



The Parmley Post

Newsletter of Gen James J Byrne Camp 1



Dept of Texas and Louisiana SUVCW

December 2024



COMMANDING OFFICER

My Brothers,

“It ain’t over ‘till the fat lady sings.” Well, gentlemen, she’s walking out on stage, clearing her throat and taking a deep breath.

My term of office as your Camp Commander is coming to an end. It has been a good ride overall. I lament we have lost the involvement of some good folks due to health issues. We honored the precepts of our Order this year by participating in Memorial Day and our Department Encampment. It was difficult to hold any additional in-person events, and I pray that future leadership in Tarrant County can help bridge that gap better than I did from Lampasas County.

May I say **Thank You** to all who have stuck with this rag-tag group of patriotic Americans as we strive to honor our ancestors who fought to keep this country whole. I have learned from you.

We had a Zoom-only Camp meeting on November 19th where several actions were taken for the good of the Camp. We have a slate of officers in nomination for 2025 ! This is no small feat. We will be looking to some veteran officers for leadership this coming year. Minutes of the meeting are contained in short form later in this newsletter.

Our last scheduled Camp meeting for 2024 will be Zoom-only on Tuesday December 10th at 7PM. Election of officers for 2025 will take place at this meeting. Please join us!

Please contact me if I may be of service.

I remain, your obedient servant in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Butch Durham, Commander



From the Senior Vice Commander

Brothers,

[Commander's / Editor's Note: I did not poll the officers in a timely manner to get their submissions for this newsletter. My apologies to the Senior Vice Commander.]

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Michael Belcher, SVC

From the Camp Secretary-Treasurer

[Commander's / Editor's Note: We are planning to combine Secretary-Treasurer for 2025 due to the kind volunteerism of Brother Don Gates, PDC, who has raised his hand to serve in this role for Camp 1.]



From the Camp Graves Registration Officer

Camp 1 GRO Report

[No report for the December newsletter.]

Total stands at 82 undocumented bluebellies in Tarrant Co.

All duly entered into the graves database.

In F, C, & L,
Todd Wilber
Camp 1 GRO

Minutes of the November 19th Meeting

Camp 1 held a Zoom-only meeting on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024.

Meeting was called to order shortly after 7 PM by Commander Durham, who led the Camp in the Pledge of Allegiance. Camp Chaplain Phillips provided an invocation.

A motion was made by Bro. Phillips, seconded by Bro. Belcher, to grant Camp 1 membership to Brother Don Gates, PDC, so that with this dual membership in Camp 1 and Camp 18, he can perform the duties of Secretary-Treasurer for our Camp. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

Commander Durham opened nominations for elected Camp officers for the 2025 year. The following members were placed into nomination:

Camp Commander: Brian Glass, PDC

Senior Vice Commander: Mike Belcher

Junior Vice Commander: Beau Moore, PCC

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Gates, PDC

Camp Council: Paul Kendall, PDC; Timothy Phillips, PCC, DC; Butch Durham, CC

There were no competing nominations for any office, and Commander Durham closed nominations.

Election of 2025 Officers is set for a Zoom-only Camp meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at 7PM.

Under Good of the Order, Brother Vander Meulen, Dept. Signals Officer and Zoom host, brought up the topic of which Camp will host the 2025 Department Encampment. The usual rotation would place it with our Camp. Brother Reves moved to yield the hosting of the 2025 Department Encampment so that Dept. Commander Phillips can make another selection. The motion was seconded and approved. Commander Philips indicated his decision would be for Houston's Camp 2 to host the Department Encampment in 2025.

There being no further business to conduct, Commander Durham closed the meeting at approximately 8 PM, and Chaplain Phillips offered the benediction.

Commander's / Editor's Note: Image on the next page shows Camp 1 appearing in the National Newsletter, *The Banner*. Not sure how often our Camp has had that distinction – I think it must be rare.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



The James A. Garfield Camp 62 were invited by the Lincoln, Vermont Community School for their Decoration Day Memorial observance at the Maple Cemetery, held for over 20 years. Brothers discussed the history and significance of Decoration Day and also distributed pamphlets to the students, prepared by the Camp for the occasion.

WISCONSIN

The Henry Harnden Camp #2 recently inducted a new member, a 12 year old volleyball player named Felix Clemens. Felix is one of those kids who looks under rocks, with a quick intellect and maturity, is full of life and curiosity, always bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. He has become the Camp's Drummer Boy. Felix is also working towards a "Junior Historian" role with the Dane County Historical Society. The Camp's aim is to work with the Historical Society to develop an array of K-12 oriented historical and educational assets.

