



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 **143rd** Year serving Harrisburg Area

@ [Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](https://www.facebook.com/GenJohnFHartranftCamp15)



Vol 27 No. 10



2025



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!

2025 Hartranft Camp 15	Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Kyle Purchase 2025
Officers and your Staff	Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2025
	Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2025
	Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner 2025
	Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2025
	Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2015-2025
	Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025
	Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2025
	Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025
	Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 2000-2025
	Graves Registration ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger 2014-2025
	GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2025
	Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2025
	Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2025
	GAR Highway Officer ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2025
	Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025
	Color Bearer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025
	Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2025
	Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025
	ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025
	Camp Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025
	Longevity Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Dave J. Klinepeter PCC 1943-2023
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Floyd J. Demmy WWII Veteran
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Joseph E. Long, Jr., PDC, Veteran
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Lee F. Walters, PDC, Past Exec Dir.

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."

Membership in our Order does not require a civil war ancestor nor is our Order a reenacting group!

December 2025 *Hartranft Herald* Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Award winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011
Award winning website -- Horace Greeley Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2020-2022
SUVCW Legal heir of and representing the Grand Army of the Republic

our camp namesake Hartranft Born in December -

John Frederick Hartranft, (1830-1889) — Born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pa., December 16, 1830. A Republican, he served in the Union Army during the Civil War; was Pennsylvania state auditor general, 1866-72; then Governor of Pennsylvania, 1873-79; and candidate for Republican nomination for President, 1876. The General is the father of the modern 28th Division PA National Guard. He received the Medal of Honor in 1886 for action at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861. The General died October 17, 1889. His Interment is at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, PA, which Camp 15 has visited. The General, of course, is our Camp's namesake!

Camp 15 brothers and sisters express our very sincere condolences to PCC brother Logan and Mrs. Pai Swanger upon the recent death of their son Jeremiah Swanger.

Brothers and Sisters in distress

by camp chaplain:

Sister Helen Shireman, great granddaughter to our camp namesake, John F Hartranft, is recovering from an ailment.

The current list includes prayers for Brother David Demmy Sr. as he struggles with some health issues, [the VA is keeping him busy with appointments] Camp counselor Chuck Brackbill Jr, ailments; Brother Scott Debo's family, and Ann Ribblett, wife of Camp #15 member Terry Bibblett. Sister Ann McMillin recovering from recent surgery. Please keep all these Brothers and Sisters and their families in your prayers.

Camp 15 Dues time – year 2026

2nd 'announced' notice

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2026 Camp 15 dues of **\$53** to an early camp Meeting!

Life Members' dues are \$10.00 for the Pennsylvania Department collection!

Presently Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and National per capita!

All PA Department brothers including Life Members now must pay the PA dues amount – passed at 2025 PA encampment... the amount is \$10 for PA!

See text bottom of national [form 9](#) for specifics!

Camp 15 treasurer prefers **\$53** check payable to **'Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW'**.

Or mail your check to
David W. Demmy, Sr.
881 Sunny Hill Lane
Harrisburg PA 17111 – 4690

A Check protects both parties!

Additional Notices will be issued in January and February!

Deadline for 2026 dues is the end of February!

Donations appreciated for postage and office supplies!

C&R
Article II
Membership

Section 3 (a). A Brother whose dues are not paid by **March 1 may be dropped for nonpayment of dues** by Camp. A Brother so dropped shall not be admitted to another Camp or membership-at-large unless having received the concurrence of the Camp which dropped him.

A Brother so dropped from the rolls of a Camp shall be issued a General Discharge for the Good of the Order. ²⁴ ***A Brother may be reinstated by paying the current year's dues [camp and department] plus a [national] reinstatement fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)!***

For 2026 and until any future increase in per

capita and/or dues, the total reinstatement is **\$63.00** *all-year-long and may not be prorated.*

To become a National Life Member of our grand organization, visit national website www.suvcw.org choose forms, select form 9. Save it on your computer, open this newly saved form, complete it, save it, print it; and attach your payment for your age bracket and mail directly to national headquarters!

Greetings Brothers of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp #15:

Please excuse this message for being longer than the others but given this is my final message of the year, I think it is appropriate to end on a high note and to discuss November and December, which was packed with events for our Camp. Camp 15 and the rest of the Department were well represented at this year's Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg where PCC Greg Kline and I marched in the parade and Brothers JVC Scott Debo, Secy Wayne Blattner and Camp Patriotic Instructor Jeff Smith all came out in support. Along with Camp 15, we were joined by our fellow brethren in the Department – Anna M. Ross Camp #1, Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp #8, Capt. J.P. Brindle Camp #50, Baker-Fisher Camp #101, Gettysburg Camp #112, Joel Searfoss Camp #273, Capt. George Cribbs Camp #276, Gen. J.P.S. Gobin Camp #503 and Pvt. Isaac Eaton Camp #504. It was a great turnout for other Departments as well and there was a special appearance by Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker and President Lincoln himself!

