

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 **144th** Year serving Harrisburg Area

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

https://www.instagram.com/hartranftcamp15pa/



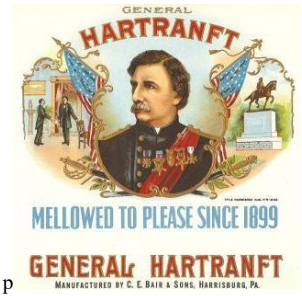
Vol 28 No. 09 **Holidays** 2026



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!

2026 Hartranft Camp 15 Officers and your Staff	Commander ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Kyle Purchase 2025-2026
	Senior Vice Commander ~~ ~~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2026
	Junior Vice Commander ~~ ~~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2026
	Secretary ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner, PCC 2025-2026
	Treasurer ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2026
	Council 01 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
	Council 02 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2026
	Council 03 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2026
	Patriotic Instructor ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
	Chaplain ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2026
	Graves Registration ~~ ~~ ~~	Logan Swanger 2014-2026
	GAR Historian ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
	Counselor ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2026
	Eagle Scout Coordinator ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2025-2026
	GAR Highway Officer ~~ ~~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2026
	Guide ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026
	Color Bearer ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026
	Guard ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2026
	Webmaster ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2026
	Cadet Program Coordinator ~~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2026
	Camp Historian ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2026
	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
	Editor Camp Newsletter ~~~ ~~~	David W. Demmy Sr., since 2006!



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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!

Greetings Readers of Hartranft Herald!

Our Brothers and Sisters in distress

Sister Helen Shireman, great granddaughter to our camp namesake, Maj Gen John F Hartranft, is recovering from an ailment; likewise, Mrs. Bill Jackson, is residing at a special-care facility. Brother Bill recovering from recent thoracic procedure!
This current list includes prayers for Brother David Demmy Sr. as he struggles with some health issues, pending potential radiation 2027; Camp counselor Chuck Brackbill Jr, ailments; And National Secretary Jim Crane with an ongoing concern! Camp SVC Logan Swanger too. Please keep all these Brothers and Sisters and their families in your prayers.

Next Camp Meeting

Our camp does not meet in November due to 3rd Sunday is usually Remembrance Day weekend, and we expect brothers to visit events at Gettysburg. Likewise we do not meet during December due to multiple family and employment activities, however, Camp 15 participates in the Tri-Camp Holiday event with Camps 50 and 503 and 15 on Saturday December 12, 2026, at Hoss's Mechanicsburg. Please RSVP if you have not done so: execdir@suvcw.org - - - headcount for Hoss's.

Next regularly schedule camp meeting will be held on Sunday January 17, 2027. Happy New Years!

Dues for 2027

Camp 15 Dues time – year 2027

1st 'announced' notice

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2027 Camp 15 dues of **$53** to an early camp Meeting!

Life Members' dues are $10.00 for the Pennsylvania Department collection!
Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and National per capita! **All** PA Department brothers including Life Members must pay the PA dues amount – passed at 2025 PA encampment!
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!

Notices will be issued in January and February!
Deadline for 2027 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!

Community Free Day Honoring Veterans

November 7 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The National Civil War Museum 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, United States

Community Free Day Honoring Veterans Saturday, November 7, 2026, AND Camp 15 was on duty:

In honor of Veterans Day, the National Civil War Museum, at Harrisburg, hosted another Free Community Day that was open to the public. Representatives from the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, Camp Curtin Historical Society and our camp 15 were in attendance to set up shop with informational tables. Commander Purchase, Secretary Blattner, Camp Counselor Brackbill, Treasurer Demmy, PCC Mascioli and Brother Wayne Motts represented our camp that day!

L to R: Wayne, Kyle, David and Chuck below:

Not available at photo time, brother Gene and museum CEO Wayne Motts.











Towards the end of the day, the camp was visited by *Sabrina Tevolini*, a reporter from Fox43 News, who wished to interview someone from our camp to talk about Veterans Day. Commander Purchase focused on discussing our Order and what the day meant to him whereas Brother Motts also explained what the day meant to him and the museum. Commander Purchase and Brother Motts were featured on Fox43's 10 pm news and the camp's old marble block was shown! The camp also assisted a



gentleman in researching his ancestor in the 107th Pennsylvania Infantry and encouraged him to join his local camp in another PA County.

