



# THE VOLUNTEER

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

## *From Dep't Commander Leo McGuire*

It has been a very trying year for me. I have been my camp's secretary, planner for the encampment and Department Commander. I have tried to do the best I could in all three jobs. I know I have made mistakes and I accept the responsibility, but my priority has always been for the good of the Sons. It certainly was a learning on the job process.

The two big problems we had and continue to have are Communication and Recruiting. You know that the police reply "Copy" when they receive a message. I asked for "received" to acknowledge that the message got to the man or office where I sent it.

Roundtables or historical sites are where people are interested in the Civil War and these places must be harvested for members.

I want to thank everyone that helped me to try to do my jobs. (especially the Willard Camp #154, Dan Wheeler, Bob Paul, Ray LeMay and individuals in camps who tried to correct mistakes of the past)

The biggest problem was the 990s. It is an annual requirement that has been neglected in the past.

I tried to make the Department better and I really don't know if I succeeded but I hope that this Department continues to grow in Fellowship and Strength.

In F,C & L  
Leo McGuire



April 28, 2019

Richard Straight the Dept SVC and CIC Shaw at Grant's Tomb.



Rich outside of the biggest mausoleum in the U.S, Grant's Tomb.

The CIC said he had been at seven events or encampments and eight more to go.

The CIC drove straight thru and he was driving straight back after the ceremony.

Leo

*From Jerry Orton*

On April 27, 1997 a grand parade up Riverside Drive marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the refurbished tomb. The Sons of Union Veterans marched in force and I had the honor of carrying the flag of the national organization. You can find the centennial ceremony on the internet, C-Span 2. We must help brother Frank Scaturro again to save this national treasure.

Jerry Orton, PDC  
Dept. Historian



Dear Jerry,

The Grant Monument Association has submitted a letter ([click here to read](#)) to responsible elected officials reporting conditions at Grant's Tomb that call for corrective action. We hope you will write them as well. This is especially timely in anticipation of the commemoration of Ulysses S. Grant's 200th birthday in 2022.

In summary, a quarter century after the site was improved during the 1990s following a long period of severe neglect and desecration, Grant's Tomb today is again in need of significant work to bring it up to standard. Some of the main points made in the letter:

The presence of security guards has been reduced in recent years. With the security of the site compromised, the Tomb has once again become the victim of graffiti attacks.

The Tomb proper suffers from visible discoloration and peeling paint from water damage at the cupola/roof level and on the reliquary room ceilings, and the marble floor surrounding the sarcophagi is discolored from unidentified causes.

The granite that constitutes the Tomb's steps and adjoining south plaza, including the two stairways that lead to the sidewalks, is showing wear, and the broken, cracked outdoor plaza surrounding the Tomb "has become so deteriorated it has become a safety hazard," in the words of a National Park Service study.

Nighttime lighting at the monument has gone from brilliant a century ago to insufficient today.

A pavilion across the street that once contained the Tomb's public restrooms has been serving as a makeshift visitor center, where interpretation is limited to a room with

six small exhibit panels on the wall and 40 chairs squeezed in.

The two single-occupant restrooms are inadequate to accommodate the needs of families and groups visiting the site.

Budgetary limits during the 2010s have reduced the Tomb's open hours from seven days to five days a week, and even during the days it is open, the Tomb is closed on a staggered hour basis in order to enable rangers to staff the pavilion. The site staff consists of dedicated and capable park rangers, but the site needs to be fully staffed.

The pavilion and grounds north and south of Grant's Tomb are an integral part of the site, yet they are owned by the City of New York. The City has failed to allocate the resources required to maintain that property on any consistent basis.

On top of all this, the Tomb was never completed as envisioned. An opportunity now exists to bring the vision behind the Tomb to its proper architectural completion while making the site accessible to the handicapped.

The letter proposes appropriations and authorizing measures from Congress to advance (1) the physical maintenance of the site, (2) visitor access/education, (3) the completion of the monument, and (4) fitting measures to mark the Grant bicentennial:

#### Appropriations measures:

Increase security at the site with a minimum of two guards, preferably drawn from the U.S. Park Police, at all times, and the installation of security cameras.

