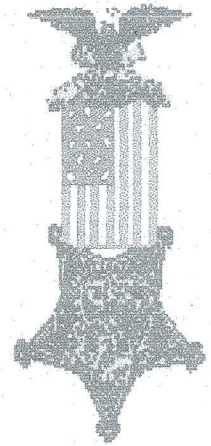


Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Office of the Department Commander

pa142b@yahoo.com
412-527-7185



As I conclude my term as Pennsylvania Department Commander, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the time easier. Unfortunately with my financial and medical issues, I made the decision to only serve for one year. The doubling of gas prices in the last year or so only added to my difficulties in travelling.

For my first time ever I was able to go to Remembrance Day in Gettysburg. I was invited to attend a service at the 142nd Pennsylvania monument, held by the 142d PVI Co.F reenacting group. The monument means a lot to me, and I don't miss a chance to visit it when in town, but it was special to give the regiment respect with a large group for a change. Later I was able to place a wreath at the GAR Monument, representing the Pennsylvania Department SUVCW. I was joined at the Woolson monument by members of Camp #504 who served as my official color guard this year, and I thank them their exemplary service in doing so.

I was able to attend a number of Camp Christmas parties and thank those camps for inviting me.

Isaac Eaton Camp #504 hosted the Appomattox Luncheon for the second year in a row and I am glad to have attended both years.

I was also honored to ride in the Memorial Day Parade in Kittanning, PA. This was followed by a fine Memorial Day service, where I was one of the speakers. After which I joined the Mayor of Kittanning, a fellow Navy Veteran, placing a floral tribute into the Allegheny River.

I also had the privilege during my term of initiating new members and swearing in elected camp officers at various camps throughout the Department. None gave me more personal pride than when I had the opportunity to swear in seven new members at once in my home camp, Davis * Camp, in Pittsburgh.

A number of issues arose during the past year. Placing flags at the Gettysburg National Cemetery was a point of contention as our previous practice, of each department marking their own state's veterans was declared out of order by the National Park Service. Their regulations require that a permit to place flags be acquired in advance and will only be

issued if the requesting organization places flags provided by the NPS on all of the graves. While some took offense, it was clear that this resulted from the NPS attempting to enforce rules equally across all of their locations. With all SUVCW departments being affected, it was decided that a Remembrance Day flag placing permit would be acquired by the National SUVCW going forward.

The continued use of on-line and hybrid meetings has been smoothed out by new regulations from our national organization. On line and hybrid meetings are not a passing thing, and even Roberts Rules of Order now have sections clarifying how such meetings are to be conducted. The important thing for members to understand is that all members of an on-line meeting are given equal opportunity to speak and to vote. Likewise in a hybrid meeting people joining remotely have the same right to speak, object, make motions and vote as those attending in person.

During the past year, Commander in Chief Paquette has held quarterly Zoom meetings with Department Commanders and I was able to attend all but one of them. Hopefully future CinCs will continue this practice, as it helps maintain ties with the organization as a whole and keeps us at a department level advised of issues affecting the national organization without waiting for National Encampment.

The Department mid-year meeting in Greensburg, PA was sparsely attended, perhaps due to a statewide wave of bad weather. Even people relatively close by opted out because of the rain. Nevertheless, the meeting did give an opportunity to discuss issues and was considered a successful event.

Recommendation:

Perhaps a better option than a mid-year meeting would be to take the Commander in Chief's idea to a Department level and have one or two Zoom meetings with Department Commander and Camp Commanders. These meetings do not need to be long, and if a Camp Commander can't attend a Camp Officer who is comfortable with online meetings can represent that camp.

Recommendation:

We should consider any future mid-year meetings have the capability of being a hybrid meeting.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

John R. Gipson, DC
Commander Pennsylvania Department
Past Camp Commander Davis * Camp
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Pennsylvania Department
Senior Vice Commander's Report
to the 142nd Department Encampment
Dane DiFebo, PCC

Greetings Brothers:

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Senior Vice Commander this year!

