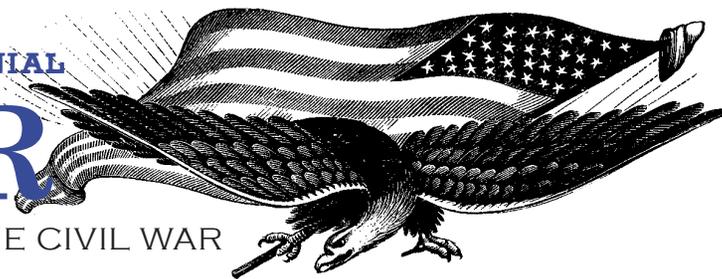


THE VOLUNTEER

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



From Department Headquarters

Jeffrey Albanese, Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

As I write, this the first year of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is upon us and in only a few short weeks the 128th Encampment of the Department will take place in Albany, New York and we will honor the first martyr of that Civil War, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth. The American Civil War was one of the most significant events in the history of this nation “testing whether this nation or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated (to the proposition that all men are created equal), can long endure.” This period is also of great significance to our Order and provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to really carry forward the purpose of our Organization – that is, to promote the memory of the service and sacrifice of our ancestors who fought in that war. In this regard, the Department is encouraging all of its Camps to form Sesquicentennial Committees, to organize, and to promote events in their communities to carry on that purpose. If you let me know about it, I will also see to it, that event is publicized on our website for all to see.

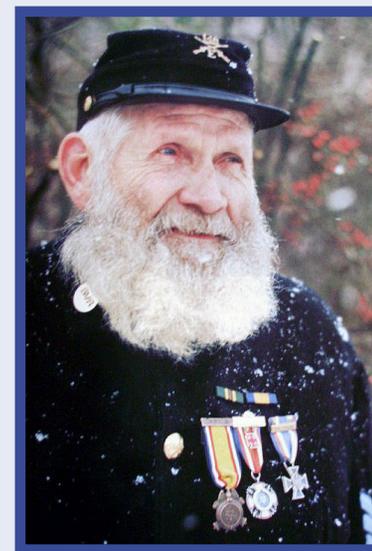
Since our last newsletter, we have been fortunate to have had our Ellsworth Observance designated a “Signature Event” by the National Sesquicentennial Committee of the SUVCW and approved by the National Council of Administration as such one of the first in the country and the first in the Eastern United

States. In addition, the New York Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Committee has also endorsed this event. Speaking of that Committee, the Department is also one of the first organizations to join the fledgling New York State Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Committee, that is being formed under the auspices of the Friends of the New York Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Their website can be found at <http://www.nycivilwar150.org/> This organization is dedicated to supporting a sesquicentennial exhibit at the Museum as well as acting as a clearinghouse for Sesquicentennial events throughout the state. The Department is encouraging all camps to join and currently the Worden Camp, Ellis Camp, Willard Camp, Tilden Camp, and the Moses Baldwin Camp have joined.

I would also like to ask you and your members to visit our ever-expanding Department website, www.suvcw.org/ny/deptny.htm that has the most comprehensive Sesquicentennial section of any Department in the Nation. In addition, it has information promoting the Department initiatives in both supporting Grant’s Cottage and the adoption of General George Thomas’s grave as well as information on the JROTC program, the GAR Highway and many other items of interest. We also now have a facebook page so please

continued

Brother Jerry Orton, PDC, currently serving as Department of New York Historian, sends along this photograph of PDC Harry Furman in his SV uniform, Co. E, 148th NYSV, that was taken from *Photographing America : Know the Land and the People Through Photography* (George Hornby and the Editors of Eastman Kodak Company, Crown Publishers 1976). The book, published in the year of the Bicentennial, intended to “represent the texture of America.”



Harry Furman PDC



Camp Reports Due for Encampment

All Camp activity reports for filing in the Encampment proceedings should be sent to the Department Secretary, Michael Bennett, PO Box 1824, White Plains, NY 10602, with a copy to the Department Commander at 19 Gregory Drive, Goshen, NY 10924, no later than May 8.

