

HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
Department Order No. 24 Series 2015-2016



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
Honoring the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic &  
The Men from New York who saved the Union from 1861 to 1865.



<http://www.suvcw.org/ny/deptny.htm>

Raymond W. LeMay III, PCC  
10 Knabner Road  
Mechanicville, N.Y. 12118  
(518) 261-0321 ~ [raylemay3@gmail.com](mailto:raylemay3@gmail.com)

**Department Order No. 24, Series 2015-2016**

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of New York,

1. I hereby recognize the Sesquicentennial of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). It was 150 years ago today, on April 6, 1866, that the G.A.R. was formed by Benjamin F. Stephenson with membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.
  - a. The national GAR was founded on April 6, 1866 because all the founding members took part in the Battle of Shiloh.
  - b. The first post of the New York Department, GAR, was O'Rorke Post #1 of Rochester chartered on October 8, 1866. Over 600 posts were chartered until one of the last ones was McDowell Post #672 in Elmira in May of 1915.
  - c. The New York Department was founded in Albany on April 3, 1867. In the beginning, department commanders tended to be officers of the Union army. The first Dept. Commander was Col. James B. McKean of Saratoga Springs.
  - d. National Encampments of the G.A.R. were held in Albany, 1879; Buffalo, 1897; Saratoga Springs, 1907; Rochester, 1911 and Rochester, 1934.
  - e. The 82nd and last department encampment of the GAR was held June 11, 1948 in Rochester with James A Hard, Dept. Commander, a veteran of Co.F, 32nd NYSV, as the only member to attend. Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Rownd of Ripley could not attend. The City of Rochester made this last meeting of the GAR a grand celebration. James Hard died at age 111 on March 12, 1953.

I hereby request that all Brothers and Camps in the Department participate this month of April in commemorations, memorials, services and events held for the Sesquicentennial of the founding of the G.A.R.

The deeds and accomplishments of the Grand Army of the Republic will remain in the history of the Empire State because of its members devotion to its motto of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty".

This Order is so ordered on this 6th day of April 2016 in Fraternity Charity, & Loyalty

Raymond W. LeMay III, PCC  
Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

Attest:

Robert L. Pugsley, PDC  
Secretary, Department of New York, SUVCW