



MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER

VETERANS' CHRISTMAS 1895 – MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME

Submitted by Brother Mark Hoffman, PCC – Camp 17 & Camp 444



Michigan Soldiers' Home, Grand Rapids, Michigan circa 1900-1910 (source: Library of Congress)

VETERANS' CHRISTMAS HOW THE DAY WAS SPENT AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The December 26, 1895, edition of the Detroit Free Press provided its readers with a detailed description of the Christmas Day festivities at the Michigan Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids.

“TO HER MARTYRS &
HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN
DEFENCE OF LIBERTY AND
UNION”

TUEBOR



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME XXXIII, ISSUE II
CHRISTMAS 2024

VETERANS' CHRISTMAS 1895 CONT'D



The 594 veterans and 34 widows were treated to a full day of visitors, celebrations and a special holiday dinner.

Some excerpts from the lengthy article provide a glimpse of Christmas Day 1895 for these surviving Boys in Blue.

A few of the old boys went away for the holidays to visit relatives, but most of them remained to partake of the excellent turkey and plum pudding dinner provided by the state. In many cases, almost the enthusiasm of children was manifested....

The ... old patriots, especially those with near relatives, watched eagerly for the arrival of the Home wagon which brings mail and express packages from the city Letters from loved ones were anxiously awaited and those favored were consequently happy....

Many of the old gentlemen have been busy for weeks, whittling and making toys and fancy articles for grandchildren, while others took just as much pleasure in drawing upon their little pension money to purchase remembrances in the stores....

In the wards, and in the reading rooms, in the halls and out on the grounds, there were animated little groups absorbed in the discussion of the day. There were tales of the trenches, the winter camps and marches through snow and storm; reminiscences of Christmas days whenhardtack took the place of turkey; and remembrances of the arrival of Christmas boxes from home, anywhere from one to six weeks late and even then, sadly despoiled....

But when the big gong sounded and announced that the Christmas dinner of '95 was ready, all the old times were forgotten. Mess tables were quickly filled and the hospitality of the state thoroughly enjoyed. The dinner was one to tempt anyone. There was turkey galore and chicken and oysters and no end of side dishes....

The article ended with a sad reminder that

...many of these gallant old fellows will not see another Christmas. They are dropping out every year and taking their places in the little evenly marked resting places upon the hillside.



GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP No. 20

Submitted by Gary Swain, PDC and Gary Gibson, PDC



Above Left: Camp No. 20 receiving the certificate from the Marine Corps League Detachment #879
Above Right: Eagle Scout Jason Babb

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 was honored to receive the Certificate of Appreciation, from the Marine Corps League Detachment #879 at the August 2024 Camp Meeting. The award reads "In recognition of your outstanding support of the Marine Corps League's Scouting program and dedication to preserving veteran gravestones and monuments."

Eagle Scout Jason Babb earned the regional and state Glenn and Melinda Adams Service Project of the Year Award for his Eagle Scout project. Working with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp No. 20, he developed a project to find a meaningful way to honor our Veterans by surveying Veteran graves in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. His project added 170 additional Veteran names and gravestones to the records and will now assure that these forgotten Veterans receive a flag on Memorial Day and recognition throughout the year.



Eagle Scout candidate, Caden Dodde, and his team of volunteers worked with the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 in Kalamazoo's Mountain Home Cemetery to preserve and restore Veteran and pioneer gravestones (see photo at Left). This Eagle Scout project resulted in the placement of two new gravestones for Civil War Veterans, removal of invasive brush around three additional Civil War Veteran gravestones and the cleaning and resetting of dozens of other Veteran and pioneer gravestones. This was the final project needed to earn the coveted Eagle Scout ranking.

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GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP No. 20 CONT'D



Above Left: Brother Gibson receiving the Ambassador for Peace Medal by a representative of the South Korean Consulate



Above Right: Brother Hubert C. Gibson with the Ambassador for Peace Medal

Brother Hubert C. Gibson, a 40-year member of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Korean War Veteran, was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Medal by the South Korean Consulate, on behalf of the Republic of Korea. The ceremony was held on Saturday, September 28, and was sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In all, four medals were awarded to surviving veterans, and two were awarded posthumously.

Brother Gibson served in the United States Navy as an Engineman, 3rd Class Petty Officer, aboard the destroyer U.S.S. Maddox. (DD-731) He served from 1949 – 1953, and saw service in the Sea of Japan. Brother Gibson's Korean Service medal displays five battle stars. His home port was Long Beach, California, and Pacific port was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The ceremony was attended by Bro. Gibson's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Hubert's youngest son, Gary, is also a member of Camp No. 20 and is a Past Commander of the Department of Michigan.

