



# Michigan's

# Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume XXVI, Number 2

Chartered June 24, 1884

Summer, 2017

*John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus*

*Richard C. Danes, Editor*

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department  
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*

## **Department Commander**

*David S. Smith, LM, PCC*



Brothers, what an incredibly busy and great summer! On the Department level, we have just finished hosting the National Encampment in Lansing and performing a monument dedication ceremony on Mackinac Island. I thank all of you for supporting and these efforts.

Without a doubt, the National Encampment was a tremendous success. I cannot thank all of you enough for making the Department of Michigan proud. I received many positive comments and appreciation for our hospitality, and putting on a great Encampment. From beginning to end, a big thank you to the Department of Michigan Encampment Host Committee and Co-Chairs, SVCinC Shaw and CoA & PDC Davis for their leadership and execution of all details big and small. The countless hours that they put into this effort is nothing short of Herculean.

Some noteworthy items from the National Encampment are in order here. The Department had around 55 Brothers that registered to attend the Encampment. From what has been communicated to me, this has not happened in probably at least 40 years. Yes, that is correct, 40 years. Additionally, this was the most attended National Encampment in over 20 years, by a decent margin. The National Site Committee along with other National Officers gave high praise for the Department's execution in hosting the Encampment. A job well done Brothers!

Congratulations are in order for PDC Don Shaw as he was elected to the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief in Lansing. Way to go Brother Don, we are proud of you! Also, congratulations are in order to Robert Finch Camp No. 14 for winning the Marshall Hope Award for Best Camp Newsletter in the Order for The Sharpshooter, presented by CinC Don Martin in Lansing. A week after the National Encampment saw the Department in full gear participating in a Civil War monument dedication ceremony on Mackinac Island. Brothers attended and/or participated from 10 Camps across the Department. Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR served as the Color Guard. The Department performed the 1917 GAR monument dedication ceremony. The event was well attended, and even had Miss Michigan in attendance! This was a nice chance for Brothers from across the state to participate together in a ceremony, in one of Michigan's most beautiful settings. Pictures and video of the event can be found on the Facebook pages of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 and Austin Blair Camp No. 7.

Over the coming months a strategic direction for the next 5 years will be developed and disseminated among the Department. The intent is that it will identify areas where we can improve, grow, and tackle our challenges. Finally, have a great fall season, and please forward on your Camp's events to the Department!



The Department of Michigan Delegation and Attendees at the National Encampment in Lansing  
(picture courtesy of Gov. Crapo Camp No. 1)

**Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427**

Submitted by Rick Danes, CC

Camp 427 recently shared rededication duties with Wyandotte American Legion Post #217 at the headstone of Private Samuel Sampson Clark, CO G 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry and CO F 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry. Family members came from several states to witness the ceremony.



**2016-2017  
Department Officers**

**Commander**

David S. Smith, PCC  
P. O. Box 346  
Acme, MI 49610-0346

**Senior Vice Commander**

Robert Griggs, PCC  
610 Biwell St.  
Albion, MI 49224-1812

**Junior Vice Commander**

Robert Payne, CC  
3940 Keller Rd.  
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**Recording Secretary**

Richard Denny  
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Colon, Michigan 49040

**Treasurer**

Bruce S. A. Gosling, PCC  
20388 US Hwy. 12  
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[bgosling@charter.net](mailto:bgosling@charter.net)

**Department Council**

Chuck Worley, PDC  
Kevin Lindsey, PCC  
Michael Maillard, PCC

**Chaplain**

Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC

**Patriotic Instructor**

Robert Boquette

**Color Bearer**

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

**Counselor**

Nathan Smith, CC

**Guard**

Theodore Mattis, CC

**Eagle Scout Coordinator**

Nathan Tingley

**Signals Officer**

David Wallace, PDC

**Michigan's Messenger**

**Editor**

Richard E. Danes, Sr. CC

**Historian**

John R. Keith, CC

**Guide**

Nathan Tingley

**Graves Registration**

Richard E. Danes, Sr., CC

**GAR Records**

Gary L. Gibson, PDC

**Civil War Memorials**

John H. McGill

**Chief of Staff**

David Wallace

**Camp At Large Coordinator**

George L. Boller

**Aide de Camp**

Paul T. Davis, PDC

**Department Orders #5  Series 2017 – 2018  
Headquarters, Traverse City, MI**

**10 June 2017**

*David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC*

**Flag Day**

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1 – Wednesday, 14 June is Flag Day, commemorating the adoption of the flag of these United States as occurred on 14 June 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Flag Day was officially recognized by an Act of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in August of 1949.

Section 2 – The week of 14 June is National Flag Week. It is strongly encouraged that Brothers observe this day of celebration in honoring our Standard by flying it during the week, as well as attending Flag Day events in their local areas.

Section 3 – Additionally, please take a moment to honor our Army Veterans as 14 June is also the birthday of the United States Army. The Continental Congress authorized the enlistment of 10 companies of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. The “American continental army” was adopted on 14 June 1775 after reaching a consensus position within The Committee of the Whole.