Sesquicentennial Logo Window Decals

For a contribution of \$5 or more to the Department Sesquicentennial Committee a window decal bearing the *New York Sesquicentennial of the Civil War* logo will be sent free of charge. Please send your contribution to Danny Wheeler, PCinC, 5 Benny Lane, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, and include your name and address.



The Volunteer is the newsletter of
The Department of New York
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Signals Officer | Editor

Donald G. Zeilman

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continued from page 1

become a friend of the Department and help us to spread our message through this media form.

Further, I would like to continue to remind all Camps that they have the right to send a voting delegation to the Department Encampment in Albany, New York on May 13–15, 2011 with the business meeting of the Department being held on May 14, 2011. In addition, all brothers are welcome whether or not they have voting privileges so please consider attending. The hotel rate is \$79.00 per night with a free breakfast and the registration fee is only \$3. Information, registration forms and banquet registration form can be found on the website. Further, the Encampment will conclude with the Ellsworth Sesquicentennial Event and SUVCW Sesquicentennial Medals will be for sale at the Encampment.

Finally, I must also remind everyone that each camp must submit the Annual Camp reports to the Department Secretary, Michael Bennett so that he may file his Department report with National. Brother Bennett has asked that these be submitted by April 30th to assist him and the Bylaws require they be submitted no later than May 15th in any event. Please note these forms are online at the National site and must be filled out online then downloaded and sent to the Secretary or a blank form downloaded the information typed in and submitted (they will not accept handwritten reports). Please note that this is a National requirement and not a Department requirement. If these reports are not provided to us so we can send them to national in a timely fashion the Department can be suspended. To avoid this will require us to suspend those camps who have not filed the reports. So please get them in.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for your support and that of the Order. Let us all remember it is of the utmost importance that we, and all the Allied Orders, continue to work together to inspire in our fellow Americans an appreciation of the service and sacrifice of our ancestors who served so valiantly and sacrificed so much in order to preserve the Union. It is equally important that we work to instill in those same fellow Americans a proclivity to preserve the memories, monuments, memorials, and battlefields of our ancestors so that all future generations will know what they did to preserve this great country.

U.S. Grant Anniversary

Tilden Camp's Annual Observance on April 17

The General Grant Birthday Commemoration held annually by the Oliver Tilden Camp 26 at the General Grant National Memorial in Manhattan's Morning-side Heights, is scheduled for Sunday, April 17. The ceremony begins at 11:00 AM.

The keynote speaker will be Brother Larry Clowers as General Ulysses S. Grant. He will be accompanied by his wife, Connie Clowers, as Julia Grant. Also featured will be actor Patrick Falci who portrayed A.P. Hill in the movie *Gettysburg*.

The ceremony will also honor Brothers George S. Miller, Jr. and Dale Theetge, PDC who passed away since last year's ceremony. All Brothers, Sisters, their families and friends are encouraged to attend this annual event. Parking is available around the tomb. For more information, contact Camp Commander George Weinmann, gjweinmann@aol.com

Sesquicentennial Signature Event

“not for ourselves alone but for country”

