

# The Haversack

Newsletter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve



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## Commander's Comments

Greetings men of the 7th District,

It was a great pleasure to see some of you at the National Encampment in August in Springfield. The encampment was a great success and I especially enjoyed the opportunity to dine with some of you at the SVR Breakfast.

I know that we have had a busy summer and I will be excited to hear more news from the field in this issue. The 14th Corps HQ Guard had the opportunity on September 10th to rededicate the grave of Corporal Rucker who was a USCT during the War of the Rebellion. We participated in concert with the SUVCW Department of Georgia & South Carolina, the LGAR and the DUVCW as well as the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The ceremony was very impressive but could have been better attended by members of the SUVCW and SVR. Our honor guard was actually out-numbered by the honor guard provided by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief and Commander of the 2nd Military District, Mark Day, also attended and laid the Laurel Wreath at Corporal Rucker's Grave and gave a short speech. I will provide photos when they become available. It's a handicap I often have in that I cannot take pictures while I am participating in the ceremony. My part was to command the SVR honor guard and lay the wreath of Evergreen at Corporal Rucker's headstone.

Corporal Rucker is buried at Mount Holly Cemetery in Dahlonge. He was a runaway slave that enlisted in the USCT. He survived the war and settled in Dahlonge Georgia where he lived until his death. A former confederate veteran with whom he became acquainted helped him apply for his US Veteran's pension after the war. We were not aware of the location of the grave until it was discovered and reported to us by a member of the SCV recently. The SCV had been planning to perform a "Southern Cross" honor for Confederate Captain Boyle at the same Cemetery so it was decided to do a ceremony for each on the same day with the honor guards from both organizations firing a salute at each grave.

This is where I think the SVR should have done better. Our turnout was low because many members felt that they should not attend a service honoring a rebel soldier and because the SCV honor guard would be carrying the Confederate Battle Flag! Shame on us! The SCV did their part exceedingly well at both ceremonies. They stood and saluted Old Glory right along side us and stood to attention for the National Anthem and as Senior Vice-Commander Mark Day pointed out, "We are all Americans and it is right for us to cooperate in functions like this". I had a chance to talk with many of the SCV Honor Guard afterward. We all agree that although we may disagree on the cause it is right and honorable to salute a gallant foe. Did not our ancestors come together to heal the nation at the end of the war? Do we not remember what the veterans of both sides did at the Gettysburg reunion of 1913? They embraced each other on cemetery hill. That is something that President Lincoln wanted to see happen. Is the animosity toward a former enemy so great still that you would pass up the opportunity to even render honors to a USCT Veteran? I think that is definitely counter to the warrior ethos that my 23 years of Army Service taught me.

While in my own heart I can find no justification or support for the Southern Confederacy I certainly can admire the fighting spirit of it's soldiers and sailors and consider it an honor to salute the valor of their fallen. Let us endeavor to honor our own Federal Veterans but let's also be magnanimous enough in spirit to be able to render honors to the fighting spirit of the enemy fallen. Like it or not, that is a traditional American value.

In F, C and L,

Major Eric Peterson  
 7th Military District, SVR  
 Commanding.



# Sons of Veterans Reserve National Encampment Breakfast



Br. Gary Burke at the 34th Annual African Street Festival at historic Hadley Park. The theme, "Nashville Then & Now". He gave the history of then the "Hadley Plantation" which after the Emancipation Proclamation allowed free blacks to dwell in the North Nashville area. The great abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke to a group on that same soil. Additionally, he provided the history of the USCT role in the Battle Of Nashville.