The preceding Department Order is proclaimed this tenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, the one hundred and fifty-first year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the two hundred and fortieth year of Independence of these United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

ATTEST:

/s/

*David S. Smith, LM, DC  
Commander, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

/s/

*Richard Denney, CC  
Secretary, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*In this Issue: Officer's Reports,  
Department Orders,  
Camp News,  
The Last Bivouac,  
And much more*

  
**Department Orders #6 Series 2017 – 2018**  
**Headquarters, Traverse City, MI**

**29 June 2017**

David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC

## Independence Day

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1** – Tuesday, 04 July is Independence Day, the 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of these United States of America. On 04 July 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Britain.

**Section 2** – While the Continental Congress was convened on 07 June in Philadelphia, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented the following resolution: “Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.” Lee’s words were the driving force for the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, with the resolution for independence being adopted by 12 of 13 Colonies on 02 July 1776.

**Section 3** – Beyond the traditional celebrations of picnics and fireworks, please take time out of your day to reflect on the sacrifices of our Founding Fathers and Patriots that risked their lives and their fortunes to establish this Republic. Their words echo today as they did that summer of 1776: “*And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*”

The preceding Department Order is proclaimed this twenty-ninth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, the one hundred and fifty-first year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the two hundred and fortieth year of Independence of these United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

/s/  
David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC  
Commander, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:  
/s/  
Richard Denney, CC  
Secretary, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

*Editor's Note: Why the Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:*

*In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.*

*The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to all Camp Members.*

*As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.*

***I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.***

*I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors.*

*This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, [editor@suvvcwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvvcwmi.org).*

  
**Department Orders #7 Series 2017 – 2018**  
**Headquarters, Traverse City, MI**  
**14 July 2017**  
*David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC*

### **Mackinac Island Memorial Dedication**

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1** – On Saturday, 19 August 2017, the Department of Michigan will be performing a dedication ceremony for a new Civil War monument on Mackinac Island. The event will begin at 1PM (1300).

**Section 2** – Arrangements are being made to provide free passage to and from the Island. It has been communicated to the Department that transportation of Civil War firearms is allowed. Arrangements are also being made for a reduced rate at a local hotel (most likely in St. Ignace).

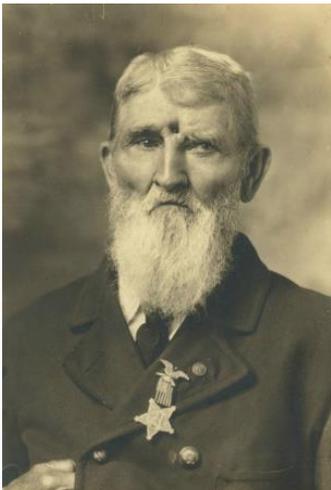
**Section 3** – If you would like to attend or participate in the ceremony, please contact Department Commander Smith at [david.smith@suvchwmi.org](mailto:david.smith@suvchwmi.org) no later than Monday, 24 July 2017. Also, please indicate if you will have a significant other that will be attending. The number of attendees is required for the arrangements being made by our Mackinac Island representative.

The preceding Department Order is proclaimed this fourteenth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, the one hundred and fifty-first year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the two hundred and forty-first year of Independence of these United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

/s/  
 David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC  
 Commander, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:  
 /s/  
 Richard Denney, CC  
 Secretary, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



### **One Tough Dude**

*Submitted by John Keith, CC Camp #20*

A private in company K 9th Indiana Vol. Inf. One tough  
dude!

Jacob Miller was shot in the head at the Battle of  
Chickamagua on September 19, 1863. Jacob stated,  
“Seventeen years after I was wounded a buck shot dropped  
out of my wound and thirty one years after two pieces of  
lead came out.”

**Department Orders #8**  **Series 2017 – 2018**  
**Headquarters, Traverse City, MI**  
**26 August 2017**  
David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC

### **2017 National Encampment Appreciation**

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1** – The Department of Michigan hosted the 2017 SUVCW National Encampment on 10 – 13 August 2017 in Lansing, Michigan. To say that the Encampment was a success would be an understatement. I have received many comments and communications during and after the National Encampment from Brothers across the Order expressing their appreciation for our hospitality, and running an excellent Encampment. This is a testament directly to each and every one of you that supported, attended, helped, staffed, gave input, and/or offered a friendly greeting to our guests. I sincerely thank each and every one of you.

**Section 2** – This entire journey with all of its many, many details could not have been accomplished without the leadership of Co-Chairs SVCinC Don Shaw and CoA & PDC Paul Davis and the Department of Michigan Encampment Host Committee. The endless hours spent over the past several years from the beginning of this process to the final day of the Encampment itself deserve our highest gratitude.

**Section 3** – A few statistics and noteworthy items are in order to demonstrate what kind of impact the Department of Michigan had in hosting the National Encampment in 2017. The Department had around 55 Brothers that registered to attend the Encampment. From what has been communicated to me, this has not happened in probably at least 40 years. Additionally, this was the most attended National Encampment in over 20 years, by a decent margin. The National Site Committee along with other National Officers gave high praise for the Department's execution in hosting the Encampment.

**Section 4** – Finally, it is with great honor that I congratulate our Brother Don Shaw, who was elected to the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief in Lansing.