I would like to begin by thanking Brother William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC and Pennsylvania Department Junior Vice Commander for his work in editing the last two issues of *The Battle Cry of Freedom* newsletter. The newsletter has certainly come a long way over the years and changes to the format certainly leave the reader impressed.

The following is my attempt to summarize my participation in Departmental activities since last year's Department Encampment.

On August 21, 2021, I assisted the Education Committee by conducting an interview of Past Department Commander Ivan Frantz, Jr. at the G.A.R. Hall in Gettysburg. Brother Ivan shared a wealth of knowledge and insight about the affairs of the Department and some cherished memories of growing up and doing good work in the Allied Orders. I look forward to participating in more of the work of this committee in the future.

On August 28, I attended JPS Gobin Camp #503's picnic with some of the brothers from Hartranft Camp #15.

On September 19, I participated in a rededication ceremony of Joel Searfoss' gravestone in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Bangor, PA. The Brothers of Searfoss Camp #273 were represented in full, and we were joined by some of the Brothers of Griffin Camp #8. I would like to thank Brother Doug McMillin for video-recording this ceremony. Following the service, Camp #273 hosted a pasty picnic

at Weona Park in Pen Argyl, PA to revive a camp tradition that had not been done in recent years.

On October 23, I attended the Department Mid-Year Meeting at the Hoss's Steakhouse in Greensburg, PA with Sons of Union Veterans Executive Director Brother David Demmy. I enjoyed the discussion and fellowship with all of those in attendance.

In December 2021, I attended Christmas luncheons for Camp #273 and Camp #15 and had a great time at each function.

On January 6, 2022, I witnessed the transfer of the remnants of five Civil War-era flags to the Capitol Preservation Committee Historian Jason Wilson at the Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flag Education Center in Harrisburg, PA. These remnants were among Allied Orders of the GAR materials obtained from Philadelphia's Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library.

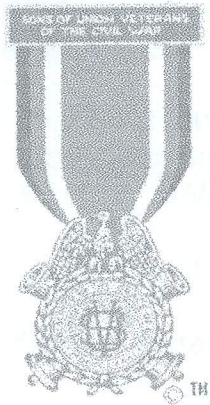
On the Saturday before Memorial Day, I participated in Camp #273's Last Veteran's Ceremony for Northampton County's Charles Washington Horn. Horn served in Company I of the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and is buried in Nisky Hill Cemetery in Bethlehem, PA.

On Memorial Day, I represented the Pennsylvania Department and our Department Commander in the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade and Service. I was honored to have the opportunity to participate in the parade and present a wreath at the National Cemetery.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you this year. I look forward to participation in the events of our organization around the state of Pennsylvania for years to come.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dane DiFebo, PCC
Pennsylvania Department Senior Vice Commander
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

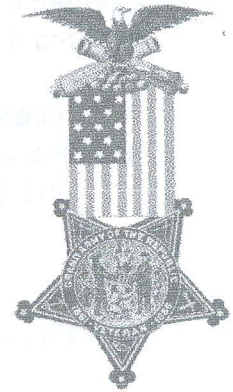


Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Junior Vice Commander

2022 Encampment Report



Thank you, Brothers, for your confidence in electing me as PA Dept Junior Vice Commander for 2021-2022. I have endeavored to fulfill expectations, and further the mission of our department. And thank you, Dept Cmdr Gipson, for allowing me to continue to serve as PA Dept Graves Registration Officer as well as serve as ROTC Committee Chair and Interim Newsletter Editor this past year.

During the year, I received three new member applications (two from the National JVC and one from the National Executive Director). I welcomed all three and encouraged them to consider joining a local camp, but all decided to join as "At Large" members of Memorial Camp 300. I offer my sincere thanks to Brother David Demmy for helping ensure that the new members' paperwork was quickly and properly processed to join our department as Brothers. And thanks to our camps for continuing to recruit new Brothers.

With the ebbs and flows of changing COVID restrictions, limited meetings, and fewer community events for much of the year, I have not been able to get out as much as I wanted in order to encourage members of the public to consider SUVCW membership. However, I prepared a "generic" PA Dept tri-fold informational and recruiting brochure which was e-distributed across the department. I hope that camps that do not have a camp-specific brochure will print and handout the tri-fold to prospective new members at community events.

