



Hartranft Herald
The Newsletter of
Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org/

Celebrating our 140th Year serving Harrisburg Area



@ Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Vol 25, No. 05

Memorial Day

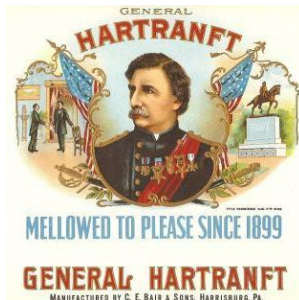
May 2023



Come to our general meetings and view central Pennsylvania from high atop Reservoir Park!

A newsletter for, about, and by the members of Camp 15!

2023 Hartranft Camp 15	Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Vernon Stout 2021 - 2023
Officers and Staff	Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2023
	Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021 - 2023
	Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-23
	Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-23
	Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 15-23
	Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-23
	Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 23-25
	Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-23
	Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger 14-23
	Graves Registration ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2023
	GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Vacant
	Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-23
	Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-23
	GAR Highway Officer ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023
	Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023
	Color Bearer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023
	Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011 - 2023
	Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-23
	ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC since 1943
	Longevity Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Joseph E. Long, Jr., PDC
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Lee F. Walters, PDC
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	



Camp 15 routinely meets at the National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm, 3rd Sunday of most months. PA Dept: www.PAsuvcw.org National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

In accordance with General Order #7, March 7, 2022: "Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the *Banner*, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material."

May 2023 *Hartranft Herald* Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 Awarding winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011
 Awarding winning website -- Horace Greeley Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2020-2022

MEETING MINUTES

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp # 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Officers Present

Commander.....Vern Stout
 SVC..... Logan Swanger
 JVC.....Scott Debo
 Secretary.....Greg Kline
 Council 1.....Scott Debo
 Color Bearer....Wayne Blattner
 Guide/Guard....Wayne Blattner

Officers Absent

Treasurer/Chaplain....David Demmy, Sr
 Pat. Instructor/Historian....Jeff Smith
 Council 3.....Jeff Smith
 Council 2..... Tony Kline

Members attending:

Dan Lute

Guests:

Fred Wertman

The meeting was called to order by Camp Commander Vern Stout at 2:00 PM

The meeting minutes from March 19, 2023 were read by Secretary Greg Kline. Motion to accept by Brother Scott Debo, 2nd by Brother Logan Swanger, motion approved.

Treasurer's report: In Treasurer Demmy's absence, no financial report was given but Commander Vern Stout reported that the IRS Form 990N was completed and submitted. [hooray]!

Sick Brothers or Brothers in Distress

Commander Vern Stout reported that he is feeling better after surgery and thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Brother Wayne Blattner's son-in-law Chris Kolosinsky is currently deployed in the Air Force Reserve in Qatar. Prayers are requested for him and his family.

New membership applications

No Report

Orders, bills, etc.

Read National Special Message # 6 which announced the new SUVCW website is now live. The URL is still the same at www.suvcw.org

Read Dept Order #5 announcing the lifting of the suspension of Mount Union Camp# 502.

Read Dept Order #6 which provided information regarding the upcoming PA Department Encampment to be held June 22-25 at the Altoona Grand Hotel in Altoona, PA

Department Orders can be read in their entirety at <https://www.pasuvcw.org/orders-and-documents/> presently 1-6.

National General Orders can be read in their entirety at <https://suvcw.org/general-orders-of-the-commander-in-chief> presently 1-23.

Unfinished Business:

Fort Delaware field trip. Commander Vern Stout will contact Brother Jeff Smith about sending an email to Camp 15 Brothers regarding their availability to make the trip. An early Fall trip was suggested.

Commander Vern Stout will be sending an email to the Members to pick either June 10 or June 17 for a

trip to the Eisenhower Farm.

The Last Soldier ceremony for Abraham Ellenberger of Perry County will be planned for the Fall of 2023.