The preceding Department Order is proclaimed this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, the one hundred and fifty-first year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the two hundred and forty-first year of Independence of these United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

/s/  
David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC  
Commander, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:  
/s/  
Richard Denney, CC  
Secretary, Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Department Orders #9  Series 2017 – 2018**  
**Headquarters, Traverse City, MI**

**26 August 2017**

*David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC*

**Mackinac Island Memorial Dedication  
Appreciation**

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1** – On Saturday, 19 August 2017, the Department of Michigan performed the 1917 GAR monument dedication ceremony for a new Civil War monument on Mackinac Island. The ceremony was part of a larger event held by city officials of Mackinac Island. Numerous members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic either attended or participated. Members attended from across the state from Marquette to Jackson and from Bay City to Traverse City. This fact is an excellent testament to the dedication of the fine members of the Department of Michigan. Thank you to each and every one of you!

**Section 2** – Appreciation is extended to PDC David Wallace and Sid DeHaan of Mackinac Island for taking the steps to begin the process of having the Department of Michigan involved with the dedication of the new Civil War monument. Thank you is in order for Star Line Ferry Service in providing us safe and enjoyable passage to the Island at a reduced rate.

**Section 3** – Gratitude is extended to Captain L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC and Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and the additional Brothers of the Department that fell in line with them to serve as the Color Guard for our ceremony. Your well executed entrance into the park grabbed a hold of the attention of all in attendance. Additionally, a big thank you is given to the American Legion Post 299 for their Color Guard in support.

**Section 4** – Appreciation goes to Auxiliary Department President June Lloyd and Department Vice President Connie Horning for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Additionally, thank you to Bugler Thelma Paul of Bugles Across America and her continued and enthusiastic support of SUVCW ceremonies.

**Section 5** – Finally, much appreciation is extended to Camp No. 14 CSVC and Chaplain John Lantzer for serving as the ceremony Chaplain. Brother Lantzer, your passion as Chaplain was clearly on display – job well done Brother.

The preceding Department Order is proclaimed this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, the one hundred and fifty-first year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the two hundred and forty-first year of Independence of these United States of America.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

/s/  
*David S. Smith, LM, PCC, DC*  
*Commander, Department of Michigan*  
*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

ATTEST:  
/s/  
*Richard Denney, CC*  
*Secretary, Department of Michigan*  
*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

## Senior Vice Commander

by Bob Griggs DSVC



Brothers,

The dog days of summer have passed us by and as we move into the fall I look back on what was a very busy time of year for me as I'm sure it has been for most of you. Over the last three months I have had the good fortune to be able to work with Brothers and Sisters not only from Camp No. 7, but several other Camps as well in perpetuating the Memory of the Boys in Blue.

Of all those activities there are a few that stand out to remind me of why it is we do what we do. Taking part in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Eaton Rapids I was very happy to see that Patriotism is not dead but alive and well in small town America. The cheers we received when we marched by and the number of people standing as the Flag passed, made me very proud to be able to represent Father Abraham's Children. The enthusiasm shown by the participants at the Civil War Discovery Camp put on by the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum can be summed up in one word "**FANTASTIC!**" The hospitality and interest shown all the Brothers and Sisters taking part in the Mackinac Island dedication was above and beyond my expectations. And of course - the highlight of the year for the Brothers and Sisters of the Austin Blair Camp - the Jackson Civil War Muster. Such a great

opportunity to meet with a large amount of people and talk about our organization about what it is we do to keep alive the memory of the boys who saved our Union so long ago.

After much anticipation, the Department of Michigan hosted the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and HAZZAH to the Encampment Host Committee and all the Brothers who volunteered for an exceptional job and a very successful Encampment. **Well done!** How great it was to meet Brothers from around the country and learn how they remember their ancestors and what they do in their states to Keep Green the Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

As we move toward the fall and start thinking about going into our winter quarters, I would like to borrow some words from our 16<sup>th</sup> President "...let us strive on to finish the work we are in". Reminding people of the sacrifices made by our ancestors, as well as all veterans of this great land, is not a job that should be taken lightly - it is something that we should be doing every chance we have.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

**ANNOUNCEMENT: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER ARTICLES MUST BE SENT TO A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS – [EDITOR@SUVCWMI.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@SUVCWMI.ORG).**

**ALL E-MAILS TO THE GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER MUST BE SENT TO [DGRO@SUVCWMI.ORG](mailto:DGRO@SUVCWMI.ORG). THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. R. DANES**

## The Last Bivouac

### Thomas C. "Tom" Elegeert, Camp 266

Please keep the Elegeert family in your prayers. And remember the words of the hymn:

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises  
I will raise forevermore;  
I will raise forevermore.

The Obituary for Brother Elegeert follows.

Thomas C. "Tom" Elegeert, 75, of Gladstone, passed away on Thursday, July 27, 2017, at U.P. Health System – Marquette.

He was born on Sept. 3, 1941, in Escanaba, son of Thomas and Beulah "Bee" (Bramer) Elegeert.

Tom was a lifelong resident of Delta County, graduating from Holy Name High School in 1959 and later attending Ferris State University.

Tom served in the National Guard during the Detroit Riots until his honorable discharge in 1968, where he was awarded a Qualification Badge. Tom was a member of the Rapid River Legion and Sons of the Civil War Vets.