Since the last encampment I have participated in the following:

Jun 29 – Submitted an e-Letter of Support (as a private citizen) for the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for possible creation of a Pike National Historic Trail, which would chronicle the intrepid Zebulon Pike expedition across the central Great Plains in 1806.

Jul 15 – Attended online Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History presentation about the 54th Massachusetts Infantry using primary documents in their collection

Jul 16 – Presented via Zoom to American Battlefield Trust (formerly Civil War Trust) Teacher Institute attendees on a Civil War census project I developed to better

understand the effects of the Civil War on Bourbon County KS. I explained methodology and provided templates, and encouraged teachers to do the same for their counties.

Jul 19 – Submitted PHMC Historical & Archival Records Care grant application for archival storage of original Lt Ezra S Griffin GAR Post member photographs in the Scranton GAR Memorial Museum collection. PMHC approved a \$2,000 grant.

Aug 5-7 – Attended National Encampment in suburban St Louis MO

Sep 11 – Attended 9/11 Memorial Service and Silent Walk in Mount Lebanon PA

Sep 11-12 – Attended memorial service for PCinC Richard Orr and the A.P. Davis mausoleum rededication, both in Pittsburgh PA

Sep 18 – Attended Joel Searfoss headstone dedication ceremony in Bangor PA and the post-ceremony Camp 273 picnic in Pen Argyl PA

Sep 24 – Began dialogue with Silas Gore Camp 141 commander Kurt Lafy about the possible donation and relocation of the Bvt MG Henry Madill House in Wysox PA. Informed PA Dept officers and council of efforts to make it into an independent museum and research center. Provided letter of support as a private citizen. Information was forwarded to the National CinC.

Oct 3 – Attended Joel Searfoss Camp 273 meeting

Oct 17 – Attended Gilder Lehrman Institute Book Breaks online discussion of *Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox* with Prof Caroline Janney

Oct 23 – Attended re-dedication of gravesite of John P. Werkman (gg-grandfather of DC John Gipson) in Union Cemetery, Greensburg PA, then participated in Mid-Year meeting

Nov 11 – Attended VFW Post 25's Veterans Day ceremony, Scranton

Nov 13 – Attended Anna M Ross Camp 1's "Brothers Day" ceremony honoring Thomas Kingston, USN, at Lawnview Cemetery, Rockledge PA (where my mother rests)

Nov 20 – Participated in Remembrance Ceremony at Woolson Memorial, then marched in the SVR Parade, Gettysburg PA

Nov 21 – Created a draft PA Dept tri-fold recruitment brochure for dept officer review

Dec 4 – Attended Joel Searfoss Camp 273's holiday luncheon in Wind Gap PA

Feb 16 – Wrote, as a private citizen, my congressman and senators supporting bill to promote Ulysses S. Grant to rank of "General of the Armies of the United States"

Mar 4 – E-distributed the PA Dept tri-fold info/recruitment brochure for dept/camp use

Mar 19 – Attended Joel Searfoss Camp 273 meeting

Mar 29 – Presented SUVCW ROTC Awards to Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC cadets/midshipman at Penn State University, State College

Apr 9 – Attended the Appomattox Luncheon in Grove City PA, hosted by Isaac Eaton Camp 504

Apr 21 – Presented SUVCW ROTC Award to Air Force ROTC cadet at Wilkes University

Apr 23 – Participated in Griffin Camp 8's delayed Lincoln Ceremony, Scranton PA

May 13 – Assisted with Camp 8's Memorial Day flag detail at Dunmore Cemetery

May 14 – Attended the Dept of New York Encampment in Binghamton

May 26 – Prepared and submitted a VA Form 40/supporting documentation to the Dunmore Cemetery administrator for a replacement headstone for Pvt Charles Morton, 5th NH Inf, whose marker was broken in two (apparently hit by a car)

May 29 – Gave the Jefferson Community Memorial Day address at Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, York County PA

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC
Junior Vice Commander

ANNUAL REPORT
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT, S.U.V.C.W.
SECRETARY/TREASURER
2021-2022

June 6, 2022

Brothers of the PA Dept. SUVCW:

I would first like to thank Brothers, David Demmy, and Department Council for their assistance over the past year for answering all of my questions as well as their guidance. For the 2022 year, the department has:

21 Camps in good standing

591 Members, of whom are 52 Life members

38 Associate

3 Jr. Members

1 Jr. Associate

For a grand total of: 633 members. This is 77 fewer members than last year.