Camp No. 20 Senior Vice Commander Brother Comer Skinner conducted a grave flag retirement ceremony in October of 2024. The flags flew for the past year on veteran gravestones in Allegan County cemeteries. He was ably assisted by members of the Hopkins FFA.



Right: SVC Skinner and FFA retiring US Flags



ALBERT AND JAMES LYON CAMP No. 266

The Brothers of Albert and James Lyon Camp No. 266 held their December muster on Saturday, 07 December 2024 via a Zoom online meeting. The weather being uncooperative, it was decided to hold a strictly online meeting in December. Commander James Strain conducted the meeting through standard business and news, with the most important item to be completed was the installation of several Brothers in new offices.

Department Commander Martin appointed PDC David Smith to install the Brothers of Camp No. 266. The slate of officers remained the same with the exceptions of the following open offices being filled by election and appointment:

Secretary – James Strain, CC
Treasurer – Joseph Durbin
Council – Patrick Kennedy, PCC
Historian – James Strain, CC

The Brothers of Camp 266 wish their Brothers from across the Department of Michigan a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON CAMP No. 58

Submitted by Todd Cordill, JVDC – Camp Commander



Above: Brothers of Camp No. 17 and Camp No. 58 at the Heritage Festival, Meridian Historical Village.

Members of George W. Anderson Camp No. 58 have been involved with some community events this past year to promote the Order. Besides setting a wreath during the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies in St. Johns, Michigan, much work has been done with surveying cemeteries in Clinton County. Much of the cemetery survey work has led to obtaining replacement veteran headstones through the National Cemetery Administration. In early October, members of Camp No. 58 coordinated with members of Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 to set up and attend to an information table for the Order. This took place at the annual Heritage Festival at Meridian Historical Village in Meridian Township in the Okemos and Haslett areas.

NashHodgesCamp43SUVCW@gmail.com



CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP 17

Submitted by Robert Payne, PDC, CoA

On November 2, 2024, Curtenius Guard Camp 17 was joined by members of Austin Blair Camp 7, Gov Crapo Camp 143, US Grant Camp 67, March to the Sea Camp 135, as members of Company A, 14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, SVR (Irish Rifle), descendants of Harmon Gruesbeck, and representatives of the Eaton County Historical Society, to honor Comrade Gruesbeck. A GAR Marker was placed at his grave, where none had been recorded as having been placed before. The clear fall skies with their beautiful sun, shown down of the events. Harmon Gruesbeck, who served in the 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and was a member of GAR Brainard Post 111, is the great, great-grandfather of David Grimes, Camp Commander of Curtenius Guard Camp 17, Department of Michigan. A modified 1917 Headstone Ritual was performed, a Salute fired, and Taps played.



Harmon Gruesbeck Ceremony Attendees



Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry (Irish Rifle) – Sons of Veterans Reserve



CO. A, 14th MICHIGAN INFANTRY – SVR

Submitted by Captain L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. and First Lieutenant Paul Davis

Gettysburg Remembrance Day 2024



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg Memorial Service



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg Memorial Service



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg Memorial Service



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg 9th Michigan Artillery Memorial Service



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg 9th Michigan Artillery Memorial Service



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade



14th Michigan SVR Gettysburg Remembrance Day Participants



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444

Submitted by David S. Smith, LM, PDC – Camp 444 Commander

The 2024 campaign has been a busy one for General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444, and continues through the end of the calendar year. On Friday, 20 September 2024, a contingent of Brothers of Camp 444 performed the Last Union Veteran Buried in the County ceremony for Mr. Oren Button, Company B, 8th Michigan Cavalry. President Lorraine Aurand of Auxiliary No. 9 – ASUVCW (and Chaplain of the Department of Michigan-ASUVCW) served as ceremony Chaplain. Making the day of memorial even more special was the attendance and participation of students and faculty of Evart High School. Director of Bands Mikayla Warner and Band Student Kaylee Hebert performed Echo Taps, while Mr. Joshua Johnson, Evart High School History Instructor and his Michigan History Class attended. Evart and Osceola County were also well represented by officials of the City of Evart (including City Clerk Andrea Grupido) and community residents.