On Feb. 22, 1986, Tom married Gladys M. Hudson in Escanaba.

Tom participated within the county government and loved and was dedicated to the county and community which he served. He was elected county commissioner for 32 years, serving as chair of the board for 11 of those years. He was employed as a journeyman electrician at Mead Paper Company until his retirement in 2004.

Tom was proud of his ancestry, which included the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was also a member of the Elders of the Sault Tribe.

Tom wore many hats and was many things to many people. He was passionate about genealogy and met many wonderful friends during countless hours of research. His thirst for knowledge of all things old lead him to become not only a member of the Historical Society, but also a member of the board.

He enjoyed gardening, using his heavy equipment, and was active in beekeeping. Tom loved people and helping others was always a source of enjoyment for him. He will always be fondly remembered by the words in which he lived by, "*Be humble, be kind.*"

Tom was passionate about his family and mentoring the children in his life. He strongly believed that if you could change one person's life, that you could change the world.

Among survivors include his loving wife, Gladys of Gladstone; two daughters, Kim (Jack) Lagina of Howard, Renae DeFiore, of Gladstone; stepson, John Broeders of Gladstone; daughter-in-law, Jackie Elegeert of Gladstone, son-in-law, Chris DeFiore of Gladstone; grandchildren, Kara (Alex) Mueller, Sam Lagina, Mark (Elise) Elegeert, Breanne (David) Knowlton, Jeremy (Chrissy) Guindon, Peter (Alyssa) Elegeert, Jacob Guindon and Jonika Broeders (who viewed her grandpa as her best friend); two great-grandchildren, Chelsey Knowlton and Calvin Elegeert; sister, SuzAnn (LeRoy) Rappette; three special nieces, Sally (John) Young, Rachel Berger and Stephanie Hudson; special nephew, Andrew Hudson, and a maternal aunt, Ruby Peterson; along with numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews, and many close friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Bee; son, Thomas "TJ" Elegeert who passed away on April 10, 2017; stepson, Milton Broeders; and his father- and mother-in-law, Ira and Gladys Hudson.

The family will greet relatives and friends on Friday, Aug. 11, at Grace Church, 528 28th St., Gladstone, from 3 to 5 p.m. The funeral service celebrating the life of Thomas C. Elegeert will follow at 5 p.m. with Pastor David Hanson officiating. A meal will follow the service in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to UW Foundation in memory of Thomas C. Elegeert, University of Wisconsin Foundation, US Bank Lockbox 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807. Funds will be directed to the Kidney Transplant Foundation where Tom received a kidney transplant in 1999.

*The Last Bivouac continued on page 10*

**Brother Norman H. Knight, Camp 20**

Norman H. Knight, age 95, of Kalamazoo, MI passed away Sunday evening, July 16, 2017. Norman was born July 19, 1921 in Decatur, MI the son of the late Edgar and Florence (Creagan) Knight. He was a graduate of Decatur High School; attended Michigan State University; and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1947 with a degree in Chemistry. Norm was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific as an officer in the U.S Marine Corps. He was employed with the Upjohn Company for many years and was a past president of the Kalamazoo Male Chorus; Kalamazoo Antique Auto Restorers Club; and Classic and Antique Restorers Club. After his retirement, he also served as the Director of the Gilmore Car Museum for 10 years. Norm was active with the Boy Scout movement and Classic Car Club of America; and was a member of St. Augustine Cathedral and St. Joseph Catholic Church. In January of 1945 he was married to Amy (Bennett) who preceded him in death in on October 4, 1972. Norm was also preceded in death by a brother, Jack; and sisters, Jean, Lois, and Louise. On September 1, 1978 he was united in marriage to Karen (Titlow) who survives. Also surviving are his children, T. Michael Knight, Marcia (Jim) Miars, Dan Knight, Katherine Knight, Elizabeth Knight; 7 grandchildren, Christin (Don) Chambless, Jason (Christine) Knight, Charlotte (Brian) Chase, Amy (Brad) Schultz, Paul Knight, William Knight, and Catherine Knight; 9 great-grandchildren; brother and sister, Bob Knight and Rosemary Hogmire; and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be held at 11:00am Wednesday, July 26 at the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Westside Chapel, 3926 South 9th Street. Friends may meet the family Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 at the funeral home. Interment will be in Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery after a luncheon in the family center at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan, Gilmore Car Museum, or the Kalamazoo Symphony.

**Richard Eldren Spriks, Camp 266**

RAPID RIVER — Richard Eldren Spriks, age 75, of Rapid River passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at his daughter's home in Escanaba.