2 camp suspended $\frac{+34}{667}$ $\frac{-34}{43}$

As of the writing of this report, the Department financial funds are as follows:

	2021	2022	Total Diff.
Checking:	\$47,397.77	\$37,772.26	-\$9,625.51
Savings	\$134.49	\$134.49	0.00
6 Mo. CD	\$22,589.32	\$22,590.99	+\$1.67
3 Mo. CD	\$11,128.03	\$11,134.41	+\$6.38
Money Market	\$1,814.41	\$1,815.21	+\$0.81
Total of	\$83,064.02	\$73,447.36	-\$9,616.66

In Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty,

Robert J. Koenigsberg

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

OFFICE OF
Steve Johnston, PCC
Pennsylvania Department, Patriotic Instructor

I am very proud to report that the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have been very active in promoting our organization in the local community. Despite the fact that the pandemic shut down and cancelled many events, our Brothers throughout the department steadfastly promoted our order and continually brought attention to perpetuating the memory of the Boys in Blue.

In addition to participating in national patriotic events in their local communities as well as the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony in Gettysburg, our brothers participated in cemetery clean-up projects, have replaced Civil War veterans headstones, assisted in the Wreaths Across America project, created county wide databases of Civil War veterans gravesites and honored our Civil War soldiers by participating in the Silent Sentinel Project.

Making the most of the digital age in which we live, our Brothers promoted the organization by reaching out to local newspapers through the use of blogs, reached an unlimited audience through the use of social media and produced videos about the GAR and SUVCW.

Our Brothers helped to bring to light the SUVCW by attending and presenting awards at Eagle Scout ceremonies, participated in Flag and Flag Retirement ceremonies and presented public programs on the Civil War and the Sons of Union Veterans. Many camps opened their meetings to the public to encourage recruitment and broaden the awareness of our organization, and Camp #504 hosted the Appomattox Luncheon so that our Brothers could share in fellowship.

Yours in F, C and L
Brother Steve Johnston, PCC
Pennsylvania Department, Patriotic Instructor

June 4, 2022

Eagle Scout Certificate Program
Annual Report 2022
Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

There has been an increased number of award requests this year due to diminishing effects of the Covid Pandemic. I have tried to attend any Court of Honor which is within a reasonable distance of my residence and fits my calendar schedule. Brother James Jones, P.C.C. has graciously made presentations in the N.E. Pennsylvania area on many occasions. Camps in the central part of the state have also provided brothers to attend a few Courts of Honor.

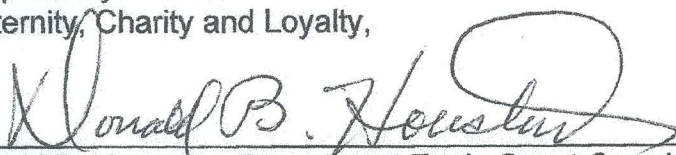
Several presentations were for multiple scouts and were attended by many, many families and dignitaries. These events provided a great opportunity to spread information about our organization and answer questions about joining. I met several congressman and senators who were very impressed with our certificate and our organization in general.

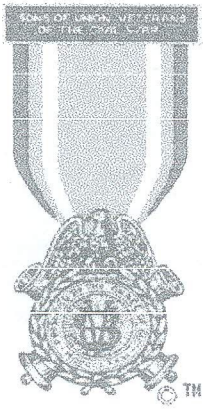
There was a total of 55 applications received in the last fiscal year. Some were passed on from other states which were intended for Pennsylvania and some were passed on to me by National Headquarters.

I am still making contact with some troops and PA Councils to make them aware of our interest in making these presentations. Many Eagle Scout projects involve restoring Civil War Cemeteries or period churches and local historic sites.