New Business:

Memorial Day activities were discussed and planned. On Saturday, May 27, the Camp will meet at 8AM at the Peachtree Diner, 251 North Progress Ave, Harrisburg for breakfast and then proceed to the old Harrisburg City Cemetery on 13th Street for our annual flag decorating of veteran's graves. A Ceremony for Departed Camp 15 Members will be conducted at the G.A.R plot in the Harrisburg Cemetery. Following action at Harrisburg Cemetery, we will proceed to Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook, PA to pay tribute to Ephraim Slaughter's grave and lay a wreath. [Ephraim, a former slave, was the last living civil war veteran of the capital city of Harrisburg! He was also known for his membership in the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic].

Monday, May 29 will be the Gettysburg Memorial Day parade. Military dress or civilian attire with proper SUVCW badge is appropriate. Please email Brother Greg Kline by May 10 if you are interested in marching so that the Camp may be registered.

Motion by Brother Greg Kline, PDC, 2nd by Brother Logan Swanger, PCC that Brother Wayne Blattner be elected to the vacant seat on Camp Council previously occupied by Brother Tony Kline. Approved unanimously.

Good of the Order:

General J.P.S Gobin Camp# 503, Sunbury PA, Camp Commander Fred Wertman paid Camp 15 a visit for the meeting. He invited the Brothers of Camp 15 to attend the Last Soldier Ceremony in Snyder County for Sergeant Jairus Roush of the 131st and 49th PA Vol. Inf. [photos available later in this newsletter].

Brother Dan Lute mentioned that the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) gives an award at JROTC

programs and questioned if the SUVCW does the same. We do; and it was mentioned that the York Camp (Edgar Ruhl Camp# 43) recently presented one at Redlands High School.

Patriotic Instructor:

[instructor absent today] NO REPORT.

The meeting was closed by Commander Vern Stout at 3:28 PM

Faithfully submitted
In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gregory E. Kline, PDC
Secretary
Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp# 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Post Camp meeting note: treasurer received and paid for newly manufactured SUVCW belt buckles. Officially, only camp 15 is licensed by the National Organization to sell these buckles boasting the engraved name of the SUVCW! Advertisements were submitted to the host committee for enclosure in forthcoming 2023 PA Dept encampment book.

Brothers and Sisters in Distress

by Brother David W, Demmy, Sr., PCC, a Kentucky Colonel, Camp 15 Chaplain & Treasurer, and a CPA, and ARNG.

Camp Commander brother Vern has had recent surgery! Blessings especially for Dave Klinepeter and Logan Swanger, SVC, with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP. Greg Kline, Tony Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs. Betz, Jim Crane of Ohio; Also, Mrs. Dot Kline; and Lowell Alcorn, Mrs. Rosemary Martin; and Mrs. Rosemary Jackson.

Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry, our National Chaplain and our local chaplains too: Scott Teeters,

& Clark Brocht! PCinC Ed Krieser & PCinC Brad Schall. Mrs Crystal Kratzer's and Brother Russell Kratzer! In addition, Brother Wayne Blattner's son-in-law Chris Kolosinsky, is currently deployed with the Air Force Reserve in Qatar.

God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx!

If you have knowledge of our sisters and brothers in distress, drop us a line so we may pray for them!

DoubleD@Demmy.cc

Camp 15 Springtime into Summer birthdays:

Myers, Forrest Cedric

Lute, Daniel G

Demmy Sr, PCC, David W

Keener-Farley, Lawrence E

McKay Jr, Thomas Edward

Mills, Terry A

Kline PDC, Gregory Edward

[Proper, Michael Scott](#)



Left brother Fred Wertman looks on as brother Greg Kline provides an address.



readers notice, last veteran star, presented to the veteran.

Photos below of the tribute to Last Civil War Soldier in Snyder County: Sergeant Jairus Roush.



Photos provided by brother Logan Swanger PCC.

Memorial Day Events for Camp 15

Camp celebrates **Memorial Day** on **Saturday 27th** with an **8 a.m. breakfast** at Peachtree Restaurant, North Progress Avenue less than 3 miles from NCWM; and then the *placing of flags* upon veteran's

graves at historic Harrisburg Cemetery at 13th and State Streets [almost a direct line from restaurant to cemetery].