Richard was born June 2, 1942 in Detroit, the son of Eldren "Shine" and Bea (Laurin) Spriks. He graduated from Rapid River High School in 1960. Richard served his country proudly in the United States Air Force from 1960 through 1964. He was united in marriage to his first wife, Ahnora "Cookie" Lee on November 18, 1967 in Wichita, Kansas. He was united in marriage to his second wife, Edith "Edyie" Becker on December 22, 1972 in Wichita, Kansas. Richard worked as a pipefitter for the National Automatic Sprinkler Industry for many years. He was very active with the Rapid River American Legion Post 301 and was instrumental in starting their recycling program. Richard was a huge supporter of the Rapid River Rockets and enjoyed volunteering at the Rapid River Schools as an assistant librarian and an audio and sound man. He was also a huge supporter of the Rapid River community and enjoyed volunteering whenever he could. He was also a Civil War reenactor with the Black Powder Mountain Men, a Boy Scout Leader and loved celebrating Halloween. Richard is survived by his daughters, Crystal (Jeff) Barber of Quartzsite, Ariz., Sheila (David) Wedell of Escanaba, Lisa (Dawn Tomac) Mann of Escanaba and Amanda (Tyler Gilson) Spriks of Gladstone; his sons, Robert (Debbie) Mann of Gladstone and Brian (Nichole) Spriks of Gladstone; twelve grandchildren, seven great grandchildren; his brothers, Tom (Linda) Spriks of Neenah, Wis., Jim (Kathy) Spriks of Stonington, Mich., Mike (Tanya) Spriks of Rapid River and Pat Spriks of Rapid River; his sisters, Judy (Paul) Sidbeck of Neenah, Wis. and Linda (the late Bill) Micheau of Rhineland, Wis.; sister-in-law, Carrie Spriks of Rapid River, numerous nieces and nephews and his former wife, Ahnora "Cookie" Maher of Quartzsite, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith, his daughter, Megan Marohnic and his parents.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, June 24 from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Skradski Funeral Home in Gladstone. Military Honors will be presented by the Rapid River American Legion Post 301 and the United States Military Honor Guard. Memorial services will follow at 2 p.m. Richard will be laid to rest in the Rapid River Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in Richard's name may be directed to the Rapid River Public Schools.

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" Rev. 14:13*

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Chaplain Charles Buckhahn  
Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

**Governor Austin Blair Camp No. 7**

*By Bob Griggs, DSVC*



The summer of 2017 for Camp No. 7 has been about Brotherhood - not only within the Department of Michigan, but nationally, as many of our members were able to attend the National Encampment in Lansing. There we were able to meet the Brothers of the "other" Camp No. 7, the Governor Elisha Dyer Camp from Rhode Island. We have more in common than just our Camp numbers; both Camps are named after Governors, and both Camps are over 100 years old. It was fitting that between the two Camps there were 7 of us at the Encampment. Throughout the summer Brothers were able to spread the word about our organization through taking part in dedications, parades, Eagle Scout Certificate awards, giving presentations, as well as with the Civil War Camp hosted by the

Memorial Hall and Museum. Several of the Brothers able to make the trip to Mackinac Island to take part dedication for a new plaque placed in Veterans Park honoring Civil War Veterans.

As we move into the fall, our schedule doesn't look going to much.



assisting Discovery G.A.R. were also in a there

like it's slow up The

Brothers of Camp No. 7 are looking forward to meeting the public at the events we are attending and continue to honor the Boys in Blue by telling their stories and therefore keeping their memory alive.



**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications  
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates**

- Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication**
- Spring- June 1 for a June 15 Publication**
- Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication**
- Fall - December 1 for a December 15 Publication**

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at [editor@suvcwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvcwmi.org) or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204**

**ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME**

**Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!**

### Camp 35 and the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan SVR

On the 24th of June, Camp 135 and Brothers of the 14th Michigan Co. A., SVR came together to honor one of their own, Brother David Gosling of March to the Sea Camp No. 135.

Traveling to White Pigeon the Brothers took part in a traditional SUCW graveside dedication, during which three volleys were fired to honor Brother Gosling. After the completion of the ceremony the Brothers formed a circle and along with family members drank a toast to Brother Gosling in remembrance of his dedication and service to our Order.

“Sleep on ye fallen Comrade, the victory you have won, You've served our Order's banner, your task has been well done. Rest under wreaths of laurels by grateful Brothers given, We strew your grave with flowers, the sweetest gift of heaven.”



Brothers Chris and Bruce Gosling  
at their father Bruce's gravesite

*On Sunday, September 14, 1862*

*Battle at Crampton's Gap: Union troops win a tactical victory over Confederate forces*

*Battle at South Mountain: Union troops defeat an outnumbered Confederate force*

*Battle of Munfordsville, KY*

*Federal troops escape from beleaguered Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*

*Skirmish at Fox's Gap*

**General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20***Submitted by John R. Keith CC**Brothers:**I received this from Camp 20 SRVC Gary Thomas, I thought it was really cool so I thought I would share. Something to be proud of!!!**In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty ,  
John R. Keith*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

John

It is with great pride that I share with you and the GAR members. My grandson, James Gorno, submitted a letter through his school in hopes of being selected to participate in the laying of the wreath at Arlington National Cemetery in August. He received a letter in June notifying him that he had been selected to participate in the laying of the wreath. What an honor for this young man.

I have attached the letter he wrote and the letter he received letting him know he had been selected. He will be assisting in laying the wreath on August 15th.

