

the guidon

THE SONS OF
UNION
VETERANS OF
THE CIVIL WAR

1897 * GEORGE L WILLARD CAMP # 154 P.O. BOX 13681 ALBANY NY 12212-3681 www.GLWILLARD154.org * Spring 2025

Flag Replaced at the GAR Lot in Albany Rural Cemetery



Brother Chad Loshbaugh and family, wife Nicole Richmond and son Theo, replaced the flag at the GAR lot in Albany Rural Cemetery.

One of the routine tasks Willard Camp committed to at the GAR lot in Albany Rural Cemetery was the annual replacement of the US Flag flying over the lot. This is one of our three tasks outlined in our Memorandum of Agreement with the Albany Cemetery Association, Inc. On June 21, 2025 Chad Loshbaugh and family fulfilled the obligation of the Camp. The flag was donated by the family. Many thanks to the Loshbaugh Family !!!

JROTC Awards for 2025

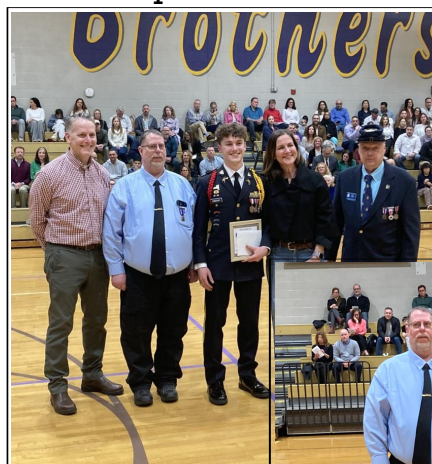
On March 20, 2025, SUVCW Willard Camp brothers Leo McGuire and Joel Butler presented the SUVCW JROTC award to Cadet Marrapodi and the Covell Award to Cadet Comensky at the Christian Brothers Academy (CBA). The Covell award is presented jointly by the Sons of the American Revolution Saratoga Battle Chapter and our Camp. It includes a \$200.00 cash prize.

Department Encampment - 2025



Brother Ray LeMay III, PCC, PDC proudly displays the Certificate of Commendation for performing duties as Signals Officer (webmaster) for the Department.

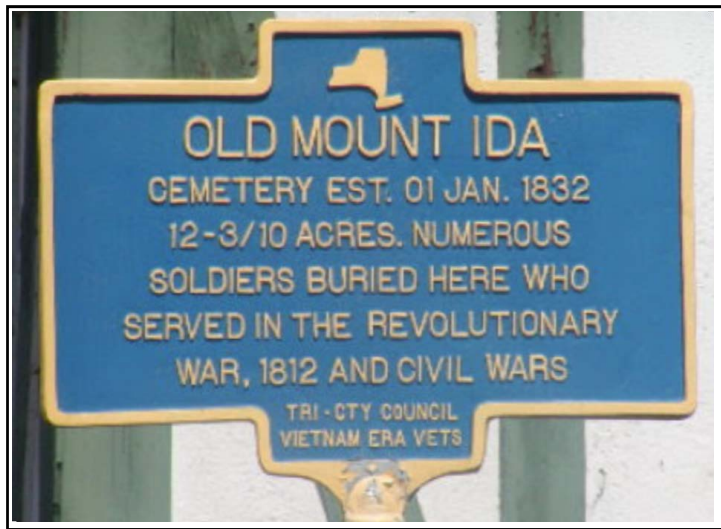
The 2025 New York Department Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Encampment was held on April 4-5, 2025. Willard Camp was represented by four members and received two awards. Brother LeMay received a commendation for his work as Department webmaster. In addition, the *Guidon* was recognized as the best newsletter in the Department.



CBA Cadet Comensky accepts the Covell Award for 2025.

CBA Cadet Marrapodi accepts the JROTC Award for 2025.





Wrap up of the Mt. Ida Conservation Project

On May 2, 2025 Grave Stone Matters started 14 days of monument preservation in the Old Mount Ida Cemetery on Pawling Ave. as part of the ARPA Mt. Ida Cemeteries Preservation Project. Thirty-nine monuments were preserved. This was the final monument repair session and there will be no further project expenditures under the current grant.