For breakfast event, Please RSVP to DoubleD@Demmy.cc NLT May 20th to schedule sufficient seating! If you are new to Harrisburg Cemetery, please dress appropriately due to the weather; and, wear boots or hiking shoes due to the *contour* of the land.

And, Camp 15 Parades on Memorial Day Monday. Contact Greg Kline for details.



Destination Directions for PeachTree:

[Directions - Bing Maps](#)

Easy arrival from Route 22 or I-81. See ya at 8 a.m.



Here is an image out of our past during Memorial Day weekend 2007:

Patriot-News East

PENNLIVE.COM HARRISBURG, PA - AN EDITION OF THE PATRIOT-NEWS JULY 25-31, 2007
DAUPHIN COUNTY'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Members of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 of Harrisburg, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, participated in the Memorial Day practice of honoring Civil War and other veterans by placing American flags on their gravesites at Harrisburg Cemetery. Standing from left are Norman Houser, Donald Fry, Lee Walters, William Kuhn, Larry Sheibley, David Klinepeter and Gregory Kline. Kneeling are David Demmy and John Martin.

Brother Frank Haley is also pictured above!

THE PATRIOT-NEWS: WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007 E14

COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK

Anyone desiring an 8x10 copy of the image above, [or other images provided in our monthly newsletters] please contact your *Hartranft Herald* Staff for color copy!

Camp 15 June 17th road trip

Visit to Eisenhower Farm estates at Gettysburg and later that day visit Frank Buck's military vehicle museum not far from Gettysburg! Details to be worked out on May 21st camp meeting.

Likely we'll gather for 8 a.m. breakfast at Peachtree Restaurant and then mosey onward to the National Civil War Museum [NCWM] to carpool from the Harrisburg area.

Events forthcoming:

May camp Memorial Day weekend 29

May camp meeting 05/21/23

May 05/27/23 - camp *breakfast* and then annual *field trip* to old Harrisburg Historical Cemetery @ 13th and State Streets 05/27/23

June 17th Camp 15 road trip to Gettysburg area

June PA Department Encampment 22-26th

July summer recess

August National Encampment 3 – 7th

City Memorial Day Services Set; Augsburg Scene of Veterans' Event

Memorial Day services, during which Harrisburg citizens pay tribute to the honored dead who have given their lives in battle, will be held in many churches tomorrow, the Sunday nearest the holiday, Wednesday, May 30. Services, including the community observances are:

Charles H. Burg, post commander, has announced that the combined veterans' organizations of Harrisburg will attend church services in a body at Augsburg Lutheran Church tomorrow morning. They will assemble at 9.45 a. m. at Sixth and Harris streets.

A memorial for veterans' organizations of Harrisburg vicinity will be led by the Rev. Richard Byers Martin, pastor, at 11 a. m. A brief commemoration will be conducted in connection with the service. Music will be presented by the American Legion Auxilliary Glee Club, Unit 27, and by the Junior Choir. Rhoda Dessenberg will play the organ.

The nursery department, directed by Mrs. T. A. Wallower, will be open during the service to care for small children of parents who attend. Flowers will be placed in the church by the Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Harrisburg Post 58, Col. Seneca G. Simmons Post 116, and Post 520.

The Spanish-American War Veterans of Camp 8 will attend service at Epworth Methodist Church at 7 p. m., assembling at Twenty-first and Derry streets. The Rev. B. L. Stenger, pastor, will speak.

play several numbers. Dr. Frantz will speak at this service.

Derry Street U. B.

Because of the John Harris High School bacalaureate service tomorrow afternoon, the previously announced Memorial Sunday vespers at Derry Street United Brethren Church will be held at 7 p. m. The service will be directed by the Rev. Harry W. Zechman with the three choirs participating, lead by Mrs. Sara L. Aungst, organist and choir director. The three choirs, with a combined membership of 70 voices, will appear on the same program for the first time since the organization of the new Youth Choir composed of high school girls.