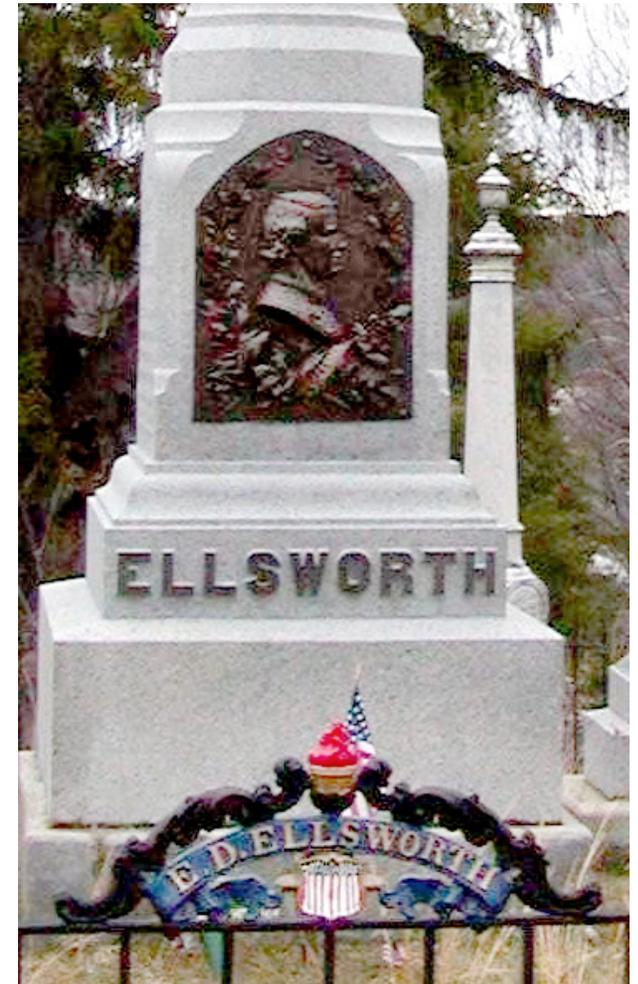
Commemorating the Martyrdom of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth

On May 24, 1861, 24-year-old Colonel Elmer Ellsworth of the 11th NYSV (the Fire Zouaves) was shot and killed while removing a large Confederate flag that had been flying over a hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. On his uniform was affixed a medal with Latin writing which translated read “not for ourselves alone but for country.” With his death, Colonel Ellsworth became the first Union officer and therefore the first significant casualty of what would be a long and bloody Civil War. A nationally renowned militia drillmaster and proponent of the Zouaves military unit, he also was a friend of Abraham Lincoln and had acted as his bodyguard as Lincoln traveled to his inauguration. His body would lay in state in the White House and thousands in New York City would view his body as his remains made their way for burial in his hometown of Mechanicville, N.Y. The cry “remember Ellsworth” would become a rallying cry for the Union cause.

On May 15, 2011 in honor of his sacrifice and in recognition of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the Department of New York Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Allied Orders and the City of Mechanicville will hold an observance and a reenactment of Ellsworth’s funeral at the Hudson View Cemetery in Mechanicville, New York.* A procession of participants including Patriotic Societies (SUVCW, DUVCW, MOLLUS, ASUVCW, SAR, etc.), Veterans groups (VFW, AMVETS, DAV, etc.), Civic groups (boy scouts, Elks, Rotarian, Kiwanis, girl scouts, etc.), Re-enactors (Rockford Greys, 125 NYVI, US Naval Landing Party, 2nd NY Cavalry, Salem Zouaves, etc.) and Military units (West Point Honor

Guard, JROTC, etc.) will assemble at 8:30 AM at the Mechanicville High School. Beginning at 9 AM, Patriot Guard Riders will ride out to the Cemetery and line the walkway with their flags, the Patriotic societies led by the Department of New York SUVCW Color Guard will begin the procession from the High School to the cemetery, followed by the Veterans groups and the Civic groups. Shortly thereafter, a funeral carriage pulled by horses and bearing a wooden coffin will leave the High School preceded by re-enactors led by the Rockford Greys, a fife and drummers. The hearse will be accompanied by pallbearers and followed by a family in mourning and the West Point Honor Guard. (Bus and trolley service will also be available to the cemetery from the high school parking lot). Beginning at 9 AM and continuing until 9:30 AM church bells throughout Mechanicville will be ringing in honor of the event. At the cemetery, a memorial service will be held which will include remarks from dignitaries and a reading by Abraham Lincoln of the condolence letter written by him to the parents of Colonel Ellsworth. This will be followed by a massive lying of wreaths at the Colonel’s grave by various patriotic, veterans groups and other organizations led by the President of New York State Gold Star Mothers, a volley of salute by rifle and artillery fire, singing by the Dorothy Welch Choir and taps.