Camp 15 was proud to host the Tri-Camp Christmas Banquet at Hoss' in Mechanicsburg where we all broke bread before we spent time with our families; and, officers for the three camps were sworn in for 2026.



The Camp also returned to the tradition of hosting ↗ rounds of Bingo

for a chance for brothers and guests to win ↘ various prizes as an early holiday gift!



Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to Brother Dave Demmy Jr. for facilitating the bingo and to Brother Jeff Smith for reserving the room, and of course to David W. Demmy, Sr, for at least the past 16 years of engineering the event with the ❶ annual invitation to all concerned, ❷ creating the colorful program bulletin, and for accepting the ❸ rsvp's too.

Camp 15 also extended its' thanks to Department Commander Mike Peter for swearing in the officers, and to the brothers of Capt. J.P. Brindle Camp #50 and Gen. J. P. S. Gobin Camp #503 for their attendance and support.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your Commander and know 2026 will be a significant year for our Order. I ask all of you to assist with the Order in preparation for America250 and the upcoming Department and National Encampments, both of which will be near our Camp!

Also, make sure to pay your 2026 dues (**\$53**) by the end of **February** or the camp will be forced, by SUVCW Regulation, to drop you from our active rolls. See dues announcement in any recent camp newsletter, *The Hartranft Herald*.

I hope you all enjoy your holidays and wish you a Happy New Year! In Fraternity, Chairty and Loyalty,

Kyle Grant Purchase
Commanding



SUVCW medal available at QM store



Remembrance Day 2025

Some photos of 2025 Remembrance Day parade and activities continue next



Woolson Monument Site representing the GAR





Present Arms



Above images provided by CC Kyle Purchase!

Tri-Camp's holiday event on December 7th

The combined Camps 15, 50, and 503 gathered for a holiday banquet at Hoss's at Mechanicsburg. From a previous mailing list of 47, 30 individuals including brothers and sisters and family members attended the event. After the meal, PA Dept Commander Mike Peter installed officers for 2026. Then the 50/50 drawing took place with a 50% amount earmarked for [The Reynolds Restoration Project](#) along with an additional donation. Some photos of the event:



PA dept commandery, Mike, Ted and Steve



Additional officers Doug and Kyle



Sister Ilsa all the way from NY to be our cashier for the day!



Social time





Campbell's kid looks on. . . . Brother Ted



Scott, Steve, Paul, Josh, Doug taking oath



Camp 15 group



Candid image



Xtra shot



In tandem

Above images provided by Demmy family.

Camp 15 Polo Shirt campaign:

Currently we have 1, size large L, dark blue camp 15 polo shirt available for \$25 cash or check payable to Hartranft Camp SUVCW. You may pick up the shirt at January camp meeting.

Please be patient with me, *I'm from the 1900's!*

Recap of 2025: It was good year llsa, I didn't have to use Algebra once!

Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

Winter, Camp 15 begins dues collection for 2026, new amount is **\$53.00** payable to **Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW**.

The increase is based upon Approval at June 2025 PA Dept encampment to keep up with inflation!

January welcome to 2026

First camp meeting in January will be held on Sunday January 18th

February 7th annual **Lincoln Luncheon**; More data TBA.

February 14th **recruiting table** at Community FREE Day at NCWM 10 a.m.

February camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday 15th.
DST March 8th.

March camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday 15th.

April camp meeting is scheduled for 19th.

May camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday 17th.

May 23rd Camp 15 annual breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at PeachTree Restaurant, prior to attending Memorial Day tribute to veterans of historical Harrisburg Cemetery. Guests are welcome . . .

Memorial Day Monday May 24th.



June 25 thru 27 annual encampment of the **PA Department at Carlisle.**

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

please update your social calendars now !

Be Proud - Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and engage with us!

- **The Allied Orders of the GAR:**
- -Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to GAR,
- -Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- -Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War,
- -Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- -The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans Civil War.

Camp Officers & authors, the first Friday of each month is the Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos for *Hartranft Herald*.

Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as members submit them.

Complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to DoubleD@Demmy.cc

Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, cousin, your neighbor and all your friends to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of the Allied Orders are always welcome!

Camp 15 Established February 11, 1882
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

God bless you and yours and God bless the USA.

