

# the guidon

THE SONS OF  
UNION  
VETERANS OF  
THE CIVILWAR

1897 \* GEORGE L.WILLARD CAMP # 154 P.O.BOX13681 ALBANY, NY 12212-3681 www.GLWILLARD154.org \* Spring 2024

## Paint and Sip Event a Success - - and Fun too!



Back Row - l. to .r. Michael Golden, Samantha Companion, Michael Companion, Justin Devendorf, Unknown.  
Front Row - l. to r. Clair Golden, Kaylee Golden, John Swartwout, and Brian Sherman

Willard Camp held a successful fundraiser at Paint N Gogh in Ballston Spa, NY on Saturday January 27, 2024. A good time was had by all members as well as the public that supported the event. Special thanks to owner, Navy veteran Heather Hiegl for teaching and hosting and to Brother Michael Golden for organizing the event. Through these efforts Michael raised \$300 to help replenish our GAR Monument Fund.

## JROTC Award at Christian Brothers Academy

On March 21, 2024, Brothers of Willard Camp presented the SUVCW JROTC award to Cadet James Morton during Leadership Awards Night at Christian Brothers Academy. Present for the ceremony were Secretary/Treasurer Leo McGuire PCC, PDC and Junior Vice Commander Michael Golden. As always, it was a privilege to honor our future leaders.

## Officer Appointments for 2024 Camp Year

Camp Commander John B. Swartwout, Jr. is pleased to announce the following officer appointments:

Guard - Vincent Jockimo

Guide/Graves Registration - Christopher White

Chaplain - Rev. Mark D. Issacs

Eagle Scout Coordinator- Brian Castler, PDC, PCC

Patriotic Instructor - Brian Sherman

Covell Award - Michael Hernandez

Monuments Officer - John D. Hilton, Sr.

Webmaster- Raymond W. LeMay III, PDC, PCC

Legion of Merit- Vincent Jockimo

Camp Counsel – David M. Dziejewski, PCC



Brother Michael Golden (l.) with Cadet James Morton (r.)

## Wreaths Across America



Overall view of the monuments restored along the Postenkill at Old Mt. Ida Cemetery in November 2023.

### Update on the Mt. Ida Cemetery Project

A voucher requesting the funds for the next phase of work at Mt. Ida was processed on March 17, 2024 by Commander Swartwout and submitted to the City of Troy. Gravestone/Monument conservation work to be performed by Mr. Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters will start on or about May 1 and will continue for 30 days. This work will focus on New Mt. Ida Cemetery on Pinewoods Avenue in Troy.

In addition, Alysia Hamilton has registered New Mt. Ida with the City as a site for Earth Day activities. Cleanup will occur on Saturday, April 27 from 9 AM to 12 PM. The Phi Sigma Kappa Tetarton Chapter at RPI will be assisting and Camp members are strongly encouraged to join in the efforts.

A report on the activities performed at the Mt. Ida Cemeteries in 2023 was submitted by Cameron Smith, project manager, and Brother David Dziewulski PCC, program manager for Willard Camp, to Troy Deputy Mayor Seamus Donnelly. The report outlined 23 tasks that were successfully completed and acknowledged the many volunteers who helped the project.



The Soldiers' Lot at Albany Rural Cemetery after placement of wreaths.

On December 16, 2023, Camp members participated in our annual "Wreaths Across America" event coordinated by Brother Richard Straight. The mission of the national organization, stated on their website, is: "Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom." Our small contribution to that mission involves placing wreaths at: the Soldiers' Lot and the GAR Lot at Albany Rural Cemetery, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Lot at Oakwood Cemetery, and the grave sites of General Thomas and Col. Willard in Oakwood Cemetery. Eight brothers helped place wreaths so the work load was light. We were able to have a brief ceremony and play Taps at each location.



Marker at the GAR Lot in Albany Rural Cemetery, Dec. 16, 2023.

# SUVCW Supporting Scouts

Eagle Scout Certificate Program  
Col. George L. Willard CAMP #154

Information about Eagle Scouts who were awarded certificates will return to the *Guidon* in a subsequent issue. Stay tuned!



## In Remembrance

### Brother Paul F. Cooney

It is with a heavy heart that the Camp announces the passing of Brother Cooney on January 22, 2024. Paul served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959. He was a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer and Surveyor and participated in many projects in the Capital Region, including the MVP Arena. His full obituary can be read at the link below.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesunion-albany/name/paul-cooney-obituary?id=54223192>



The Sons of  
Union Veterans  
of the Civil War

*"Keeping Green The Memory"*

## Camp Officers

Camp Commander . . . . . John Swartwout  
Sr. Vice Commander . . . . . Justin Devendorf  
Jr. Vice Commander . . . . . Michael Golden  
Secretary/Treasurer . . . . . Leo McGuire  
Camp Council . . . . . Richard Straight  
Camp Council . . . . . Vincent Jockimo  
Camp Council . . . . . Thomas Maggs  
Chaplain. . . . . Rev. Mark D. Isaacs  
Patriotic Instructor. . . . . Brian Sherman  
Guard & Legion of Merit . . . . Vincent Jockimo  
Guide &  
Graves Registration . . . . . Christopher White  
Color Bearer . . . . . Tim Gaffney, Jr.  
Monuments Officer . . . . . John Hilton  
ROTC/JROTC . . . . . Michael P. Golden  
Eagle Scout Coordinator . . . . . Brian Castler  
*Guidon* Editor &  
Camp Counsel. . . . . David Dziejulski  
*Guidon* Editor Emeritus . . . . . Robert Keough

## Upcoming Events - 2024

April 27	Camp Meeting /Mt. Ida Clean-up
April 28	Grants Tomb (New York City)
May 3-5	Department Encampment Canandaigua, NY
May 25 Memorial Wknd	Oakwood Cemetery Ceremony
May 25 Memorial Wknd	Saratoga National Cemetery
May 30 Memorial Day	Memorial Day at Oakwood & Albany Rural Cemeteries
June 1	Camp Meeting
June 15	Lincoln Luncheon
July 20	Grant Remembrance Day at Grant Cottage

## Browse These Sites:

Col. George L. Willard Camp #154  
<https://glwillard154.org>  
SUVCW Department of NY  
<https://nysuvcw.org/>