Following the event, a brunch will be held at the Mechanicville Community Center with the day concluding with the unveiling of a special exhibition of Colonel Ellsworth regalia at the New York Military Museum in nearby Saratoga Springs.



Col. Elmer Ellsworth monument in Hudson View Cemetery, Mechanicville, Saratoga County

This commemoration has been designated a *Signature Event* by the National Order of Sons of Union Veteran’s of the Civil War and has been endorsed by the New York Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

*Subject to change

Final Muster



Brother Dale E. Theetge, PDC

David G. Caywood Camp 146 Ovid



Dale E. Theetge, Past Department Commander of the Department of New York SUVCW passed away unexpectedly on March 1 at the age of 64. Dale was born in Elmira, New York on August 31, 1946 and worked for a number of companies in a number of

positions throughout his life including NCR, South Seneca Elementary School, Cotton Hanlon Lumber, and he retired in 1995 from Prudential Insurance as a sales manager having earned the designation of Life Underwriters Training Council Fellow (LUTCF)

Dale was very active outside of work, which continued after retirement, serving for almost 20 years in adult leadership positions with the Boy Scouts of America, belonging to the Masons, the Grange and the Friends of the Three Bears.

Dale was also an active living historian and was a founding member of the 7th New York Cavalry a living historian group and a Sons of Veterans Reserve Unit of the SUVCW. In addition, he was avid historian with a focus on the American Civil War.

Dale joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1997, eventually serving as the Commander of the Sidney Camp in Ithaca, the Schuyler F. Smith Camp in Halsey Valley, which he helped reform and

the Caywood Camp in Ovid, New York . He was appointed Department Patriotic Instructor in 2000, and subsequently served as Department Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and then Department Commander from 2004-2006. Dale was deeply involved in the Sons program to re-sign the Route 6 G.A.R. highway in New York and worked with other groups in monument dedications and battlefield preservation. Dale was a fixture in Department affairs and served on the Department Encampment Committee for many years. Recently he had helped reform the Catlin Camp in Odessa, New York. Dale traced his ancestral membership to Pvt. Daniel Thettge, 147th NY Volunteer Infantry, Co. K and he was also a descendent of Pvt. Hiram Thetge of the 22nd N.Y. Cavalry, Co. I.

Dale was most of all a patriot to his country and an individual who was not afraid to speak out and to speak his mind. His passing is a loss to the Department, the Order and the country.



Brother Lawrence R. Brown, Sr.

P.G. Cook Camp 223 Buffalo

Lawrence R. Brown, Chaplain of the P.G. Cook Camp 223, passed away on January 17, 2011. He was a descendant of Alonzo Brown, Artificer, Co G 50th NY Engineers. He was the husband of Francesca Carbonara Brown.



Brother David L. Dirk

Abraham Lincoln Camp 6 Rochester



Lincoln Camp Jr. Vice Commander, David Dirk passed away on Friday, February 4.

David L. Dirk was born in Oswego, where he lived for most of his life. Prior to his retirement, he was employed as an engineer with the Carrier Corporation in Syracuse. He was formerly a paramedic

with the Moyers Corners Fire Department. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, and served for 27 years with the New York State Army National Guard, where he retired as a 1st Sergeant.

Mr. Dirk was a Life Member of the V.F.W. Lavere-Harrington Post 2320 in Oswego, and served for many years as their Quartermaster. He was a past Post Commander and was an advocate for veteran's issues at the county and state level.

Brother Dirk was Junior Vice Commander of Abraham Lincoln Camp Number 6, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Dave's great-great-grandfather was Pvt. Solomen Dirk, Co. G, 106th PA Infantry. Dave also participated with the 28th NY Volunteer Infantry Reenactors Group, Company E. Brother Dirk is survived by his wife of 49 years, Marilyn (Rowsey) Dirk, Past Department President of the DUVCW.