The time has also come for us to reword the certificates to include neutral gender references since many troops are now co-ed or 100% female scouts.

Respectfully submitted in
Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,


Donald B. Houston - Department Eagle Scout Coord.
Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

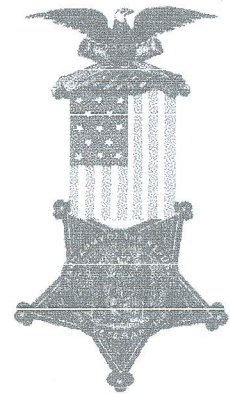


Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Graves Registration Officer

2022 Encampment Report



Thank you, Commander Gipson for allowing me to serve on your staff as the 2021-2022 Department Graves Registration Officer (GRO).

As of 31 May 2022, there are **45913** Civil War veterans' Pennsylvania gravesites listed in the national SUVCW Graves Database (GDb), **3733** more than one year ago. I use my PA GRO Administrator account for editing, corrections, and adding photographs, while I use my personal User account for input of new graves. As of the same date, I have personally cumulatively added to the database 6372 graves (415 added since last encampment) across many states.

In 2021-2022, I completed input of soldiers' and sailors' graves found in Sullivan and Forest Counties (two of the least populated PA counties) based on a review of all graves listed in Find A Grave. I am presently working my way through Montour County burials. Of course, not every burial is included in that online website, meaning that there are very likely Civil War veteran burials that have not yet been identified and added to the SUVCW GDb. There are now **188** Civil War veterans' graves in Sullivan Co and **141** in Forest Co (when there were only 7 Forest Co burials in our database when I started) that are included in our GDb. We must remain vigilant and continue to seek out our Boys in Blue, and catalog their final resting places across the Commonwealth.

Brother Henry Duquette, National GRO, made a request for review of ten PA entries in the SUVCW GDb that did not have any Civil War service information. I researched the six entries in eastern PA and asked Davis * Camp GRO Sean Bersell to research the four entries in western PA; we were able to confirm Civil War service for three of the ten and updated the GDb with their service information. Those with no verifiable service have been removed from the GDb. However, I asked Br. Duquette that National maintain a record of all those deleted so that if someone in the future adds them to the database, they can be removed without further research (or included should Civil War service be verified). The most common problem seems to be that someone finds a grave with a name of a Civil War veteran, but the actual veteran of the same name is buried somewhere else-i.e. mistaken identity-and then a GAR flag holder gets placed on the non-veteran's grave and from then on, everyone makes the assumption that the burial is of a Civil War veteran. This is not a "new" problem as some PA Veteran Grave Cards created in the 1930s have misidentified non-Civil War veteran burials as veteran

And we need to continue to seek VA-provided headstones for veterans with no headstones or for those whose existing markers have become damaged or have become illegible. But VA requirements must be followed closely to prevent errors or abuse-this is where work by "committee" is typically better than being a lone ranger. If requesting a stone upright marker, while marble looks quite striking, when possible, I prefer using granite since it shall last much longer; and we have many original marble headstones that have deteriorated and need replaced.

I urge camps to continue their good work in helping maintain Civil War veterans' graves by scheduling work days, placing flags, and conducting ceremonies as health conditions allow. Cleaning headstones is important but please follow best practices since solvents and hard-bristled brushes can cause more damage than good.

Cemetery work days are good opportunities as we move beyond the pandemic to re-engage youth, be they scouts, church youth groups, and others, in honoring our Boys in Blue. They also allow the next generation to learn about the good work of the SUVCW.

I remain committed to work with Brothers on Civil War graves-related projects.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC
Graves Registration Officer

burials.