Repair the discoloration and peeling from water damage at the cupola/roof level and reliquary room ceilings, along with any associated waterproofing deficiencies, and establish ongoing monitoring to prevent further damage.

Remedy the discoloration of the marble floor surrounding the sarcophagi of Ulysses and Julia Grant following sound preservation standards.

Repair the broken, cracked outdoor plaza surrounding the Tomb, including repointing and, where necessary, replacement of bluestone pavers, granite pavers, the monument's steps, and the adjoining south plaza and two stairways.

Ongoing maintenance of the stone plaza and stairway north of the Tomb, as well as repair or replacement of the black fence surrounding the temporary tomb site and restoration and maintenance of the landscape. Installation of enhanced outdoor lighting to properly illuminate the monument at night. Expansion of the park boundaries to include the overlook pavilion and roughly the southern half of the "island" of land on which Grant's Tomb sits

enclosed by the northbound and southbound lanes of Riverside Drive, from the area behind the north plaza's temporary tomb memorial area to the stone plaza extending south from the entrance of the monument. This proposal is illustrated in Exhibits M and N to the letter.

Complete the monument with a crowning finial for the summit of the building and an equestrian statue of Grant in the front plaza.

Expand the open hours of the site to seven days a week throughout the year and ensure that staffing is adequate to provide public access to the Tomb proper during all open hours.

Digitize and make accessible to the public all items in the NPS's General Grant National Memorial archives. Update the archival catalog for accuracy, comprehensiveness, and optimal online access.

#### Authorizing measures:

Redesignate the monument as Grant's Tomb National Monument. Authorize the creation of an expanded visitor center with space for improved, interactive exhibits, along with expanded restroom facilities and access to both the visitor center and the Tomb for persons with disabilities.

Authorize a commemorative coin marking the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth, the

proceeds of which shall help fund maintenance and operations at the site.

As a further bicentennial measure, pass legislation authorizing and requesting the appointment of Grant posthumously as "General of the Armies of the United States," as was done for George Washington, with the appointment effective April 9, 1865.

The letter is accordingly addressed to President Donald Trump; Senate Subcommittee on National Parks Chairman Steve Daines; House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Chairman Deb Haaland; Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Chairman Lisa Murkowski; House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Chairman Betty McCollum; and Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The Grant Monument Association encourages you to write your senators and House members in Washington in support of the above goals.

Thank you for your support!

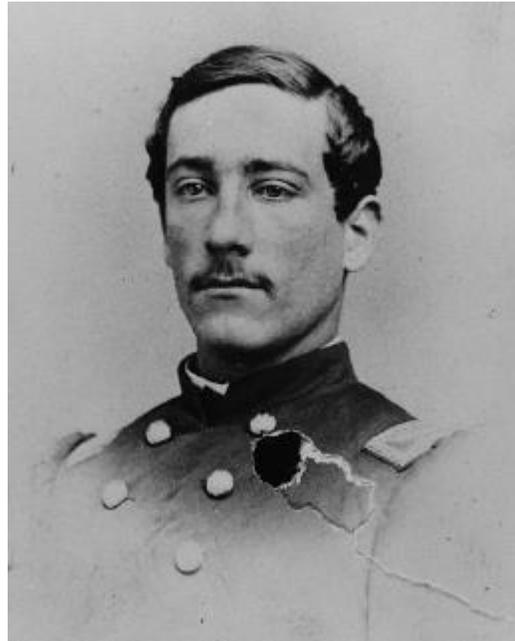
Sincerely,

Frank Scaturro, President

Grant Monument Association

**From Commander Bill Tojak**

**Col John B Weber Camp #44**



Col. John B. Weber memorial dedication on September 21, 2019- tentative. Walkway bricks for purchase...