One very proud grandfather,  
Gary

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Wreath Laying Selection Committee Arlington  
National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211  
May19,2017

Dear Wreath Laying Selection Committee

Hello, my name is James Thomas Gorno and I am a eighth grade student from Cherryland Middle in Elk Rapids, Michigan. I am writing in regards to the Arlington National Wreath Laying Committee in hopes that I will be nominated for the honored position of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Wreath Laying Ceremony is a great honor to the dead of World War I, II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The ceremony is done to honor and remember the lives of persons who have served our country in the military. We are not celebrating their deaths, but their sacrifices they made for their country. They stepped up to protect our country and many gave their lives. Because they were willing to protect our country, we have the freedoms that so many take for granted today.

It would be a personal honor to be part of the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as I have been learning of my family history and the many family members who have served this country. With my grandmother's help, I have been able to prove my lineage and have been inducted into the Sons of the Revolution. I had two great great grandfathers who served in World War I, one great grandfather in World War II, and both my grandma and grandpa are Vietnam Veterans. To be able to lay the wreath, remembering my family and all other veterans would be a memorable experience. Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,

James Thomas Gorno

*Continued on page 14*

*Continued from page 13*

### **Congratulations James!**

You have been chosen as one of the Wreath Layers to represent Cherryland Middle School at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington Cemetery. Your hard work and dedication has paid off! You will be a part of a very exclusive club. One who has had the privilege to walk on sacred ground. We appreciated your letter of intent. It was well written, with a lot of thought put into it. Enclosed, you will find the dress code for being an Arlington Cemetery Wreath Presenter at the Tomb. Your Tomb attire will need be checked by Mrs. Sleder the evening we arrive in Washington D.C. It will then need to be packed in a carry-on. You will need to change into your Wreath Laying attire when we arrive at the cemetery. Earlier in the day you will be wearing your class t-shirt while we tour the Capitol. If you have any questions regarding attire, please do not hesitate to ask! You may e-mail me; [hs!eder@erschools.com](mailto:hs!eder@erschools.com)

Again, Congratulations! Well done! We look forward to watching you represent yourschool!



## One of the California One Hundred Found



John Winship



David Wilkening at the grave of John Winship in the Goodrich Cemetery.

By David Fleet, Editor June 22, 2017

Goodrich- David Wilkening is on a mission.

Earlier this month, the 69-year-old Ypsilanti resident made the trek north to the placid village cemetery in search of the gravestone of Civil War veteran John Winship.

With the assistance of some area historians, Wilkening located the marker and shared the story of his great-grandfather.

“John traveled west from Goodrich during the gold rush to Yreka, California in the 1850s,” said Wilkening. “That trip west about 1859 may have been simply to find gold or start a new life following the death of his first wife and child. While he was in California the Civil War started so he enlisted and came back east to fight.”

Winship joined the group known as the California 100—organized in San Francisco on Dec. 10, 1862.

“I’m sure that was a fearless bunch that decided to return east to fight to keep the union together or they just wanted to get back east perhaps the gold hunting was not all that great,” he said.

For the past year Wilkening has attempted to find the graves of the California 100 buried in Michigan. Now with the addition of John Winship— three of the 100 have been located.

“Most of the 100 are buried in the eastern states,” he said. “Only 15-20 returned and are buried out west. They probably stayed just in the east after the Civil War and raised families. There was no reason to return to the west coast.”

Wilkening studied the lives and times of Winship and estimates the trek for the California 100 to Massachusetts took about a month considering the means of travel in the 1860s.

“The railroad across the United States would not be finished until the late 1860s so they sailed to Panama and then traveled across on land to the Atlantic Ocean side,” he said. “Then sailed north to Boston and New York then eventually to Camp Meigs in Readville, Mass. There they formed the Second Massachusetts Cavalry Co. A in January 1863.”

The California 100 participated in several battles during the Civil War.

“I’m sure some of the boys never made it home and are in unmarked graves somewhere,” he said. “But John survived the war and actually was in Washington D.C. when Lincoln was assassinated. He even went to the Capitol Rotunda to view Lincoln when he was there. He also was part of the grand parade of the Union after Lincoln’s death.”

After the war, Winship returned to the Goodrich area, married his second wife, Sarah Amelia Hyde, and operated a general store in Elba a small village in Lapeer County. Winship died March 19, 1893.

So far Wilkening has located three of the California 100, including Josephus Blake buried in Shelby Township and George Goulding is buried in the Brady Hill Cemetery in Saginaw.



## Graves Registration

By Rick Danes, Department Graves Registration Officer

At the September Graves Registration Committee Meeting, I will announce that the Department Database now has 70,305 Civil War Soldiers' Gravesites recorded, and 3,836 gravesites from "other Wars". Thank you to Camps 17, 58, and 7, for their recent large submittals.

Our next Committee meeting at the State Library is scheduled for December 9 at 10 AM with 2018 meetings tentatively set for March 10, June 9, September 8, and December 8 – all are welcome, especially those GROs who have never attended a meeting..

In this issue I am offering a reprint of the VA History of Military headstone, which was submitted by Brother GRO Mark Hoffman.

## History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers

The history of government headstones has an identity of its own apart from development of the National Cemetery Administration. The original standard grave marker precedes the establishment of national cemeteries in 1862 and actually has its origin in the frontier days of this country prior to the Civil War.