# How does Florida relate to the Civil War 1861-1865?

Fort Pickens and the Santa Rosa Island battlefield (within Gulf Islands National Seashore)

[www.gov/guis/planyourvisit/fort-pickens.htm](http://www.gov/guis/planyourvisit/fort-pickens.htm) is a worthy place to visit. With Florida seceding January 1861 (the third to do so, after South Carolina and Mississippi) and for a month an independent nation, Fort Pickens could easily have been contested before Fort Sumter. Fort Pickens did not fall despite repeated attacks, the first of which was remembered in a sesquicentennial observance September 2011 attended by the late Buck Custer (previous Harmon Company commander) and Jim Ward (current Harmon Company commander. Fort Barrancas ([www.gov/guis/planyourvisit/fort-barrancas.htm](http://www.gov/guis/planyourvisit/fort-barrancas.htm)) and Fort McRee on the mainland did fall, and engaged in massive artillery duels with United States Navy vessels and Fort Pickens November 1861 and January 1862. All forts and Pensacola itself returned to Union forces in May 1862.

With 1845 statehood, Tallahassee was selected as Florida capital because it was halfway between Pensacola and Jacksonville. It was the only confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River to avoid Union capture until the end of the Civil War. April 2, 1862 President Andrew Johnson proclaimed the insurrection in Florida and nine other former confederate states to be at an end.

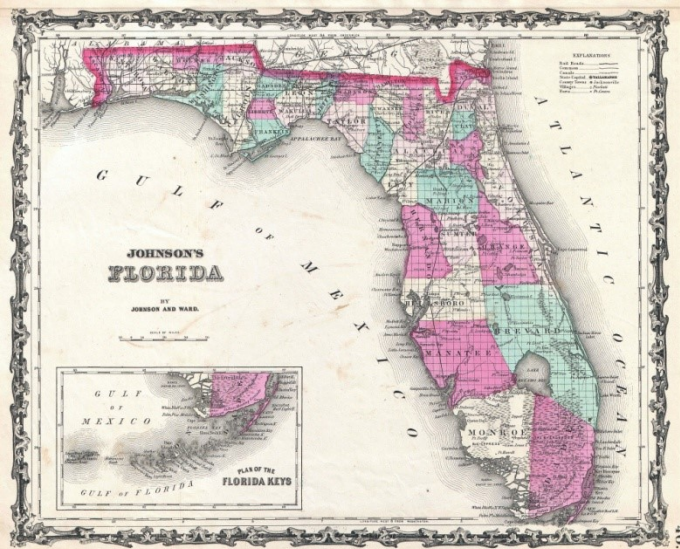
1,239 Union Veterans are buried at Barrancas National Cemetery ([www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp)) at Pensacola Naval Air Station. The Pensacola Navy Yard with two Civil War era buildings is also at NAS Pensacola. Historic Pensacola Village consists of 27 historic sites [www.historicpensacola.org](http://www.historicpensacola.org).

In Bay County, Lynn Haven was founded and developed as a home for Union Veterans. In 1920 one of the first privately funded Union monuments in the South not located in a cemetery was built. It is a statue of a Union soldier on a 40-foot pedestal.

In Osceola County, Saint Cloud was also developed as a home for Union Veterans. Many are buried at Mount Peace Cemetery, including Medal of Honor Recipient Amzi Davis Harmon.

For lighthouse fans, the considerable Florida shoreline led to several being constructed, which often were disabled, shelled, or burned during the Civil War.

Reference: Florida Civil War Heritage Trail [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com) Submitted by Br. Chad Comer



Submitted by Captain James Ward  
Amzi D. Harmon Company

# Historical Regulations ...

## FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

### Article II PART FIRST

84. This will be taught, if practicable, to one recruit at a time; but three or four may be united, when the number is great, compared with that of the instructors. In this case, the recruits will be placed in a single rank, at one pace from each other. In this part, the recruits will be without arms.

#### LESSON I.

##### POSITION OF A SOLDIER.

85. Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit:

The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle;

The knees straight without stiffness;

The body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward;

The shoulders square and falling equally;

The arms hanging naturally;

The elbows near the body;

The palm of the hand turned a little to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;

The head erect and square to the front, without constraint;

The chin near the stock, without covering it;

The eyes fixed straight to the front, and striking the ground about the distance of fifteen paces.

##### REMARKS ON THE POSITION OF A SOLDIER.

*Heels on the same line;*

86. Because, if one were in rear of the other, the shoulder on that side would be thrown back, or the position of the soldier would be constrained.