- Personal brick - \$50
- Business or organization - \$150
- Name engraved on the back of the etched wall \$1000+

[www.colonelweber.org](http://www.colonelweber.org)

[https://howlingpixel.com/i-en/John\\_B.\\_Weber](https://howlingpixel.com/i-en/John_B._Weber)

Colonelweber@aol.com

George J. Weinmann, PDC  
Commander

[Greenpoint Star - Monitor Museum honors students in Road Show program](#)

THE GREENPOINT MONITOR MUSEUM  
CELEBRATES

2017- 2018 ANNUAL ROAD SHOW AWARD  
CEREMONY

THE MUSEUM'S NEW CLASSROOM AT  
MS126 – THE JOHN ERICSSON SCHOOL

On December 23, 2003 Motiva Enterprises donated land at the Bushwick Inlet to The Greenpoint Monitor Museum. December 23, 2018 marks not only the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this donation but also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Boro President Eric Adams' and Deputy Boro President Diana Reyna's Press Release announcing an agreement with the City of New York to end the threat of eminent domain on the Museum's land separating this land from the City's 2005 commitment for the Bushwick Inlet Park. Since then the Museum has been fortunate to be one of the lucky organizations to receive a Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund ("GCEF Grant"). The Museum's project includes engineering design, construction drawings/specifications, and permitting for environmentally-beneficial shoreline stabilization of the Museum's donated land's eroded shoreline. This project is necessary to stabilize the site's eroding

shoreline which was impacted further during Hurricane Sandy.

**On Saturday December 1, 2018 The Greenpoint Monitor Museum held its Annual Road Show Award Ceremony for the first time at its new home at MS126-The John Ericsson School.**

This event has taken place annually since the 2001/2002 school year honoring students from each class from each school who entered projects reflecting what they learned from the Museum's Road Show school program. Through the Museum's Road Show program, Museum instructors would travel to the local schools. Early Road Show Award Ceremonies took place at the Church of the Ascension. Thomas Fitch Rowland, the owner of Continental Iron Works and a member of the Church, received funds for the construction of the USS Monitor were used toward building this Church. The Museum is grateful to the Church of the Ascension and has been displaying the Church's model of the USS Monitor at PS110 and now at MS126 during Church renovations.

Commencing with the 2012 - 2013 school year the Museum was fortunate to locate to a new home at its classroom in PS110 the Monitor School which then hosted the Museum's Annual Road Show Award Ceremonies. Due to growing class attendance at PS110 and the availability of classroom space at MS126 the John Ericsson School, the Museum is now located at MS126. Both schools have a connection to the USS Monitor – one named after the USS Monitor and the other named

after John Ericsson, the Swedish immigrant engineer who designed it and had it built right here in Greenpoint at Thomas Fitch Rowland's Continental Iron Works at Quay St./Bushwick Inlet/East River.

The Museum thanks Alicja Winnicki, Superintendent School District 14, Anna Cano Amato, Principal PS110 and Maria Ortega, Principal MS126 for their support and making this possible. Also thank you to Sergio Zamora, MS126 Guidance Counselor and MS126 custodial and school guard staff for helping to make the event such a wonderful experience for all.

This Year's Award Ceremony honored students from PS31, PS110 and St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy who submitted beautiful projects as part of the Museum's 2017/2018 Road Show Program.

Children, parents, relatives and teachers visited the Museum's new classroom, enjoyed refreshments, civil war music by Arthur Kirmss, a slide show providing an update on the Museum's Greenpoint Community Environment Fund Project and photos from last year's Road Show classes including PS31, PS34, PS110 and St Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy. Councilman Stephen Levin with his baby honored the students by joining the event and congratulating the award winners for their good work.

Thank you Assemblyman Joseph Lentol for program funding through the New York State Education Department and Councilman Stephen Levin for program funding through the

New York City Department of Education. Thank you Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the SVR for continued support keeping alive the memory of those who fought for this country during the Civil War through the Museum's Road Show Program and historic events.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Oliver Tilden Camp #26

The Greenpoint Monitor Museum, PO Box 220378, Brooklyn, New York 11222-0378  
<http://greenpointmonitormuseum.org>





## Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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SPRING2019

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Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

136<sup>th</sup> Encampment - Department of New York-  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War May 17-19,  
 2019 in Lake George at the Fort William Henry Hotel



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