Department Fundraiser

Raffle Helps Fund Important Projects
Douglas Deuel PCC, Sr. Vice Commander

Our annual raffle is the only Department fund raiser at the present time. The raffle helps fund many projects in New York, including monument repair, the Eagle Scout certificate program, the Historical Highway Sign program and the Encampment program.

All brothers in the Department should have received two booklets of six raffle tickets each. Each ticket sells for \$1, with a booklet of six selling for \$5. A little effort on your part will help us all in running our organization. For only \$1 a ticket or \$10 for both books you can make a difference. Donations are also accepted.

Please send in your completed ticket stubs and money to: *Douglas Deuel PCC, 1728 Union Center Highway, Endicott, NY 13760* no later than May 6. Drawings for all prizes will take place on May 14, 2011 at the Department Encampment in Albany. Tickets will also be available for sale at the Encampment or additional tickets may be requested by contacting SVC Deul.

First Prize: a framed print by Don Troiani entitled *McPherson's Ridge*, depicting cavalry General John Buford directing Calef's Battery into position at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.

Second Prize: the 2001 hardcover reprint of Walter Geer's 1926 *Campaigns of the Civil War*.

Third Prize: Nelson D. Lankford's 2007 *Cry Havoc!: The Crooked Road to Civil War, 1861*.



McPherson's Ridge by Don Troiani

A Soldier's Life

Lyman E. Baker, PCC, Dept. Patriotic Instructor

The Average Soldier

The average soldier in the American Civil War (1861-1865) was about 5 foot 5 and weighed 140 pounds or so. The average age was around 22 to 25 years. My great-great-grandfather enlisted at the age of 36 and served three years. It is estimated that 100,000 soldiers were less than 15 years old. It is believed that the youngest soldier wounded in combat was William Black, age 11 (almost 12). Drummer boys were as young as nine years. And some regiments unknowingly, recruited female combatants.

The combat fatalities, diseases – including : mumps, measles, smallpox, influenza, malaria, typhoid, dysentery, cholera, chronic diarrhea, gangrene, tuberculosis, pneumonia, yellow fever, and venereal diseases; – wounds : lack of medicine and medical care, prisoners of war, poorly armed, gru-

eling marches, no pay or shoes, harsh winters, heat stroke receptive summers, sleep deprivation, and very little food and water were a definite reflection of the War's arduous toll on the Confederacy. Scurvy was common due to a lack of fresh fruits and vegetables, and with weakened immune systems, soldiers easily succumbed to diseases. It was common for the soldier to experience weeks or months without bathing. Moreover, to imagine each of the five human-senses taxed beyond the worst imaginable nightmare would only begin to allow one to identify and depict "the soldier's life." Regardless, the soldier continued to fight in numerous battles during four extremely exhaustive years.

"The weather was very cold and we were thinly clad in the clothes we had worn all summer. We had no underwear or socks and our shoes were badly worn," Private John H. Sherman, Infantry. "I am not as brave as I thought I was. I never wanted out of a place as bad in my life. The balls hurled, the shells sang, and the grape shot rattled. I want no more battles," Captain Alfred W. Bell, Co. B 39th NC I.

The soldier experienced traumatic stressors such as: witnessing death or dismemberment, handling dead bodies, traumatic loss of comrades, sometimes Fathers or brothers, realizing imminent death, killing others and being helpless to prevent other's deaths. Intimate and personal – diseases, privation, wounds, loneliness, exhaustion, heartache.

While not in battle, drilling, or standing guard, the troops read, wrote letters to their loved ones and played any game they could devise, including baseball, cards and boxing. One competition involved racing cockroaches across a strip of canvas. The soldiers favorite beverage was coffee!

continued

The Soldier's Music

The American Civil War saw civilians transformed from shapeless recruits, to hard-bitten veteran soldiers. Training 9 to 10 hours per day, sleeping on the ground, going hungry, scrounging for firewood, all helped with experience.