Upon completion of the ceremony, Commander Smith and Treasurer Welliver brought the student and community attendees over on the other side of Forest Hill to the Sedgwick GAR Post 16 Plot. Commander Smith discussed the importance of the effects of the Civil War on families at home, including the citizens of Evart and used an example of one family that he was well acquainted with and the losses that occurred to them. He went on to further explain the history and significance of the Grand Army of the Republic, including the Sedgwick Post 16 in Evart. It was further explained that Mr. Button was Commander of Post 16, and held other offices during his membership. Additionally, it was explained that the GAR monument at the plot is an extreme rarity to see, and that the community should be proud of it. The monument's plaque was erected by Post 16 and the WRC Corps, and it lists every single member of the GAR and WRC in Evart's history.

Treasurer Welliver went on to explain the history of Veterans organizations after the Grand Army of the Republic, and how the major ones were formed out of each subsequent major war. He further described the tenets of the Veterans organizations to provide support to the Veteran and their families, while serving as an advocate to fight for Veterans rights and benefits.

A brief question and answer session was held afterwards until the students needed to return to school. Overall, the ceremony was an excellent teaching opportunity with regards to one of Evart's own, Mr. Button, as well as the Grand Army of the Republic in their community and the SUVCW.

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Above Left: Auxiliary No. 9 President Aurand and Commander Smith during the ceremony. (Source: Dylan Schwartz, Big Rapids Pioneer)



Above Right: Camp 444 Honor Guard firing a volley (Source: Dylan Schwartz, Big Rapids Pioneer)



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 CONT'D



Above Left: The gravesite of Oren Button. (Source: City of Evert, FB page)

Above Right: Evert High School's Mr. Johnson's Michigan History Class at Mr. Button's gravesite (Source: Dylan Schwartz, Big Rapids Pioneer)



Above Left: Treasurer Welliver and Commander Smith discussing the effects of the Civil War on the homefront at the Sedgwick GAR Post 16 Plot and Monument (Source: Dylan Schwartz, Big Rapids Pioneer)

Above Right: The ceremony attendees and Commander Smith and Treasurer Welliver at the Sedgwick GAR Post 16 Plot in Forest Hill Cemetery (Source: City of Evert, FB Page)

On 08 October 2024, a contingent of Brothers of Camp 444 along with Camp family and friends took a trip to Grayling, Michigan to tour Camp Grayling Joint Manuever Training Center and some of its associated facilities. Upon arrival at Headquarters (Building 4) and getting to meet the tour host, Community Relations Specialist Jenni Caverson, the contingent was briefed by Deputy Garrison Commander LTC Rogers about operations at Camp Grayling currently, and throughout its history going back to its founding in 1913.

After the briefing, the group toured the historic Officers Club built in 1917, Camp Grayling Memorial Park, the greater cantonment area, Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES), Grayling Army Airfield, and the Camp Grayling PX. It was a great day to reminisce, and a few had not been on Camp Grayling's cantonment area since they were in Scouts, and a couple of Brothers on the tour had served at Camp Grayling in their years in the Army National Guard. A very special thank you to Ms. Caverson and all of the officers, NCOs, and staff at Camp Grayling for a wonderful tour.



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 CONT'D



Above Left (L-R): Br. Ron Shull of Camp 17, GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones, CC David Smith, PDC, JVC/Sec. Dale Aurand, PDC, Jodie Welliver, and Treasurer Rodney Welliver at the sign near the Front Gate of Camp Grayling. (photo courtesy of Jenni Caverson, Camp Grayling JMTC)



Above Right: The tour inside one of the maintenance bays at MATES. (photo courtesy of Jenni Caverson, Camp Grayling, JMTC)



Above Left: Touring the historic Camp Grayling Officer's Club, built in 1917.



Above Right: M198 155mm Howitzer near the Camp Grayling Front Gate. (photo courtesy of Jenni Caverson, Camp Grayling JMTC)

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CAMP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS – J. RICHARD GREENE AWARD

Calling on all Camps that would like to be considered for the J. Richard Greene Award for the Most Outstanding Newsletter in the Department to submit them upon each publication to the J. Richard Greene Award Committee comprised of the Department Newsletter Editor (Chairman), Department Chaplain, and the Department Secretary. The e-mail addresses for those officers are as follows:

editor@suvcwmi.org
chaplain@suvcwmi.org
secretary@suvcwmi.org

All Camp newsletters will be collected and reviewed during the prescribed period before the Department Encampment. The Department Newsletter Editor will recuse himself from voting on all Camp newsletters due to any and all conflicts of interest in scoring, and will conduct all other business as required as Chairman of the committee.



