

## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT SUVCW HISTORY



The SUVCW and its PA Dept have a rich history. In 1878, Anna M. Ross GAR Post 94 in Philadelphia (one of more than 600 GAR posts in PA) organized a “GAR Cadet Corps” for sons of Civil War veterans that soon became known as the Eastern PA Sons of Veterans. A similar group was being independently organized and became popular in New England. Civil War veteran A. P. Davis organized the “Sons of Veterans of the USA” in Pittsburgh in 1881. With consolidation of the two PA groups, the GAR recognized the renamed organization as the “Sons of Union Veterans.” By the mid-1920s, following two major US wars, the organization changed its name to “Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War” to better identify its heritage at a time when GAR membership was rapidly declining due to death. The GAR later designated the SUVCW as its legal heir, with the US Congress granting the Order a Charter in 1954. ... cont.

The Pennsylvania Department, the largest in the SUVCW, can be proud of its unbroken heritage dating back to the beginnings of the organization more than 140 years ago.

### PURPOSE OF THE SUVCW

To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the men who saved the United States between 1861-1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the GAR and its members; to cooperate in honoring all who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism, and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our Flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

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### LEARN MORE AT

<https://www.pasuvcw.org/>

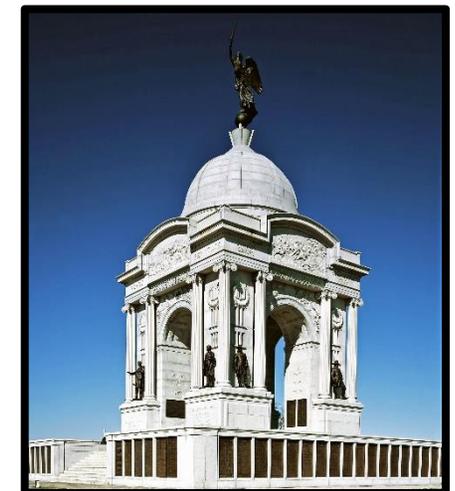
<https://www.suvcw.org/>

### OR CONTACT

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## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



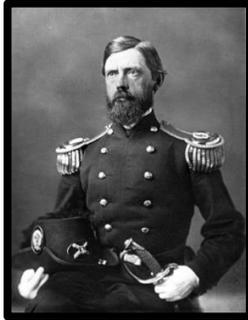
Carol M. Highsmith Collection, LOC

Pennsylvania Memorial, Gettysburg NMP

# Why join the PA Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War?

## HONOR OUR FINEST

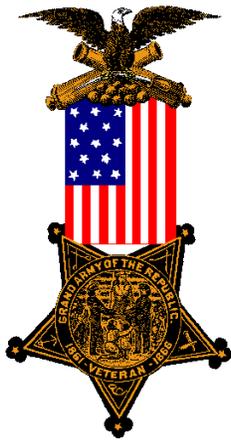
**Gen John F Reynolds**  
(as a Capt, 3<sup>rd</sup> US Arty)  
KIA at Gettysburg PA  
July 1, 1863



Men who heeded the call, from generals who led thousands into the cauldron of fire, to



duty-bound enlisted men, who followed, fought, and bore innumerable hardships to bring peace and restore Union.



*Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

## PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY

Help ensure that the stories, headstones, and monuments honoring our "Boys in Blue" are not lost to time but preserved for future generations



## MEMBERSHIP

Is open to all upright men aged 14 years and over who are directly descended from an honorably serving Civil War soldier, sailor, marine, or member of the Revenue Cutter Service. Associate membership is also available for those without such lineage but who agree with our purpose.



*Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty*

## MEETINGS

Local groups (called "Camps") meet regularly across the Commonwealth to fulfill the fraternal, charitable, educational, and historic objectives of our Order. "At Large" (where no local camp exists) members are also welcome to participate in SUVCW events, including meetings and encampments in PA and elsewhere. See "Learn More At" in this brochure for details.

## HONORING OUR YOUTH

A central purpose of the PA Dept is to recognize young Pennsylvanians who display outstanding patriotism and citizenship. Two specific awards are for those who attain the rank of Eagle Scout and for exceptional JROTC / ROTC cadets.

