

# THE GUIDON

1897

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

2018

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154, P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 [www.GLWILARD154.org](http://www.GLWILARD154.org)

SPRING 2018

## Decoration Day 2018



Brothers Keough, Straight, Dziejulski, Jockimo, Castler and McGuire were the Official Color Guard for Saratoga National Cemetery's Memorial Day event.

The Col. George L. Willard Camp had the privilege of being the official Memorial Day Color Guard at the Saratoga National Cemetery. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, before a large audience that gathered for the event, the Brothers posted the colors for the ceremony. It was a moving event and a great honor for the Camp.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the traditional Memorial Day, the Brothers gathered at 10:00 a.m. at the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery to pay their respects. The group then moved on to Oakwood Cemetery in Troy to honor Civil War Veterans buried in the Soldier and Sailors plot. A short service was then held at Major General Thomas' grave site and then at the grave site of Col. George L. Willard. The weather was clear and warm.



Camp Commander Richard Straight reads at Thomas' grave site.



Department Commander Brother Leo McGuire reads the blessing.



Camp Brothers at Col. George L. Willard's grave site at Oakwood.



# 135<sup>th</sup> Encampment



New Department of New York officers.

The Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held its 135<sup>th</sup> Encampment in Rochester, NY from April 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It followed the traditional format with the Campfire program held on Friday night, the business meeting on Saturday and the memorial service on Sunday morning.

Camp Brother Leo McGuire PCC became Department Commander, Camp Brother Richard Straight CC became Senior Vice Commander and Camp Brother Brian Castler became Eagle Scout Coordinator. Numerous topics were discussed including declining membership, controversy surrounding the Confederate battle flag and changes to the Department by-laws. The business meeting on Saturday was followed by the very fine banquet of the Allied Orders.

Department Commander McGuire then attended the National Encampment at Farmingham, Massachusetts, August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. He was presented with the 1876 charter for the Canastota Camp by a brother from Rhode Island who said he recovered it from an antique store near his home.



Dennis Duffy from Rhode Island, Camp Brother Leo McGuire DC and Danny Wheeler PC-in-C at the National Encampment.

# Commander McGuire



Brother Leo McGuire PCC of Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 has become Commander of the Department of New York SUVCW.

At the recent Department of New York Encampment in Rochester, NY, Brother Leo McGuire PCC became the Department of New York Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Leo has been a member of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154 for the past 25 years. He is the 10th Brother from Camp 154 to be the Department Commander since its founding in 1883.

Leo is a graduate of SUNY Brockport. An interesting anecdote from his college days is that he studied judo with a former Japanese Kamikaze pilot, Dr. Ashida. He then taught elementary and middle school for 30 years in Schenectady, NY. He was also a member of the New York National Guard for 26 years where he reached the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3.





# Legion of Merit News



Brother Vince Jockimo, right was the presenter of awards at this year's Lincoln Luncheon. Also pictured (L to R) Brothers Thomas Maggs and Paul Cooney.



Illustration showing the badge of the highest level in the Legion of Merit.



Brothers John Swartwout, David Dziewulski PCC and Frank Swartwout enjoyed the luncheon fare.

The Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War gathered once more on June 16, 2018, for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Luncheon at Brown's Brewing Co. in Troy, NY. Brown's has become our 'go to' place for the luncheon.

A superb banquet menu of Tuscan Salmon, Sliced NY Strip Loin, Penne and Chicken Francaise, followed by dessert, was enjoyed by the Brothers and guests before the award ceremony began. Brother Vince Jockimo, Senior Vice Commander, was this year's award presenter. New members were inducted into the Legion, such as Brother Thomas Maggs. Other Brothers like Paul Cooney were advanced in the Order. The ceremony included the presentation of certificates, medals and new ribbons.



Brother David Dziewulski PCC, introducing the new level of the Legion of Merit.

After the awards were presented Brother David Dziewulski, PCC made short presentation, on behalf of Brother Bob Keough, concerning the newest level of the Legion of Merit. The new decoration will be the highest level of the Order. The award will be a 2.5 inch Star of the Order and will take an additional 10,000 points to achieve. A name has yet to be given to this level but this will be resolved in the very near future. The star can be worn with a 3 inch blue, red or gold rosette if the recipient hold a camp, department or national office respectively. More information will be forthcoming and will be discussed at a Camp meeting in the near future.

# Don't Count On It

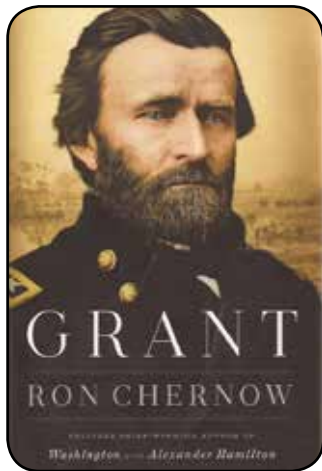


Brothers stand ankle deep in uncut grass on Memorial Day 2018.

With more and more budget problems faced by cemeteries all over the country we need to get more involved. Before major Camp events, like Memorial Day, we need to check the sites we are going to decorate. Making sure in advance they are cut, trimmed and neat.

This is just another way of 'Keeping Green the Memory' for our GAR ancestors. We should not count on things being in proper order. Instead we need to be proactive and make sure in advance that they are the way we want them to be.

## Grant in Print



My wife asked me to order the new book Grant by Ron Chernow, that is just out. She had read her father's copies of Grant's two volume Memoirs many years ago and was interested in learning more about his life. And learn she did. The book is filled with the personal details and trifles of everyday life his own books lacked. It is a great companion to his memoirs. Chernow is

a National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal winner with eight honorary doctorates. In this book he tries to debunk the various myths that have grown up around Grant over the years, including his drinking, his dealings with the south during reconstruction and the corruption in the government during his presidency. Adam Gopnik of The New Yorker said, "President Grant's lapses were minor," Ron Chernow further argues, "... compared with his widely overlooked furtherance of racial justice." You will enjoy this new book on Grant.



"Keeping Green The Memory"

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

## Camp Officers

- Camp Commander . . . . . Richard Straight
- Senior Vice Commander . . . . . John Swartwout
- Junior Vice Commander . . . . . Vince Jockimo
- Secretary . . . . . Leo McGuire
- Treasurer . . . . . Robert Keough
- Camp Council. . . . . David Dziewulski
- Camp Council. . . . . Robert Keough
- Camp Council. . . . . Leo McGuire
- Chaplain . . . . . George Malinoski
- Patriotic Instructor . . . . . Paul Cooney
- Guide . . . . . Tim Mabee
- Guard. . . . . Paul Cooney
- Color Bearer . . . . . Francis Rogler
- Graves Registration . . . . . James King
- Eagle Scout Coordinator. . . . . Brian Castler
- Guidon Editor. . . . . Robert Keough

## Coming Events

July	31	Camp Meeting
August	22	Grant at Wilton, NY
August	8	Schuyler Flatts
Sep.	8	Camp Meeting
Oct.	5	President Arthur Birthday
Oct.	6	Camp Meeting
Nov.	3	Camp Meeting
Dec.	1	Camp Meeting

*The Guidon* is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW. It is published four times a year. The editor may be reached at: [rpkeough@aol.com](mailto:rpkeough@aol.com).

## Brothers Visit These Sites:

**Col. George L. Willard Camp #154**

<http://www.gwillard154.org/>

**SUVCW Department of NY**

<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>

**SUVCW National Headquarters**

<http://www.suvchw.org/>