

The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1

Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

January 2024

Commander's Message

Brothers of Camp 1, please excuse the length of this message – lots to cover. Wow, it's 2024. Here's wishing you Good Hunting for the new year!

Our Treasurer (*pro tem*), Brother David Appleton, has sent all our members from 2023 his “pay your dues for 2024” message. (copied in this newsletter) Please respond as soon as possible.

If you are transferring your membership to another Camp, there is a “Form 4” on the Department website for this purpose. If you cannot find the form, please let me know (and I will try to talk you out of transferring). 😊 I have a message from the Department Secretary that states members transferring from Camp 1 should timely pay their dues to Camp 1, and the Department will sort the funds out at a later date. So, please keep those Paypals and personal checks coming.

I get it – Temple/Belton is not Fort Worth, and you signed up for Fort Worth. We are trying this for a year. Results will determine future planning for 2025. I believe all stakeholders are approaching this with a good-faith effort to give it a try and see how it goes. The apparent alternative was closure of the Camp. Maybe we'll recruit, develop, or receive some future leaders who will take the main meeting place back to Fort Worth. If that is in the best interest of the Order and its members, Great! Please try to view the glass as half-full, not half-empty!

The Department Commander, Brother Michael Lance, will install officers of Camp 1 on January 20th, 2024 at The Gin Restaurant in Belton. Your Cmdr and SVC will be in attendance. We are gathering at 11:30 or so for a Noon meal together in the main dining area, then retiring to a private room to perform the installation. All members, and especially officers who were elected at the special meeting on 14 Dec, are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Given the travel distances involved, we understand that this journey is too far for many, but I hope to see you. Those not installed on the 20th can still be installed at our Zoom-only regular meeting in February. I am scheduling the February meeting for Thursday evening 29 February at 7PM.

Dallas Camp 18 is hosting the Department Encampment somewhere in the Dallas area on Saturday 04 May. Since this is a drivable distance for many of our Camp members, I am encouraging all members to convene at the Dept Encampment for a chance to connect with our

fellow Camp members as well as connect with what is happening at the Department of Texas and Louisiana level. PLUS we will be there to celebrate and support our own Brother Timothy Phillips who is slated to be sworn in as the next Department Commander!

Over the past few years, I have found the Encampments really helped me to meet state-level leaders and understand more of the workings of our Order. Some of our members (all PCCs, the CC, plus a max of four others) will be credentialled as Voting Members of the Encampment. Others may observe. There is a \$30-ish Registration Fee to cover the lunch meal and other arrangements, but in my opinion it is well worth the price of admission. We will have a Camp “break-out session” of 30 minutes duration to cover local business and planning – it may have to be during lunch.

Of course, the end of May brings us Memorial Day. I will look for our Camp members to participate in an in-person commemoration, EITHER in Fort Worth OR in Temple/Belton. We will plan BOTH so that the maximum number of Brothers may participate in recognizing the critical roles our Union ancestors played in preserving the Union. At this time, I plan to divide and conquer with the Senior Vice Commander: I will plan to attend the Fort Worth event and Brother Mike Belcher will plan to attend the Temple/Belton event.

So, based on all the above, here is a brief summary of the next five months:

- 20 Jan -Noon meal followed by officer install (maybe Zoom), The Gin Restaurant, Belton
- 29 Feb -7PM regular meeting with program (Zoom only)
- 04 May -proxy Camp meeting as part of the all-day Dept Encampment (Dallas area)
- Memorial Day commemoration event in Fort Worth, details to be developed
- Memorial Day commemoration event in Temple/Belton, details to be developed

To fill out our slate of officer positions, we need a Junior Vice Commander (elected), a Chaplain (appointed), and a Patriotic Instructor (appointed). Please let me know if you are interested in assuming or learning more about these positions.

Please contact me if I may be of service.

I remain, your obedient servant in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Butch Durham, Commander

From the Camp Treasurer

Brothers!

Here we are at the end of December 2023, and by now you should already know that Camp 1 is prepared to face the coming year with renewed anticipation for the coming year.

But, of course, that means that it is time to renew your membership in the Camp and the Sons of Union Veterans for 2024.