In the normal course of events, soldiers died and garrison commanders were compelled to bury their dead, mainly in cemetery plots within post reservations. Those not so fortunate were buried where death occurred. In the course of time, a fairly uniform method of marking burials came into being. A wooden board with a rounded top and bearing a registration number or inscription became the standard. No centralized system for recording burials existed.

Although the system may have been adequate for frontier forces, it could scarcely meet the needs of the national army that came into being at the beginning of the Civil War. Two months after the first battle of Manassas, the War Department issued General Orders number 75, Sept. 11, 1861, which made commanders of national forces responsible for burials and marking graves. In the same General Orders, the Quartermaster General of the Army was directed to provide headboards as well as blank books and forms for the preservation of burial records. War Department General Orders number 75 created the first organized system of marking graves.

Following capitulation of the Confederate States Army, a concerted effort was undertaken to recover the dead from their temporary wartime burial places and to accomplish their permanent reburial in national cemeteries. Little thought was given to the suitability of the round top wooden headboards as a marker for the graves of soldiers fallen in battle. In 1865, when burials in national cemeteries approached 100,000, serious consideration began to be given to the long range economy of maintaining the wooden headboards then in use. It was estimated that the total recovered dead of the Civil War would be around 300,000 and, considering the average cost of a headboard at \$1.23 each and a life expectancy of not more than five years, it became obvious that the original and replacement costs would exceed \$1 million over a 20-year period.



*Detail of a photograph of Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, 1862-69, showing graves marked by wooden headboards.*

*Photographer, probably Andrew Russell.  
Library of Congress.*

Aside from the problems of economics surrounding the use of wooden headboards, public sentiment was turning to a more permanent mode of marking graves. Several years of controversy ensued within the War Department as to the type of headstone that ought to be used in lieu of the wooden headboard. There were those who favored the use of marble and those who favored galvanized iron coated with zinc. The controversy between marble and galvanized iron continued with intermittent periods of vigor and apathy for seven years.

In 1873, Secretary of War William W. Belknap adopted the first design for stones to be erected in national cemeteries. For the known dead, the department adopted a slab design of marble or durable stone four inches thick, 10 inches wide and 12 inches in height extending above the ground. The part above the ground was polished and the top slightly curved. The number of the grave, rank, name of the soldier and the name of the state were cut on the front face. This original design for the permanent headstone was referred to as the "Civil War" type, and was furnished for members of the Union Army only. The stone featured a sunken shield in which the inscription appeared in bas relief. For the unknown dead, the stone was a block of marble or durable stone six inches square, and 30 inches long. The top and four inches of the sides of the upper part were finished and the number of the grave cut on the top. On Feb. 3, 1879, Congress authorized the furnishing of stones for the unmarked graves of veterans in private cemeteries. Insofar as known, the only type used was the same as used for the known dead in national cemeteries.

The Civil War-type of headstone was furnished not only for the unmarked graves of that war but for the unmarked graves of eligible deceased of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and Indian Campaigns. At the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, it was decided that the same design of headstone should be used to mark the graves of eligible deceased of that war as well.

In 1902, a study was done as to determine the durability of the type of headstone then in use. The study resulted in a change implemented in 1903. The height of the stone was increased to 39 inches, the width to 12 inches, and the thickness to four inches.

The use of stone blocks for marking unknown graves in national cemeteries was discontinued on Oct. 21, 1903, and the graves were marked with the same design as those furnished for the known dead.

In order to ensure that all graves in military controlled cemeteries were marked appropriately, Congress on April 28, 1904 (58th Cong., Chap. 1762), also authorized the furnishing of headstones for the unmarked graves of civilians buried in post cemeteries.

The question of permanently marking graves of Confederate deceased in national cemeteries and Confederate burial plots resulted in the Act of March 9, 1906 (P.L. 38, 59th Cong., Chap. 631), authorizing the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died, primarily in Union prison camps and were buried in federal cemeteries. Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as headstones for Civil-Spanish War deceased. The design varied in that the top was pointed instead of rounded and the shield was omitted. Apocryphally, it has been said that the pointed top was adopted to prevent "Yankees" from sitting on Confederate headstones. An act on Feb. 26, 1929 (70th Cong., Chap. 324), authorized the furnishing of this type of stone for graves in private cemeteries, as well.

On May 26, 1930, the War Department implemented regulations for Confederate headstones that also authorized the inscription of the Confederate Cross of Honor in a small circle on the front face of the stone above the standard inscription of the soldier's name, rank, company and regiment.

Following World War I, a board of officers composed of Assistant Secretary of War J.M. Wainwright, Army Chief of Staff General John J. Pershing and Quartermaster General Harry L. Rogers adopted a new design to be used for all graves except those of veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars.

This stone was of the slab design referred to as "General" type, slightly rounded at the top, of American white marble, 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and four inches thick. The inscription on the front face would include the name of the soldier, his rank, regiment, division, date of death and state from which he came.

For the first time, a religious emblem was adopted for use on government headstones. The religious emblem was authorized for use at this time only on the General type stone. The choice of emblem was limited to the Latin Cross for the Christian faith and the Star of David for the Jewish faith.

In April 1941, the Under Secretary of War approved the use of granite material for stones similar to the existing designs of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, and the Confederate and General types. These granite headstones were discontinued in 1947, however, because of the inability to procure them within the price limitations authorized by the War Department.