On Sunday, May 18th at 11am in the Old Mount Ida Cemetery, the Mount Ida Cemeteries ARPA project hosted a public event to mark the completion of the project. Project manager Cameron Smith provided an overview of the overall effort. Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello discussed ARPA and the importance of greenspace within the City. Afterwards, Don Rittner and Christopher Philippo gave a brief presentation on the history of Troy and the Mount Ida Cemeteries, respectively. Joe Ferannini of Grave Stone Matters gave an overview of monument preservation.

The Colonel George L. Willard Camp #154 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Color Guard opened and closed the event to honor the service of our Armed Forces and the many veterans interred in the Mt. Ida Cemeteries.

-Contribution by Cameron Smith

New update on the Hunt for Alligator "Jr."

Reviewing the recent work: Stockton University conducted a visual aerial drone survey in March of 2024 with no results. With nothing visible on the surface, the Sub Hunt Group needed to use a technology capable of detecting submerged, or buried, targets within the marsh. As reported in an earlier *Guidon*, the engineering firm RETTEW conducted a large-area, aerial magnetometer survey of previously unsearched side creeks and marsh off the Rancocas Creek. This effort was funded through a GoFundMe campaign.

The aerial magnetometer survey found a significant, large area, magnetic anomaly suggesting a large metal object. However, the magnetic anomaly alone was insufficient to definitively say yes or no. To identify the actual object, the Sub Hunt Group enlisted the experts at the University of Delaware's Marine Laboratory, who brought in ground penetrating radar (GPR) and conducted an extensive survey at the center area of the anomaly. Again, the results were inconclusive. In an effort to understand why the GPR did not pick up whatever was causing the magnetic anomaly, the Sub Hunt Group conducted an exhaustive reevaluation of the aerial drone magnetometer data, only to conclude the data and position were valid.

Resolving the mystery required a high-resolution walking magnetometer survey of the anomaly and the un-surveyed area. The marsh area is hazardous during the summer months. But the team felt they could squeeze in the walking magnetometer survey prior to spring. An attempt was scheduled during pre-survey testing of the equipment, the instrument screen failed, and the survey had to be postponed.

The hunt is not over, but postponed. The team will go back into the marsh next winter with the walking magnetometer and determine what the aerial drone picked up.

-Contribution by Chuck Veit

VOLUNTEER WANTED!



Brother Dave is retiring as editor of the *Guidon*. If you are inclined to take part in sharing the news of Willard Camp with our brothers and the community, please contact him or Commander Mark Isaacs.

Commander Mark - ziegenfussu@juno.com

Dave - dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com

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

Name	Troop	Date
Seth Bodderly	6027	07Aug2024
Benjamin Randles	6040	07Aug2024
Chris Leanza	4070	07Aug2024
Matt Dominguez	4070	04Sep2024
Vincent Clohosey	6002	04Sep2024
M.Constancio	16	14Aug2024
Alden McNamara	16	10Jul2024
Bryan West	16	08May2024
Raphael Sanok	6002	02Oct2024
Alex Weller-Zembo	4002	02Oct2024
AlexLaPointe	6099	02Oct2024
Hunter Robinson	4011	02Oct2024
Remigio Grosso	97	15Jun2024
Dallas Grosso	97	15Jun2024
Ross Thomas	97	18Nov2023
Parker Duthaler	4011	6Nov2024
James Bailey	6044	6Nov2024

**Congratulations to
all the Eagle Scouts!!!**

New Mini-Banner Emplaced at the General Thomas Plot



The old and faded banner that was displayed at the General Thomas plot was replaced in July, 2025. That banner was exposed to the elements from the Spring to the Fall for two years (2023-2024). A new banner was ordered on Ebay but due to a shipping error by the carrier the item was reported missing. The vendor quickly refunded the money but . . . a couple days later the banner showed up. The vendor, known as "**The Confederate Yankee Emporium**," declined re-payment. Essentially he donated the flag. As a return favor we should look at his wares and support him for his generosity. He has a variety of banners, shirts, hats, mugs and pillows with Union and Confederate units and personalities. Worth a look.

Upcoming Events - 2025

- 6 Sep. - Camp Meeting
 - 4 Oct - Camp Meeting
 - 1 Nov - Camp Meeting
- More details to follow