*Heels more or less closed;*

Because men who are knock-kneed, or who have legs with large calves, cannot, without constraint, make their heels touch while standing.

*The feet equally turned out, and not forming too large an angle;*

Because, if one foot were turned out more than the other, a shoulder would be deranged, and if both feet be too much turned out, it would not be practicable to incline the upper part of the body, forward without rendering the whole position unsteady.

*Knees extended without stiffness;*

Because, if stiffened, constraint and fatigue would be unavoidable.

*The body erect on the hips;*

Because it gives equilibrium to the position. The instructor will observe that many recruits have the bad habit of dropping a shoulder or drawing in a side, or of advancing a hip, particularly the right, when under arms. These are defects he will labor to correct.

*The upper part of the body inclining forward;*

Because commonly, recruits are disposed to do the reverse, to project the belly, and to throw back the shoulders, when they wish to hold themselves erect, from which result great inconveniences in marching. The habit of inclining forward the upper part of the body is so important to contract, that the instructor must enforce it at the beginning, particularly with recruits who have naturally the opposite habit.

*Shoulders square;*

Because; if the shoulders be advanced beyond the line of the breast, and the back arched (the defect called round-shouldered, not uncommon among recruits), the man cannot align himself, nor use his piece with address. It is important, then, to correct this defect, and necessary to that end that the coat should set easy about the shoulders and arm-pits; but in correcting this defect, the instructor will take care that the shoulders be not thrown too much to the rear, which would cause the belly to project, and the small of the back to be curved.

*The arms hanging naturally, elbows near the body, the palm of the hand a little turned to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;*

Because these positions are equally important to the shoulder-arms, and to prevent the man from occupying more space in a rank than is necessary to a free use of the piece; they have, moreover, the advantage of keeping in the shoulders.

*The face straight to the front, and without constraint;*

Because, if there be stiffness in the latter position, it would communicate itself to the whole of the upper part of the body, embarrass its movements, and give pain and fatigue.

*Eyes direct to the front;*

Because this is the surest means of maintaining the shoulders in line — an essential object, to be insisted on and attained.

87. The instructor having given the recruit the position of the soldier without arms, will now teach him the turning of the head and eyes. He will command:

1. *Eyes*—RIGHT. 2. FRONT.

88. At the word right, the recruit will turn the head gently, so as to bring the inner corner of the left eye in a line with the buttons of the coat, the eyes fixed on the line of the eyes of the men in, or supposed to be in, the same rank.

89. At the second command, the head will resume the direct or habitual position.

90. The movement of *Eyes*—LEFT will be executed by inverse means.

91. The instructor will take particular care that the movement of the head does not derange the squareness of the shoulders, which will happen if the movement of the former be too sudden.

92. When the instructor shall wish the recruit to pass from the state of attention to that of ease, he will command:

REST.

93. To cause a resumption of the habitual position the instructor will command:

1. *Attention*. 2. SQUAD.

94. At the first word, the recruit will fix his attention; at the second, he will resume the prescribed position and steadiness.