At 11 a. m., the pastor will preach the seventh in a series of sermons on the Ten Commandments.

Pine Street Presbyterian

Memorial Day will be observed in Pine Street Presbyterian Church and the Rev. C. Ralston Smith, will call a roll of every man and woman in the service. The service roll totals 312 persons and contains nine gold stars. He will also preach the morning sermon. The choir and quartet will sing music appropriate to the Memorial Day theme.

At 4.30 the Jr.-Int. C. E. Society meets with Linda Savage as the leader. At 6.30 the Young People's C. E. meets in the social room and the Senior C. E. in the Women

1945 clip above

1989 Flag Day Recognition

A12—The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, July 12, 1989

THE FORUM

Flag not a holy entity, but a symbol of principle

I question the value of any "statement" made by burning the flag, but I agree nonetheless with the Supreme Court's decision regarding flag desecration.

I am at odds with those who view the flag itself as a holy entity rather than a symbol of the nation's people and principles. Even Chief Justice Rehnquist, in his dissenting opinion, spoke of dying for the flag, rather than for the ideals or individuals which give that flag meaning. Such an attitude is seen by some as idolatry, and this belief deserves respect.

The British observe moments of national pride with huge explosions of flags; the Union Jack is as powerful a symbol for them as Old Glory is for us, yet they have not felt the need to surround it with regulations. Is our love and understanding of our nation's principles so tenuous that we must cling to the flag as a national security blanket?

I have (properly) displayed the flag at home, and I would never deface it, but I shudder to think that a misunderstanding of display protocol might leave me marked as a villain. And I am saddened to think that the Constitution might soon grant more protection to a symbol — however beloved

it may be — than it grants women, the disadvantaged and our environment.

The court's decision does not mean that flag-burning will soon become a national pastime; to the contrary, the explosion of public outrage surrounding this issue demonstrates that it is unnecessary to legislate respect for the flag, and the small class of extremists at whom such legislation would be aimed would be as likely to defy a national ban as they were Texas's ban. While matters of life and death threaten living human beings, legislative action on this matter would be a gross waste of time and effort.

Some readers suggest that public opinion should be weighted in favor of war veterans. Our veterans are people worthy of respect, but to dole out special privileges to certain people is contrary to the central principle of the Declaration: that rights are inalienable gifts from God and nature, distributed equally among all people. We cannot deny basic freedoms to those we would label thugs and hoodlums because they have offended us. We each have the right to express outrage, but to ask the government to punish those who offend us is

contrary to the principles which the flag represents.

By denying Joey Johnson his freedom of expression, we would jeopardize our own freedom to express outrage at his actions. That would be a price which I am not willing to pay.

Kenneth Miller
Harrisburg

Letters should be brief and to the point. They are subject to editing. Names are used on all letters, and writers must include their addresses and phone numbers for verification.

Address:
Letters to the Editor
Patriot-News Co.
P.O. Box 2265
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Lift Old Glory to her proper place

Being down in Baltimore this past July 4 weekend, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit Fort McHenry, the place where Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814 on the morning following an all-night bombardment by the British Navy. We watched a short movie about the battle; as it ended a curtain was pulled back and outside waving in the breeze was Old Glory. I could feel the goose bumps rising, also something in my throat and my eyes welling up. It seemed every war we ever fought flashed across my vision as I watched that old flag.

I remember when I was small my mother would tell of a song written sometime after

the Civil War. It seems our flag had fallen during a certain battle and the captain called for a volunteer to retrieve the flag. A young lad brought back the flag but fell under the heavy enemy fire. A general witnessed this act from a nearby ridge and sought out this courageous young man, only to find the dying man was his own son.

I don't believe we should condone this recent act of flag burning, nor should we hate this young man for his actions. But because it took place, I believe more people will rally around her and lift Old Glory to her proper place, a place of honor where we can all look up to her.

Floyd Demmy
Harrisburg