Fox News: fox43.com
<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/history/civil-war-museum-in-harrisburg-holds-veterans-day-event-to-honor-military-service/521-a28d513b-6ebd-469b-a2e6-61ed067c4b0c?tbref=hp>

Well, done to all brothers who helped for the day and spreading awareness about our Order and keeping green the memory of the boys in blue! Huzzah!

PS: the old marble block revealing **S of V** represents the days of Camp 15 under the original name of our grand organization, namely Sons of Veteran. Following WWI, the name 'Veteran' was confusing with so many similar organizations! The national organization was more appropriately renamed 'Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War'.

Remembrance Day Weekend 2026



Commander Kyle ↑ Purchase had the distinct honor of carrying the Pennsylvania Department flag as part of the Department Honor Guard in this year's Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg. JVC Scott Debo and PDC Greg Kline also participated. Department Commander Mike Peter placed a wreath at the GAR Memorial on behalf of the Department and participated in the parade with the

rest of the Department. The Department was well represented over the Remembrance Day weekend with brothers from Davis * Camp, Anna M. Ross Camp 1, Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp 8, Col. Jacob M. Campbell Camp 14, Gen. George H. Thomas Camp 19, John T. Crawford Camp 34, Capt. J. P. Brindle Camp 50, Col. James E. Crowther Camp 89, Gettysburg Camp 112, Pvt. Silas Gore Camp 141, Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp 149, Joel Searfoss Camp 273, Capt. George Cribbs Camp 276, Mt. Union Church Camp 502, Gen. J.P.S. Gobin Camp 503, Pvt. Isaac Eaton Camp 504 and soon to be Letterman Camp 506! Well-done to all brothers of the Pennsylvania Department and hope to see you all next year!

Text and images courtesy of camp commander,



brother Kyle Purchase, camp 15. Above is the group of PA Department participants.

And the famous Woolson Monument below:



Woolson monument wreaths for 2026.

brother Kyle, thank you for sharing the text and great photos too.

2026 Tri-Camps 15, 50, and 503 Holiday Banquet Gathering

You and **y**
are invite
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50 and
Camp 503
Sons of
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gathering.

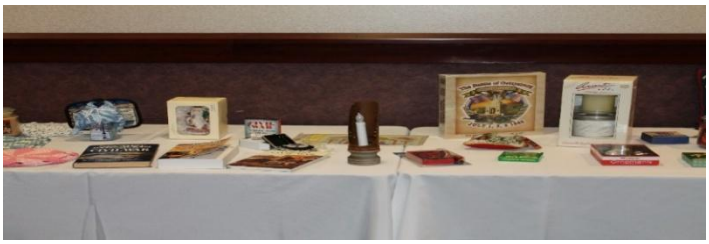


When **Saturday, December 12, 2026 - 2nd Saturday in December**

All participants: please bring 2-4+ *items for the gift table with value of about $15 - 20 each!* ITEMS SHOULD BE UNWRAPPED FOR VIEWING! Each time you win at Bingo, move to the gift table and select an item. Return to your seat and play again and again – good luck!

Items may be, e.g.: nice old book, new book, relic tree ornament, CD music, DVD, gift certificate, other ideas may be Civil War related or not, veteran related or not, family related or not; e.g.: candles, stationery, teddy bear, puzzles, games – *you may make it interesting* for all of us by providing *unusual choices*!

Sample table:



Attire: **Friday casual!**

Where: **Hoss's** 61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 · 9.5 mi from Hbg.

Cost: **$ your expense will be of your mode of travel and the meal you personally select**

from Hoss's menu: **Menus for Hosss Steak & Sea House - Mechanicsburg - SinglePlatform**

Payment: you make payment with Hoss's personnel based upon your meal selection.

No collection or accounting by any camp treasurer -- hooray!

Fellowship hour: 11:30 ~~~~ Mealtime selection approximately noon hour!

Activities: Good food and fellowship; appointment of officers for the New Year!

Entertainment: Holiday Bingo described above

continued



Don't fall asleep, RSVP now

Preferred RSVP by email at **execdir@suvcw.org**. rsvp no later than **November 27th** for a full **headcount** for Hoss's.

Likewise, if you are interested, bring some cash to engage in the 50/50 *opportunity*! 50/50 Tickets are $.50 each; or **12 for $5.00** – that's 2 free. 50% for winner .



Circa 1955

God bless you and yours!

Have a safe trip!

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~~~~ End ~~~~
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