TEXAS



The Brig. Gen Joseph Bailey Camp #5 presented Cadet Pfc Megan S. Franchino the SUVCW ROTC Award at Northwestern State University of Louisiana April 25th.

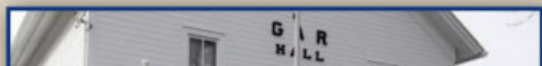


J. G. Armstrong Camp #49, the Rosechal GAR Hall

**In case you missed it,
We made it into the
National Magazine, page
26 of the Summer 2024
edition!**



Brothers of the General James J Byrne Camp 1 on Memorial Day at the GAR monument in Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth.

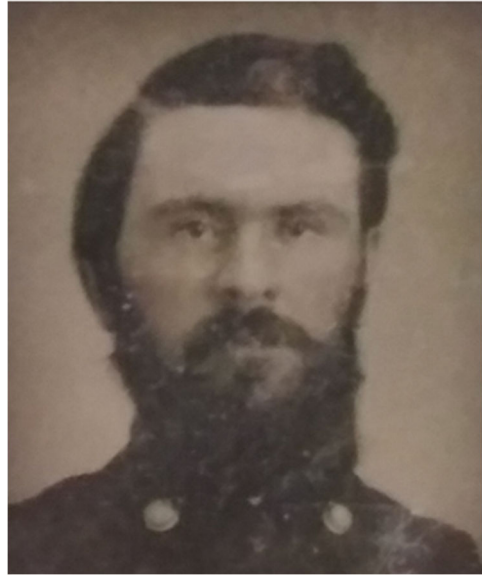


National Patriotic Instruction (December 2024 – National Website)

“A Talented Boy–A Brave Soldier–An Uncompromising Patriot”

William S. Brooks fought as a Private with the 1st Iowa Infantry at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek. At the end of his 90-day enlistment he joined the 19th Iowa Infantry as 1st Lieutenant, and fought at the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas on December 7, 1862. He was severely wounded at the latter and the following is his recollection of the experience:

“The fight was most determined, and the slaughter immense. I was struck at four o’clock P. M., while we were being driven back from a too far advanced position. We were outflanked, and had to run three hundred yards over open ground, and exposed to a murderous fire from the right, left, and center, or rear. Here we lost our Lieutenant Colonel McFarland. We lost one half our regiment, and in company D more than half our effective men. I was hit at the commencement of the retreat, and was near being captured, as I could not run. When more than half way to our battery, our color-sergeant fell, and I received the colors. The pursuing rebel Colonel shouted: ‘Blast them, take their colors!’ This enraged me, and I hallooed back, ‘You can’t do it.’ The cowardly scoundrels did not dare to close on me, but let go a volley, which left nine holes in the flag, and eighteen in my clothes. Four bullets passed through the cuff of my shirt sleeve, but they could not wound the hand that held the ‘Old Flag.’”



Brooks was eventually promoted to Colonel of the 56th U.S. Colored Infantry. On the morning of July 26, 1864, at Big Creek, near Helena, Arkansas, Colonel Brooks and his men were attacked by overwhelming numbers, surrounded, and pressed on three sides. Colonel Brooks, while mounted, was holding and encouraging his men when he fell, mortally wounded. He was just 24 years old. The sentiments expressed in his obituary, from which the title of this article was taken, could have been written about any number of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It says, in part:

“May his name never be erased from the memories of patriotism and Christians, for he died nobly in a holy cause, battling for the highest and purist principles of Government.”

“Fighting that we might call this land our land, and breathe the air of freedom, the inspiration of liberty, not for ourselves only, but for future generations.”

Lest we forget. In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC, National Patriotic Instructor

Upcoming 2024-25 Camp Events (updated details/reminders to follow)

December 10th 7:00PM – Camp Zoom-only meeting; election of 2025 Officers

January ??, 2025 – Swearing in of elected Officers by Department Commander – To Be Determined

Camp 1 Officers for 2024

Commander	Butch Durham
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Belcher
Junior Vice Commander	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary/Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>
Camp Council	Paul Kendall, PCC, PDC Craig Reves, PCC Gene Willis, PCC
Patriotic Instructor	<i>vacant</i>
Chaplain	Timothy Phillips, PCC
Graves Registration	Todd Wilber



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/>