# SVR Regulations

## REGULATIONS OF THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE 2011

### Article II

#### National Headquarters

1. The officer in charge of the NMD, SVR shall be known as the Commanding Officer, SVR. Pursuant to Section 5 Chapter IV of the Constitution and Regulations of the SUVCW, the Commanding Officer shall be appointed by the National Military Affairs Committee with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW. The appointment shall be made for a period of not more than three (3) years and may be renewed for additional three (3) year terms subject to the same procedures used for the original appointment. The Commanding Officer of the SVR shall serve at the pleasure of the majority of the NMAC and may be relieved by the NMAC subject to the concurrence of the Commander-in-Chief.
2. The Commanding Officer, SVR, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the NMD, SVR. The rank of the Commanding Officer, SVR, and all National and District Headquarters Officers, shall be based upon the total membership of the SVR. In no case shall the rank of the Commanding Officer be higher than that of Major General. The rank of the Commanding Officer shall be determined by the NMAC. All other ranks shall be determined by the Commanding Officer based on the total membership of the SVR.
3. Current and past SVR Commanding Officers, National, District and Battalion Headquarters Officers and Special Staff Officers holding ranks higher than permitted according to the Regulations may retain their current rank for the remaining period of their SVR appointment, adhere to the rank permissible under the Regulations, transfer to the Inactive Reserves at their current rank, or retire from the SVR at their current rank.
4. All National, District, Battalion Headquarters Officers and Special Staff Officers rank shall be BREVIT. Rank shall be a function of the position held. Once the position is vacated, so shall the rank associated with that position be vacated. In such situations where a National, District or Battalion Headquarters or Special Staff position be vacated, the vacating individual shall be subject to the conditions provided for in Article II, Section 3 of these Regulations.
5. The Commanding Officer, SVR, may appoint a National Headquarters Staff. All appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the Commanding Officer of the SVR. The following table defines the maximum rank for a position based on total SVR membership. Should the membership drop below 500, the rank structure shall be determined by Section 3 of these Regulations.

Position	Less than 500	500-1500	Over 1500
Commanding Officer	Colonel	Brigadier General	Major General
Deputy Commander	Lt. Colonel	Colonel	Brigadier General
Chief of Staff	Lt. Colonel	Colonel	Colonel
Adjutant General	Lt. Colonel	Colonel	Colonel
Inspector General	Lt. Colonel	Colonel	Colonel
DC Liaison Officer	Lt. Colonel	Colonel	Colonel
Judge Advocate General	Captain	Major	Lt. Colonel
Quartermaster	Captain	Major	Major
Provost Marshal	Captain	Major	Major
National Chaplain	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Major	Lt. Colonel
Public Information Officer	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Captain	Major
Deputy Provost Marshal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Captain
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The assignment to staff positions will be concurrent with the Commanding Officer, unless relieved of duty. Upon ending his tenure in a staff officer position, the officer may transfer to his original unit, at a rank current with the structure of the unit, or transfer to the inactive Reserve at his present</li> <li>7. The Commanding Officer may, with the written approval of the NMAC, add positions to both National and District level Headquarters that he deems necessary to efficiently operate the SVR.</li> <li>8. The Commanding Officer may appoint a Special Staff to coordinate Civil War living history pageants, parades, ceremonies, training schools, and/or reenactments. Said appointments shall be announced by Special Orders and terminate with the end of the event. Members of the Special Staff shall have no authority or responsibility on the National Headquarters Staff or in the operation of the SVR.</li> </ol>			

### Sons of Veterans Reserve Command

Commanding Officer	Major General	Robert E. Grim
Deputy Commander	Brigadier General	Henry E. Shaw
Chief of Staff	Colonel	Robert M. Petrovic
Adjutant General	Colonel	Donald E. Darby
Inspector General	Colonel	Elmer F. "Bud" Atkinson
DC Liaison Officer	Colonel	Andrew M. Johnson
Judge Advocate General	Lt. Colonel	James B. Pahl
Provost Marshal	Major	Eric J. Schmincke
National Chaplain	Captain	Jerome Kowalski
Public Information Officer	Major	Leo F. Kennedy
Deputy Provost Marshal	Captain	David K. Hann

<http://suvrvc.org/svrisvstaff.htm>

## Book Review - "The Untold Civil War"

One of the first books I ever possessed was a gift of my sister, Jeanne. It's title was "History's 100 Greatest Events." She must of known of my interest in the topic and I still have the book. As I started to write this book review of James Robertson's "The Untold Civil War" it came to me that this book and my sister's gift had a lot in common. They both contained interesting, illustrated short stories about historic events that held my attention and each story stood alone. James Robertson is an award winning biographer of Stonewall Jackson and a writer or editor of two dozen other books. He was appointed by President John F. Kennedy executive director of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission.

Neil Kagan is editor of the book and National Geographic is the publisher. Kagan has edited many illustrated books and found 475 photos, sketches, relics and mementoes that highlight each episode in this fascinating book.