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 CONT'D

With the Holiday season approaching, a contingent of Camp 444 Brothers once again volunteered for Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. This year, Camp 444 chose to bell ring at Ebel's General Store in Falmouth on Saturday, 30 November 2024. It was another great opportunity for fraternity and giving back to the community even in the smallest way. Camp 444's youngest member, Brother Quin Walker with gusto handled the main bell ringing, as well as aided small children and adults with the kettle so they could insert their donations easier. The Brothers also served as shopping cart stewards for those entering the store. Based on the community's generosity, Salvation Army had a great day, and Camp 444 was grateful for the opportunity to help.



Above Left (L-R): SVC Dale Aurand, PDC, Brother Quin Walker, CC David Smith, PDC and JVC Kenny Jones (photo by: JVC K. Jones)



Above Right: (Rear L-R) Council Jeff Walker, SVC Dale Aurand, PDC, and CC David Smith, PDC, (Front) Brother Quin Walker (photo by: JVC K. Jones)

For the remainder of December, Camp 444 will have a couple of more activities that will be reported out in the next issue. From the Brothers of General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444: may you have a blessed and wonderful Christmas season and a safe and prosperous 2025!

THE BATES FAMILY: THREE GENERATIONS IN UNION BLUE

Submitted by Brother Mark Hoffman, PCC – Camp 17 & Camp 444

While working on graves registration research, I recently ran across proof of Civil War Union service by three generations of the same family. Thought not unheard of, this is the first time I've seen it with all three generations having documented active service as enlisted men.

The Daniel Bates family was living in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York at the outbreak of the Civil War and all three men served in regiments from that state. Grandfather and grandson survived their service, moved with other family members to Michigan before 1870 and settled near Stockbridge in southeastern Ingham County.

Grandfather Daniel Davidson Bates (1800-1883)

Daniel was 61 years when he enlisted for three years as a "44" year old recruit in Company I, 61st New York Infantry on October 29, 1861, in New York City. During his service, the 61st New York was part of the Army of the Potomac's II Corps and saw heavy fighting at Fair Oaks, through Seven Days, and at Antietam. He was discharged by the surgeons for disability on November 18, 1862, at Falmouth, Virginia. Daniel was given an invalid soldiers' pension after 1876 and died in 1883. He is buried in Oaklawn Cemetery near Stockbridge.

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IN MEMORIAM: TRIBUTE TO BROTHER HOWARD LLOYD, PCC

On 07 September 2024, Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and the "Irish Rifles" of Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry - Sons of Veterans Reserve lost a stalwart fixture in the passing of Brother Howard Lloyd. Brother Lloyd was a constant presence at meetings, ceremonies and Department and National Encampments through the years. When talking with Brother Howard, you knew where you stood, as he was a no nonsense gentleman, honest and true. While he spoke with candor, there was always the opportunity for humor and a great story told with that special sparkle in his eye. He will be missed throughout the Department and the National by all that knew him. May he rest in peace reconnected with the love of his life June in the Great Bivouac in the Sky. We will miss you Brother.

Brother Howard's Obituary:

Howard B. Lloyd, a lifelong resident of Williamston passed away on Saturday September 7, 2024, under the care of Hospice House of Mid-Michigan. Howard was born on December 16, 1940.

Howard is survived by sons, Tony (Diane) and Sean (Jessica); Grandchildren: Chris, Brock, Nick, Jake, Andy, Liz, and Lexie; Great-grandchildren: Aubrey, Sophia, Aiden and a new great grandchild due in December; Sister, Jackie Graham; Sister-in-law, Carolyn (Roger) Manning; brothers-in-law, Casey (Mary) Griggs, Daryl (Kerri) Griggs, and Rob (Peg) Griggs; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Howard was preceded in death by June, his wife of 63 years; his parents, Howard and Wilma (Barnum) Lloyd; grandson, Stephen Lloyd; brother-in-law, Kenny Graham; in-laws, Clarence and Nora (McMann) Griggs; sister-in-law, Eleanor (Griggs) Williams; brother-in-law, Don Williams; and sister-in-law, Sue (Assid) Griggs.

Howard retired from General Motors and always enjoyed telling stories about his time working there. He was a life member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and served as Camp Commander of the Austin Blair Camp No. 7 located in Jackson, Michigan. He was also a regular volunteer, as well as a Special Advisor to the Board at Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids. He spent many of his vacations visiting civil war battlefields throughout the country as well as taking part in many Remembrance Day Events in Gettysburg, PA., and the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL with the 14th Michigan Company A Irish Rifle Sons of Veterans Reserve. Howard was also a proud member of the Sultana Decedents Association and attended several of their reunions to honor his ancestor, John Barnum who was lost in that disaster. In 2007, he and his wife June, renewed their wedding vows in a Civil War period ceremony at the Jackson Civil War Muster. In his spare time, he enjoyed traveling, fishing, going out to eat, doing his volunteer work with children teaching them about the American Civil War, working out at the YMCA, and listening to the oldies, especially music from the 50's.