The SUVCW has a Find A Grave project in which Brothers crosscheck burials in Find A Grave with the SUVCW GDbase. Those veterans not in our GDb are then added to the GDb. However, while the SUVCW manages some Civil War veteran memorials in Find A Grave, most are managed by other folks; therefore, the SUVCW has created a "virtual" cemetery on Find A Grave to track Civil War memorials. Br. Sean Bersell of Davis * Camp is the PA Coordinator for this project, and I rejoined the effort after a few years hiatus. Br. Bersell has done yeoman work in this effort as well as working to add PA county information for all Civil War veteran burials in the SUVCW GDb. He is also leading the effort to ensure all Civil War veterans interred in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, are listed in our Order's GDb-no small effort! Camp GROs are vital for cataloging our Boys in Blue across the Commonwealth, and I hope that camps will support their efforts.

Brother Duquette also forwarded a request from an ancestor of Frederick Kobbe, 51st PA Inf, asking for assistance from the SUVCW in resetting his ancestor's headstone. Vet Kobbe is buried in a small rural cemetery in Sullivan Co PA (the second least populated PA county). I called Ed Kobbe and explained that the nearest camps are located more than an hour away from the cemetery and the limited manpower that might be mustered from the camps would not be enough to reset the rather large private headstone. Ed stated that he had been in contact with the Sullivan County Historical Society and hopes they can assist. I asked that he keep me updated, and stated that I would be willing to lend a hand if a work team is organized.

Much of my GRO work is typically done during the winter via online research. However, my Dept JVC, Newsletter Editor, and ROTC Committee work have cut into available GRO research time and limited my ability to add to the SUVCW GDb. That stated, I continue to add missing information, such as birth/death dates and enlistment/discharge information, and make corrections to individual grave pages to provide a more complete record, and have done so for hundreds of our Boys in Blue. I also add headstone photos after trips to cemeteries.

There have been several camps that performed "Last Veteran" ceremonies this past year (for Northampton, Northumberland, and Somerset Counties; my apologies if I missed listing others, please let me know) and others who continue to research to uncover counties' Last Veterans. Please keep up the good work, and when you are ready, invite Brothers, Sisters, and the public to attend such ceremonies. Let's keep moving forward!

Issues have arisen regarding the Last Veteran of one county ending up being buried in another county or even another state. This remains a very fluid concern for the project. I recommend that we follow the practice of some other departments which list a last buried veteran for each county, but also list the actual last living veteran from the same county who was ultimately buried outside that county.

2022 Report to Pennsylvania Encampment at Williamsport
Asst Secretary, Pennsylvania Dept for Camp 300
the Memorial Camp-at-Large
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Headquarters at Colonial Park

June 10 2022

Brother Commander and Departmental Brothers:

Report for 2021 revealed camp 300 lost 3 brothers

Annual report for 2022 indicated camp 300 lost 1 brother due to death, but earned 3 new brothers for a total head count of 18.

Since the mid-year gathering of 2021, this camp secretary has participated in the following activities:

- October 2021 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- November 2021 attended Nat'l Council meeting at Gettysburg
- December 2021 attended Camp 15's annual holiday banquet
- January 2022 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- January 2022 attended CinC's zoom meeting on 18th.
- January 2022 Entertained IT specialist at Headquarters on 23rd.
- Submitted new year newsletter to members of Camp 300.
- Set up display and recruiting tables for SUVCW at Nat'l Civil War Museum Free Day.
- February 2022 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- March 2022 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- April 2022 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- April prepared camp 15's form 27 for busy camp secy!
- May 2022 submitted Camp 15's form 990 to IRS.
- May 2022 attended CinC's zoom meeting on 11th.
- May 2022 attended Camp 15 monthly meeting at The Burg
- May 2022 attended Hartranft Camp annual Memorial Day events at historic Harrisburg Cemetery to honor our fallen veterans.
- June 2022 submitted delinquent notices to Departments that have not reported their annual report to headquarters.
- To date for 2022, PA Dept gained 1 new Life Membership; First since 2019!
- Entertained SVC and JVC at headquarters!

Anything else, just ask! I have no suggestions or recommendations at this time!

In remembrance of my ancestors who served our country during the Civil War and other conflicts since the War of the Rebellion, it is an honor to serve the Department Commander and the *at-large* members of Camp 300.

Respectfully submitted!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

David W. Demmy, Sr., Secretary, Camp 300

Colonial Park, Pennsylvania

National Executive Director SUVCW, execdir@suvchw.org