What he did not learn from battles, he picked up from his colleagues in arms. In the end by some mysterious process, whether he was a Yank or Reb, he emerged, as one soldier, full of courage, stamina, and the worth of a great nation.

The very young soldiers (or fresh fish, the name given 9- to 17-year-olds who had lied about their age to the recruiters or just started hanging out



with the troops) usually became musicians, playing a harmonica, the flute, the kazoos, the drums and sounding the bugle.

Music was a very necessary part of camp life. It brought back scenes back home, especially around the holiday time.

The drummer was very important as troops marched in step to the drum beat. The drum was also used in the to sound field orders. You had to be very knowledgeable to sound the bugle, as the entire camp was called up, led into battle, either by quick step or double quick step. At 9 pm each night the bugle was played to signal a time for everyone to be in bed and for sentries to began patrolling the camp. When there was a death in battle and the fighting was over, Taps were played.

The Soldier's Recreation

Here's a subject not discussed, but went on, and is still going on: prostitutes. Thousands of prostitutes thronged the cities in the war zones and clustered about the camps. By 1862, for instance, Washington, D.C. had 450 bordellos and at least 7,500 full-time prostitutes. Richmond was the center of prostitution in the Confederacy and had about an equal number of bordellos and prostitutes.

Venereal disease among soldiers was prevalent and largely uncontrolled. About eight percent of the soldiers in the Union army were treated for venereal disease during the war, many cases were unreported. Penicillin had not been invented, so soldiers treated venereal diseases with herbs and minerals. General Joseph "Hooker" was known for his endorsement of prostitution, hence, his name is credited, associated, and synonymous with "prostitutes" and "prostitution."

Prisoners of War

Camp life as a Confederate soldier was hard, but prison life was much harder. Prisoner of War Camp Douglas, eighty acres of hell, shows that the Union was more than capable of matching the Confederacy atrocity-for-atrocity. While 12,000 prisoners entered Camp Douglas, only 6,000 survived. The rest were victims of calculated cruelty, torture and neglect. And Southern soldiers were not the only targets of this treatment. Many prominent Chicago citizens were incarcerated under the banner of martial law, and unjustly convicted of imagined offenses by ruthless military tribunals.

According to Official Records of the Union and Confederate armies (Series ii-Vol. 8, p.348), Confederate prisoners were placed in "condemned" Union Prisoner of War Camps Douglas and Chase – they were condemned because they were infected with smallpox.

The Official Records further state that several Union officials protested and called Camp Douglas an atrocity, however Union prisoners of war were in equally atrocious conditions. (credit: Amazon.com)

Pound Ridge Exhibit

Honoring Civil War Sesquicentennial

The Pound Ridge Historical Society presents *Pound Ridge & The Civil War*, a new exhibit that documents Pound Ridge's involvement in the Civil War and honors the 109 enlisted men of Pound Ridge (almost 32% of the 18 and older male population of Pound Ridge in 1861), including First Sgt. Thomas J. Murphy of Pound Ridge, recipient of The Congressional Medal of Honor, the country's highest military award.

The exhibit also includes pages from the diary of Sgt. George E. Dixon who stood guard over the Lincoln conspirators and witnessed their court trial and execution. Also on exhibit is original Civil War art by Don Spaulding, original Union uniforms and other Civil War memorabilia.

The exhibit opens April 30 and remains open every weekend through December 4, with hours from 2:00 to 4:00. Admission is free. The Museum is located at 255 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, Westchester County.