To assure the marking of all graves of all eligible members of the armed forces and veterans interred in private cemeteries, who due to cemetery regulations were permitted only a flat marker type, the following designs were approved by the Assistant Secretary of War: flat marble marker adopted Aug. 11, 1936; flat granite marker adopted Sept. 13, 1939. An act of April 18, 1940, authorized the use of other materials and the standard. Flat bronze markers were adopted on July 12, 1940. (A new design was approved beginning with fiscal year 1973).

The marble and granite flat markers are 24 inches in length, 12 inches in width, and four inches deep with incised inscriptions. The bronze flat marker is 24 inches in length, 12 inches in width and three-sixteenths of an inch thick with raised lettering. The markers are placed flush with the ground and the inscription is placed parallel to the greatest dimension of the marker. The inscription includes the name of the deceased, state, rank, organization, dates of death and religious emblem above the inscription.

The Under Secretary of War authorized the addition of the date of birth as part of authorized inscription in 1944. After the war ended, he authorized World War I or II as part of the inscription.

On Dec. 1, 1948, the Secretary of War authorized a flat granite marker for use in the new national cemeteries in Hawaii (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico National Cemetery). This marker is of the same design that had been previously authorized for private cemeteries with the exception of the thickness, which was reduced to three inches. In 1951 the same type of marker was approved for use in the new Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army approved designs to be used for the marking of group burial interments in national cemeteries in 1950.

The Secretary of the Army approved the placement of the Buddhist emblem as part of the authorized inscription in February 1951. Seven months later, the Secretary of Defense directed The Secretary of the Army to include the word "Korea" as part of the authorized inscription in those instances where members of the United States Armed Forces died in Korea or whose death was attributable to service in Korea.

The above directive was superseded and reissued on Dec. 1, 1954, to provide for inclusion of the word "Korea" on government headstones and markers for the graves of those members and former members of the United States armed forces who served within the areas of military operations in the Korean Theater between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954. Then on Dec. 11, 1964, the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Civil Functions approved the word "Vietnam" as part of the authorized inscription in those instances where members of the United States armed forces died in Vietnam, or whose death was attributable to service in Vietnam for the duration of current military activities in Vietnam or until such time as the military activities were given an official designation. The inclusion of the word "Vietnam" as part of the authorized inscription was retroactive to 1954.

The Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Civil Functions approved the word "Korea" as part of the authorized inscription on the headstones of all military personnel and veterans who were on active duty during the period of June 27, 1950 through July 27, 1954 and on headstones and markers for active duty decedents who lost their lives in Korea or adjacent waters as a result of hostile action subsequent to the 1953 Armistice. The word "Vietnam" was authorized to be inscribed on the headstones and markers of all decedents who were on active duty on or after August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975. The beginning date has been extended to February 28, 1961, for veterans who served "in country" before August 5, 1964.

On Sept. 1, 1973, 82 of the 84 national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army were transferred to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Arlington and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries remained under the Department of the Army.

On Oct. 31, 1983, the Chief Memorial Affairs Director of the then-Veterans Administration authorized "Lebanon" or "Grenada" to be shown as the war service for those killed as a result of those military actions. Then on Dec. 22, 1989, the Director of the National Cemetery System (now called the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery

Administration), Department of Veterans Affairs, authorized "Panama" to be shown as the war service for those killed in military action in Panama, and "Persian Gulf" to be shown as the war service for all military personnel who served in that action August 2, 1990 or later.

The Director of Monument Services authorized "MIA" and "POW" to be inscribed at Government expense on Dec. 12, 1988

On Dec. 4, 1992, the Director of Memorial Programs Service authorized "Somalia" to be shown as the war service for those killed as a result of military actions.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs authorized the reintroduction of upright granite headstones on Jan. 19, 1994. In February 1997, the Inclusive Inscription Policy was adopted. This policy allows for additional text inscription to be provided at government expense.

Public Law 107-103, signed on Dec. 27, 2001, allows the VA to furnish an appropriate government marker for the grave of a veteran buried in a private cemetery regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a private marker. On Dec. 6, 2002, this law was amended to extend this benefit to veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Stay tuned, updated laws have been initiated recently which will change the way we do business in graves registration.

For further information about obtaining a Federal Headstone, contact your Camp Graves Registration Officer.

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"Soldiers were never offered more liberal pay than those who now enlist in the volunteer service. The private receives his regular pay of \$18 a month, \$100 bounty from the Federal Government, and those from States, counties, and villages, and private individuals are added to this, frequently being large amounts. Besides this, \$2 is given for each volunteer. This goes to the volunteer if he enlists on his own accord. This made the aggregate pay of the private as follows, per year:

Regular monthly pay	\$157.00
Government bounty	\$100.00
Enlistment pay	<u>\$ 2.00</u>
	\$259.00

To the above in this city, would be added as the matter now stands, \$31 bounty in the First Ward, and sums ranging from \$16 to \$20 in the other wards. Of course, the soldier has his clothes and rations furnished him, which out of the army he would have to pay for."

The Detroit Advisor & Tribune, p. 4  
July 24, 1862

### ***With Malice Toward None***

*"With malice toward none; with charity towards all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."*

*Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865*