Although the National organization increased their portion of the annual dues by \$10 beginning 2023, and the Department has increased its portion of the annual dues by \$2 beginning 2024, the Camp 1 leadership has elected to lower its portion of the annual dues to keep them at an even \$50.

To remain a member of Camp 1 in 2024, now is the time to pay your annual dues.

As before, we have tried to make paying your dues as easy and painless as possible. There are three ways for you to do this:

You may mail a check in the amount of \$50, payable to “SUVCW 1 General James J. Byrne” to me at: SUVCW, c/o David B. Appleton, 1014 Georgeland Drive, Duncanville, TX 75116.

You may pay your dues by credit card through PayPal (the Camp charges a \$1 convenience fee to help offset part of the transaction fee that PayPal charges us, for a total of \$51) by either:

Going on-line to paypal.me/GeneralJamesJByrne/51 ; or

Emailing me at davidbappleton@att.net and requesting a PayPal invoice (for \$51) which I will email to you and which you can then pay on-line.

Once I have received your dues (either by mail or by PayPal), I will mail your 2024 Camp membership card.

I know that there are a few members of the Camp who have said that they will not remain a member of Camp 1 in 2024. If you have chosen to transfer to another camp or to let your membership lapse, please email me to let me know; at the very least, that way I can stop sending future reminder notices to you for Camp 1 2024 dues.

And, of course, should you have any questions about your membership dues, please do not hesitate to let me know.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David B. Appleton
Treasurer pro tem
General James J. Byrne Camp No. 1
Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW

From the National Patriotic Instructor

HONORING OUR COUNTRY’S FALLEN MILITARY SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

Today, January 4, 2024 I had the privilege to honor one of our fallen WW II US Army Veterans.

Many years ago a friend of mine showed me a shoebox in his basement filled with WW II Army memorabilia from his Uncle. Also included were many items from his Father, a WW II Marine.

Researching his Uncle's story for his Niece, I learned he had served as a PFC with the 126th Regiment, 32d (Red Arrow) Division. While serving as a scout, his patrol was sent to reconnoiter the area near the Mot River in Aitape, New Guinea. During their patrol they encountered a numerically superior Japanese force. PFC John F. Wagner shouted to the rest of his patrol to cross back across the Mot River while he held them off. Standing alone he held the Japanese force at bay with his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) while his patrol made it safely across the river.

PFC Wagner was eventually killed by the Japanese force. His bravery and unwavering courage was reported back to his Company Headquarters. He was subsequently awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross documented by US Army Far East Command General Order # 23 under General Douglas MacArthur dated 1944. He now rests in honored glory in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippine Islands.

So today we had a simple remembrance ceremony at the Milwaukee, WI War Memorial Center to commemorate the 80 years since he was killed. Attendees included War Memorial representatives, PFC Wagner's Niece and her husband, myself and my wife (a WRC member), and PCC Tom Mueller, a noted local historian who helped with PFC Wagner's research.

I am humbly requesting our Brothers and members of the Allied Orders to seek out and find the remaining living WW II Veterans to find out their stories. If you are unable to find any living WW II Veterans, research the Veterans in your family, and friends families. Most of these Veterans are now in their Mid-90's, and soon will be leaving us much like Frank Buckles (WW I) and our honored Civil War Veteran, Albert Woolson.

May the honor and courage of all our Veterans be held dear in our hearts.

Brian D. McManus,
National Patriotic Instructor

Upcoming Camp Events (updated details/reminders to follow)

20 Jan -Noon meal followed by officer install (maybe Zoom), The Gin Restaurant, Belton

29 Feb -7PM regular meeting with program (Zoom only)

04 May -proxy Camp meeting as part of the all-day Dept Encampment (Dallas area)

Memorial Day commemoration event in Fort Worth, details to be developed

Memorial Day commemoration event in Temple/Belton, details to be developed

Camp 1 Officers for 2024

Commander	Butch Durham
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Belcher
Junior Vice Commander	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary	Ty White
Treasurer (pro tem)	David Appleton, PCC
Camp Council	Paul Kendall, PCC, PDC
	Craig Reves, PCC
	Gene Willis, PCC
Patriotic Instructor	<i>vacant</i>
Chaplain	<i>vacant</i>



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War.

Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic. <https://suvchw.org/>

The Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW website may be found here: <http://txsuv.org/>