Agenda for the 128th Encampment

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SUVCW,
Albany, N.Y. May 13–15, 2011

FRIDAY MAY 13

7:30 pm Campfire

SATURDAY, MAY 14

8:00 am–9:00 am Registration

8:30 am–9:00 am Allied Orders Memorial Service

9:00 am–12:00 pm Business Meeting

12:00 pm–1:30 pm Daughters Luncheon

1:30 pm–4:00 pm Business Meeting

(1:30 pm–2:00 pm Greetings Committee sent)

4:00 pm–5:00 pm Nomination, Election and Installation of Officers

7:00 pm Allied Orders Banquet

SUNDAY, MAY 15

9:00 am Ellsworth March and Funeral Procession*

9:30 am Ellsworth Funeral Reenactment & Ceremony**

- » Welcome Mechanicville Mayor Anthony Sylvester,
Dorothy Welch Choir sings the *Star Spangled Banner*
- » Introduction of SUVCW Dept. Commander Albanese as MC
- » Acknowledgement of Dignitaries
- » Remarks by SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Schall
- » Remarks by N.Y. State Historian Robert Weible
- » A. Lincoln reads letter of condolences to Ellsworth's parents
- » Lying of wreaths, President of NY Gold Star Mothers
- » Artillery and Rifle salute
- » Welch Choir sings Ellsworth March & Battle Hymn of the Republic
- » Taps

AFTERNOON Tour of Ellsworth Exhibit New York Military Museum

*The Ellsworth Ceremony is a National SUVCW Signature Sesquicentennial Event and endorsed by the New York Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Committee, ** Program Tentative

General Orders of the Department Commander

General Order No.6

1. As we approach the beginning of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War I am happy to report that additional brothers have stepped forward to assist the Department and the Order in observing that event. In accordance with the authority vested in me by the 127th Encampment of the Department of New York in forming the Sesquicentennial Committee, I hereby appoint Brothers David Dziewulski, CC and Robert Keough as non-voting members of the Sesquicentennial Committee. I direct that the Committee continue its good work.

So Ordered this 13th day of February, 2011
Jeffrey Albanese, Department Commander,
Department of New York SUVCW

General Order No.7

1. It is with sincere regret and deep sorrow that I announce the sudden passing on March 1, 2011 of Past Department Commander Dale Theetge. Dale was instrumental in helping form a number of Camps within the Department, serving as an officer in many and served the Department of New York as Department Commander for two terms from 2004 through 2006. Dale traced his membership in the Sons from Pvt. Daniel Theetge, of Company K, 147th New York Volunteer Infantry, By the authority vested in me as Department Commander, I direct that the Department Charter and website as well as that of all Camps within the Department be draped in black for 30 days from the date of this Department Order. In addition, all members of the Department are directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badges for the same period. Let us keep Brother Theetge and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

So Ordered this 2nd day of March, 2011
Jeffrey Albanese, Department Commander,
Department of New York SUVCW

Department of New York

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Commander
Jeffrey Albanese PCC

Archivist
Michael S. Bennett PDC

Sr. Vice Commander
Douglas E. Deuel PCC

Patriotic Instructor
Lyman E. Baker PCC

Jr. Vice Commander
Robert L. Pugsley PCC

Historian
Jerome Orton PDC

Secretary / Treasurer
Michael S. Bennett PDC

Chaplain
R. Stuart Smith, Jr. PCC

Counselor
Danny Wheeler, PCinC

GAR Highway Officer
Matthew J. Hereford PCC

Council
Lyman Baker PCC
Raymond W. LeMay III, PCC
Todd A Shillington PDC

Webmaster
Robert L. Pugsley PCC

128th Encampment

Make your plans now to be in Albany on May 13–15, 2011

Accommodations:

- » Best Western Albany Airport Inn, 200 Wolf Road, Albany, New York
- » Room rates: \$79 per night double occupancy (taxes excluded)
- » Hotel information may be found at: www.bwalbanyairport.com
(mention Allied Orders of GAR)

Sesquicentennial Program

On Sunday, May 15, at 8:30 am, there will be a ceremony in Hudson View Cemetery, Mechanicville, Saratoga County, honoring Colonel Elmer Ellsworth of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves, and the first officer to die in the Civil War. This commemoration has been designated a *Signature Event* by the National Order of Sons of Union Veteran's of the Civil War. A tour of some Ellsworth artifacts at the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs follows the gravesite ceremony.

SUMMER 2010

THE VOLUNTEER

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR