescott National Veterans Cemetery

Brother Lynn Scott JVC offered a motion that the US Grant Camp make a donation to the Tunnels to

Towers Foundation (501c3) T2T is involved in several activities in support of Veterans and Gold Star families

The motion was seconded and passed to make a donation for 2025 of \$132 (\$11 per month)

Brother David Moore asked Brigid Enlow to draw the winner for the 50/50 raffle. (\$67)

PDC/ PCC Tim Prater had the winning ticket.

He immediately transferred his \$33 winnings to Cadet Brigid Enlow

Presentation:

Brother William Blissett gave a very interesting presentation "Civil War Origins and History of the 15th Infantry Regiment"



Thank You Brother Blissett!

Closing: Commander: Our next meeting will be on July 12th, 2025 at the Hassayampa Inn, Prescott, AZ. 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45. Chaplain McKeehen delivered the closing prayer and closed the Bible

USG3 Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on July 12th, 2025 at Hassayampa Inn, Prescott, AZ. 11:00 am for lunch, 12:00 for meeting. ZOOM will start at 11:45.

AZ USA 250 celebrations:

Brothers Avery Frantz, Jim Heller, and John Rogers of the Department of the Southwest attended the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's ride at the Arizona State Capitol. Held by AZ's 250 Commission, a re-enactment of Revere's ride was made as well as the lighting of two torches for tomorrow. Native American dances, vendors, and other activities also took place during the ceremonies hosted by Secretary of State Adrian Fontes.



Brothers Avery Franz and Jim Heller, PDC

GAR Memorial in California: Grant Camp Memorials Officer Avery Frantz presented a wreath on behalf of the Department of the Southwest, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to GAR comrades buried in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, California. A memorial service held by the Ida Saxton McKinley DUVCW of Bakersfield was conducted that day, April 25, including taps by the CA Div SCV Historian, a box luncheon, the reading of the Boys in Blue and wreath presentation by Past National President DUVCW Verna Maleski, the laying of flags/placement of pennies, and a certificate presentation from the Senator representing Kern County. *Great job Brother Avery and Sister Verna!*



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

🌀 General News and Information 🌀

Remembering Charles Rampf: The Forgotten Prospector and Union Veteran

By Avery Frantz, Dept Graves Registration Officer

Among the countless men who ventured west in search of fortune and purpose after the Civil War, one name—now long forgotten—was once spoken in the mining camps of Cave Creek and the streets of early Phoenix. Charles Rampf, known simply as “Uncle Charlie” to those who crossed his path, lived a life of mystery, perseverance, and, ultimately, solitude. A Union veteran of the Civil War, he carried with him the scars of battle, a heart full of dreams, and a medal for bravery that hinted at a past of courage and sacrifice. Yet, his story ended not in triumph, but in tragedy, his name now lying in an unmarked grave for over a century.

A Soldier and a Prospector

Born in Pennsylvania to German immigrant parents, Charles Rampf answered the call to service during the Civil War. He fought for the Union, serving in the 1st West Virginia Light Artillery Volunteers as a Private; earning recognition for his bravery in battle. After the war, he became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the Knights of Pythias, fraternal organizations that provided camaraderie and support to veterans. But despite these connections, Rampf seemed destined for a solitary life, one defined by his ceaseless pursuit of the riches he believed lay beneath Arizona’s rugged terrain.

For forty years, Uncle Charlie wandered between the mountains of Cave Creek and the bustling streets of Phoenix. He would disappear into the desert, armed with little more than a pickaxe, a pan, and an unshakable belief in a mother lode of gold he called “Eureka.” Each time he returned to town, he spun tales of the riches just beyond his reach, yet no strike ever materialized. Those who knew him accepted his stories with a knowing smile. He was a relic of a bygone era, a dreamer forever chasing an illusion.

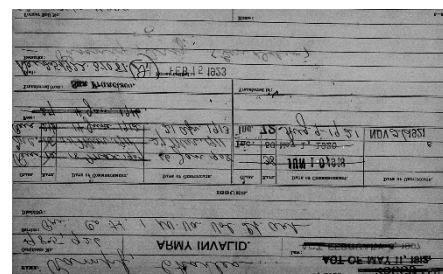
A Lonely End

As the years wore on, Rampf’s once tireless spirit began to fade. His eyesight failed, leaving him increasingly isolated. He stopped visiting friends, ceased his usual rounds, and withdrew into himself. The man who had spent decades braving the wilds of Arizona now found himself trapped in a darkness he could not escape. Despondent and alone, he made a fateful decision on Christmas night in 1925.

In his small room, Uncle Charlie methodically prepared for his final departure. He packed his clothes neatly into a suitcase, removed his garments, and carefully placed a rocking chair against the door and window—ensuring there would be no interruptions. He then opened the jet of his gas heater, allowing the deadly fumes to fill the air. When authorities finally broke down the door, they found the old soldier’s body, his face covered by his bedsheet.

Despite his service to his country, despite his years of hardship and toil, Charles Rampf was buried in an unmarked grave in Phoenix. The man who had once stood in the ranks of the Union Army, who had faced gunfire and earned a medal for his bravery, who had dreamt of gold but found only dust, was left to fade into obscurity.

One hundred and three years have passed since Uncle Charlie took his final breath. His name has gone unspoken, his grave unmarked. But he was a soldier, a veteran, and a pioneer of the Arizona frontier. His story deserves to be remembered. Perhaps now, 103 years later, it is time to give Charles Rampf the recognition he was denied in death. Perhaps it is time to mark his resting place, ensuring that he is no longer just a forgotten prospector, but a remembered hero.



Lest we forget

More from the Department Encampment 2025



(L-R) Past Department Commanders Conrad, Swanson, McCord, Heller, Hooker, and Prater, Department Commander Hoffay

After the Encampment Meeting, a Headstone Dedication and G.A.R. marker Placement Ceremony was held for Union Soldier Jared Ryker at Tempe's Double Buttes Cemetery



(L-R) PDCs Heller, Hooker and Conrad, CC Booth, DC Hoffay, PDC Prater



(L-R) DC Hoffay, PDC Conrad, CC Booth, PDC Prater



(Left, L-R) DC Hoffay, PDC Conrad, CC Booth (obscured) PDC Prater, Brother Avery Franz, ST Martorano, PDC Hooker, PCC Enlow, National JVC Murray, Brother Horton look on as Brother Avery tells the story of Jared Ryker who is buried there.

Around the Department of the Southwest

Brothers from PPC1 and Sisters from the Margaret Warner Wood detached Tent of the DUVCW marched in the 2025 Parada Del Sol on February 1st, 2025, in Scottsdale AZ Participants were Brothers Hoffay, Booth, Martorano, and Hooker and Sisters Smith, Mackowski, and Tent President Carmen Wendt



The Department of the Southwest presented a donation of \$350 to the group Honoring America's Veterans at the annual encampment. The group hosts the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day event in Phoenix. For more:

<https://honoringamericasveterans.org>



(Left) Honoring America's Veterans Representative (and US Military Veteran) Christine Mahon accepting the donation from PDC Ken Hooker

Department of the Southwest— Officers 2025-2026

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



Commander:

Todd T. Hoffay
toddthoffay@gmail.com



Senior Vice-Commander:

W. Mark Clark PCC
w.markclark@gmail.com

Junior Vice Commander:

Richard A. Stephens PCC
r@almsysinc.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Scott T Martorano
scottmartorano@gmail.com

Department Council

John Conrad PDC, John Horton, Robert Cox

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Dale E Enlow, PCC
dale_enlow@hotmail.com

Chaplain

Mark J. Haynes, PCC
haynes9@frontiernet.net

Patriotic Instructor

David Moore
eltigreblanco7751@gmail.com

Graves Registration Officer

Ronald Hyer
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Historian:

Scott T Martorano
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GAR Records Officer

David A. Swanson, PDC
swanson1854@yahoo.com

Civil War Memorials Officer

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Eagle Scout Coordinator:

Timothy D. Prater, PCC
timprater86323@gmail.com

Counselor:

Dale E Enlow, PCC
dale_enlow@hotmail.com

Signals Officer:

Jeffrey D. Burgess, PCC
jeffreydavidburgess@gmail.com

Allied Orders Relations Officer: John D. Conrad,
PDC; jrconrad55@gmail.com

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Kenneth J Hooker PDC

Editor.suvcw.dsw@gmail.com