The family would like to thank everyone who messaged, called, or stopped by to visit with Howard during the last few weeks; it always boosted his spirit. Special thanks also to the staff at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan.

Honoring Howard's wishes, cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Life will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at Williamston United Methodist Church located at 211 Putnam Street in Williamston, Michigan. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks memorial contributions to be directed to Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum, 224 South Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI 48824 in Howard's name. Arrangements entrusted to Vickers Leslie Funeral Home, 109 N. Church Street/PO Box 503, Leslie, MI 49251. 517-878-6600.



IN MEMORIAM: BROTHER HOWARD LLOYD, PCC CONT'D



Photos Courtesy of Brother David Kimble, PCC, SVDC

THE BATES FAMILY: THREE GENERATIONS CONT'D

Son Eli Tryon Bates (1828-1865)

Eli enlisted with his father in Company I, 61st New York Infantry in October 1861. He was discharged for disability shortly after his father, on December 4, 1862. Thirteen months later he enlisted as a corporal in the new 22nd New York Cavalry and was soon promoted to sergeant. This regiment served in the Army of the Potomac, first with Butler's IX Corps and then the army's Cavalry Corps. Eli was captured on May 8, 1864, during skirmishing near Spotsylvania Court House. He was sent to Andersonville, from which he was paroled in broken health. Eli arrived home at Manlius in late December and died days later, on January 1, 1865. He is buried in Manlius and his widow Laura was awarded a pension.

Grandson Edwin S. Bates (1848-1902)

Young Edwin enlisted for one year in Company F, 2nd New York Cavalry, on September 3, 1864, at Syracuse. He was recorded as being "17" years old, though actually six months shy of that. By 1864, the 2nd had been reduced to four companies by heavy fighting and the departure of most of its original members at the end of three years. Edwin was among those in eight companies of new recruits that were assigned to restore the 2nd to full strength. He served with his regiment through the hard fighting during Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign, where it was part of the division commanded by James H. Wilson and later

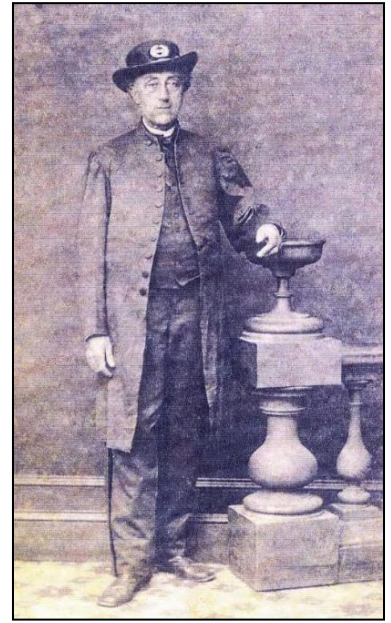


THE BATES FAMILY: THREE GENERATIONS CONT'D

George Custer. That winter Edwin eventually became too sick to remain with his unit and was sent to a military hospital in Baltimore, from which he was mustered out on June 1, 1865. He returned to his widowed mother and family in New York and moved with them to Michigan.

Edwin was an early member of Lansing's Charles T. Foster Post No. 42, Grand Army of the Republic, and was granted an invalid pension after 1895. By the 1890s Edwin was a respected and successful private detective in Lansing, but then ran afoul of the law. In 1900 he pled guilty to forging a mortgage and was sentenced to five years in the Michigan Reformatory at Ionia. He died there in 1902 and is buried with other family members in Oaklawn Cemetery, Stockbridge. His wife Flora received a widow's pension for his military service.

Right: Patriarch Daniel D. Bates, 61st New York Infantry. Buried in Stockbridge, Michigan. (Photo source: Ancestry.com)



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



"Christmas Eve" an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, 03 January 1863



OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

2024 – 2025

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SR. VICE DEPT. COMMANDER	David Kimble, PCC
JR. VICE DEPT. COMMANDER	Todd Cordill, CC
DEPT. SECRETARY	Richard Denney, PCC
DEPT. TREASURER	Bruce S. A. Gosling, PDC
DEPT. COUNCIL	David S. Smith, PDC (Chair) Robert R. Payne, PDC Nathan L. Smith, PDC
DEPT. CHIEF OF STAFF	James B. Pahl, PCinC
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For contact information, see: suvcwmi.org/hq

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