The book is divided into six themes that explore the conflict: The Human Side of War; The Life of Soldiers; Resources, Resolve and Ingenuity; A War of Firsts; Warriors, Poets and Scoundrels; and Aftermath. Most of the 475 illustrations are new to me and if a fair share of the stories are somewhat known by this old Civil War reader, still they are beautifully recounted and I learned much more from them.

Despite the title "The Untold Civil War" the book does provide an overview of the war that informs the reader and I am sure will prompt further reading. The illustrations increase your interest and understanding. The duo that provided the prose and the illustrations complemented each other's excellence. As well as the credits I gave James Robertson as a writer/historian above it is also important to note that he was the voice on National Public Radio for 15 years of a weekly radio show about little-known people and events of the Civil War. The editor of the book, Neil Kagan, showed that he has special talents for finding just the right illustrations that makes the story so much more interesting.

I know that it will be helpful to discuss a few of James Robertson's stories to entice you to read the book. On page 148 there is a story called "Going Home". The illustration is a single picture taken in Richmond, Virginia after the war but before Lincoln was assassinated. Paroled Rebel soldiers, Federal troops and civilians are gathered in the vicinity of the equestrian statue of George Washington in Capitol Square. Robertson's narrative explains that these soldiers returned to civilian lives that included becoming doctors, teachers or other professionals. Yet, when they died their tombstone very often just contained their name, rank and unit. This story had special meaning to me because I had recently visited Arlington cemetery and had searched section 15 for John McElroy's gravesite. John was an Andersonville survivor, successful large newspaper editor and owner and founder of the Florida city of St. Cloud where I am a member of the Sons of Union Veterans. On his tombstone were the words JOHN MCELROY PRIVATE SIXTEENTH ILLINOIS CALVARY 1846-1929. On page 124 and 125 there are 3 illustrations of "Old Abe" the eagle mascot of the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. "Old Abe" had gone off to war with the regiment and was protected by the units color guard. He survived the war and arrived back at the state capital preceded by many embellished stories about his importance in the war effort. His stuffed remains were burned in a fire but he is still remembered in song and story. Other stories of wartime mascots are told in the book.

Submitted by Br. Michael Urell  
Amzi D. Harmon Company





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The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The 7th Military District consists of the states of Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Any letters, articles, etc., published in The Haversack do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

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## On Facebook...

### SVR

- [2nd Military District, SVR](#)
- [3rd Military District SVR](#)
- [4th Military District, SVR](#)
- [6th Military District, SVR](#)
- [7th Military District, SVR](#)

### Departments in our District

- [Department of Tennessee](#)  
(includes MS and AL)  
• [@TNSUVCW](#)
- [Department of Georgia and South Carolina](#)

### Camps in our District

- [Gen. John A. Logan #4 \(NC\)](#)
- [Gen. James B. Mcpherson #1 \(GA\)](#)
- [Elias Moon #2 \(GA\)](#)
- [Kennesaw Mountain #3 \(GA\)](#)
- [Charles Devens Jr. #10 \(SC\)](#)
- [Sultana Camp #1 \(TN\)](#)
- [Maj. Gen James H Wilson #1 \(AL\)](#)
- [Maj. Wm. A. McTeer #39 \(TN\)](#)
- [Pvt. Richard Taylor #53 \(TN\)](#)
- [Fort Donelson #62 \(TN\)](#)
- [Army of the Tennessee #64 \(TN\)](#)

- [National SUVCW](#)

Click the link, and “Like” them!

(you'll get lots of updates of what is going on!)

## We want articles (with pictures!)

**Thanks to all the contributors of this edition!**

### So... What's needed...?

Articles for the Spring 2016 Edition of the Haversack!

- Unit Activities
- Biographical Sketches
- Research methods
- Civil War era jokes / cartoons

Some editing may be done to long articles to fit in the space available

Email updates and articles (with pictures!) to [GAHuttick@netscape.net](mailto:GAHuttick@netscape.net)!

**NEXT ISSUE DECEMBER 2016**