

**DEPARTMENT ORDER # 6**  
**September 25, 2011**

- 1. The Battle of Olustee was fought in Florida on February 20, 1864. It was the largest battle fought in that state during the Civil War. It pitted approximately 5,500 Union troops under the command of Brigadier General Truman Seymour against approximately 5,000 Confederates under the command of Brigadier General Joseph Finegan. The purpose of the Union expedition into the state was to sever Confederate supply lines, establish a loyal state government and to recruit black soldiers. The Union order of battle included three infantry brigades, a small cavalry brigade, three artillery batteries and an engineer regiment. One of the brigades, under Colonel William Barton, was an all New York brigade consisting of the 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> New York. In addition, the engineer regiment was the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Regiment, NYSV. The battle was a Confederate victory. Casualties in killed, wounded and missing were 946 Confederate and 1,861 Union. The casualty rate among the Union was 40% making this the third bloodiest Union battle in ratio to casualties versus soldiers involved in the entire war. Amongst these Union casualties, 929 or about half were New Yorkers.**

**Today, the battlefield is contained with the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park and is located within the Osceola National Forest. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There has been an annual historical reenactment regarding this battle at the park since 1976. There are no battlefield monuments to Union soldiers or regiments on the battlefield. There are three Confederate monuments erected on the site by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Department of Florida, SUVCW intends to place a monument at that battlefield dedicated to the Union regiments who fought in the Battle of Olustee, has therefore formed a Monument Commission and established a Monument Fund. The Department of Florida, SUVCW has asked the Department of New York, SUVCW for its support in this endeavor and has invited the Department to partner with the Department of Florida, SUVCW to make the monument a reality. It is the purpose of our Order to keep green the memory of those Union soldiers and sailors who fought to preserve the Union. As members of the Department of New York, we have a further responsibility to make an additional effort regarding those Union soldiers and sailors who served from the State of New York. In recognition of that responsibility, it is apparent that the Department of New York should**

**make all efforts to assist, within its capabilities, this effort to honor the "boys in blue" especially those who served from the great state of New York. By the authority invested in me as Commander of the Department of New York, SUVCW and pending the adoption of a formal resolution of support to be presented to the 129<sup>th</sup> Encampment of the Department of New York, I hereby declare support for the afore stated effort of the Department of Florida, SUVCW in regards the placement of a monument to the Union regiments that served at the Battle of Olustee. I further request that the Brothers of the Department provide whatever aid or assistance they are able to our fellow Brothers of the Department of Florida in regards this effort. Pending further notice, I hereby appoint myself to serve as the New York member to the Department of Florida, SUVCW Olustee Monument Commission. Any Brother of the Department who has a special interest in this project and wishes to provide additional service should contact the Department Commander.**

**So Ordered this 25th day of September, 2011  
Jeffrey Albanese  
Department Commander, Department of New York  
SUVCW**

**Attest;  
Michael Bennett  
Department Secretary  
Department of New York, SUVCW**