

**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/](http://www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org/)

Celebrating our **143rd** Year serving Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 27 No.04 **MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS** April 2025



*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!

2025 Hartranft Camp 15	Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Kyle Purchase 2025
Officers and your Staff	Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2025
	Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2025
	Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner 2025
	Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2025
	Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2015-2025
	Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025
	Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2025
	Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025
	Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 2000-2025
	Graves Registration ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger 2014-2025
	GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2025
	Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2025
	Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2025
	GAR Highway Officer ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2025
	Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025
	Color Bearer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025
	Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2025
	Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025
	ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025
	Camp Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025
	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.

Camp 15 routinely meets at the National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of most months. PA Dept: [www.PASUVCW.org](http://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!**

April 2025 *Hartranft Herald* Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
 Award winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011  
 Award winning website -- Horace Greeley Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2020-2022  
 SUVCW Legal heir of and representing the Grand Army of the Republic

**This April issue of our Hartranft Herald is draped** in memory of a Missouri PDC. See the March newsletter.

**Notice: Our April Camp Meeting will be held this Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> and** will be conducted at NCWM Bldg high atop Reservoir Park Harrisburg.

Due to scheduling we will meet in the Museum's **Educational Gallery** to the far left of the Rotunda!

### Minutes of March 16, 2025 Camp #15 Meeting

At the National Civil War Museum, Upper floor, Harrisburg, PA. Sunday March 16, 2025. The Weather is cloudy with drizzle and 38 degrees.

Camp Commander Brother Kyle Purchase opened the meeting according to the SUVCW Ritual. The time was 2:07 P.M.

Roll Call – the following Brothers were present:

1. Kyle Purchase – Camp Commander
2. Logan Swanger – Senior Vice Commander
3. Scott Debo- Junior Vice Commander and Council
4. Wayne Blattner – Secretary and Council
5. David Demmy Sr. – Treasurer
6. Charles “Chuck” Brackbill – Camp Counselor
7. Gene Mascioli - PCC
8. Daniel Lute
9. Kelly Betz
10. Special guest, Michael Peter, Senior Vice Commander, PA Department SUVCW

### Reading and Approval of Camp Meeting Minutes as printed in the Hartranft Herald:

The Minutes from the last meeting was read by Commander Kyle. A motion to accept the minutes as read/printed, by Brother Logan and seconded by Brother Chuck. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Brother David reviewed the status of Camp 15's Brother's Dues renewal status for 2025. All dues were due by the end of February and they are to be sent to Camp Treasurer David Demmy Sr. Reminders for paying the dues have been in the Hartranft Herald for the past **three months!** Brother Wayne reported that two more actions took place to try to get dues payments. The first one was sending personalized e-mails to Brother's who had not paid their dues. The second was personalized USPS post cards sent to each Brother who had not paid dues. Commander Kyle stated that it appears that Camp #15 has done our “due diligence” on this subject. Those who did not pay will be dropped from the roster. In the near future if they wish to be reinstated to the SUVCW it will cost them \$60 [including national fee of \$10 and late payments may be prorated through the year]. . Brother David handed out 2025-26 Camp #15 membership cards to those in attendance. All other treasury account balances basically remained the same. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Brother Dan and seconded by Brother Chuck. Motion passed.

### The Report of a sick Brother or a Brother's family in distress:

None at this time, but there is always the suggestion that Brothers should refer to the latest *Hartranft Herald* for those who need our continuing prayers.

### Committee Reports:

The Visiting & Investigating Committees, and the 'Grave Registration & Last Veteran Committee's. Brother David shared that he and Brother Dan attended an event yesterday at a church in Linglestown, PA,. sponsored by DAR. The nine Patriots buried there were honored by their many descendants!

Under the Recruiting Committee, Commander Kyle is hoping to reach out to the Historical Society of Dauphin County to see if they are interested in having someone from Camp #15 speak about the SUVCW. Such personal contact could bring new

members to our camp. New brothers always welcomed.

Department Commander Brother Bill Fischer requested by May 15<sup>th</sup> a report on Graves Registration in reference to activities of Camp #15. Commander Kyle welcomed PA Department Senior Vice Commander, Brother Mike Peter, as a guest today at our meeting. Commander Kyle spoke about date and program for the "Last Civil War Veteran for Juniata County." It will be sometime in the fall for this event. Brother Logan stated that he is checking at the Susquehanna Mennonite Church. He will keep us up to date for a service there too. Brothers are to review their Fall 2025 calendar for possible good date(s) for these events.

#### Reading and disposing of orders, communications, and bills:

In review, all orders from the Pennsylvania Department, and the National Office SUVCW, are collected by Brother David Demmy Sr. and e-mailed to our members to view. Brothers check emails in your in box to view! But if you missed an order, go to the Pennsylvania Dept., SUVCW web page, and the national site of the SUVCW, and you can see them all! For today's meeting Commander Kyle read one from the National Commander in Chief, Brother Martin, addressing the "160<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Civil War". Another order read was announced the passing of a Past National President of the Women's Relief Corp's, Sister Cynthia L. Norton.

Finally the last National Order announced the passing of Brother John C. Rutheford, PDC Department of Missouri. In a communication Senior Vice Commander, Michael Peter initiated a request that he needs by April 19, 2025, information/articles from the PA Camps for a shorten future issue of The "Battle Cry of Freedom". Brother David passed around a newsletter from a former Camp #15 member who transferred into a Florida camp a few years ago. This brother is now on the editorial staff of that newsletter.

#### Old Business or Unfinished Business:

Commander Kyle reported, via Camp 15 P.I., Brother Jeff Smith, Form #40 was submitted to the PA Department P.I. Camp #15 for processing. Bylaws refresh/review committee continues. Brother Scott had a chance to look over our current Camp Bylaws. He stated in his view there is no need for any adjustments. Brother Chuck hopes to perform the same task by the next meeting.

#### New Business:

The Camp #15 Hartranft shirt project. Chuck and David continue to iron out all the many specifics and challenges concerning this project. They will keep us up to date. At the appropriate time, it appears the shirt will be available through the printer's web site. Stay tune!

SUVCW Form 27 will be worked on by Brother's David and Wayne. It is due April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025, to the Department Secretary.

Brother David spoke about the possibility of finding any Brother having a license to sell items on E-Bay? Maybe he would be interested in selling our Belt Buckle and License Plate via his E-bay account for the benefit of the camp? Let Brother David know if you would like to help in this venture.

Testimonial Dinner in Scranton for Department Commander William Fischer is scheduled for March 22, 2025. Carpooling is being planned.

#### Good of the Order:

Commander Kyle shared the importance of having associate members in our Camps. Also, Brother Kyle will be doing a presentation at a History Fair sponsored by the "Crooked Billet Association" in Hatboro, PA on April 26, 2025.

Brother Kyle shared a series of colorized photos of GAR members at the various monuments in Gettysburg. One being the dedication of the Zook monument, located along Wheatfield Road. The veterans in the photo are from Zook Post #11 from Norristown, PA.

There is interest in having a joint meeting/event with the Fischer Baker Camp #101 in the future.

Brother Logan shared with the group that The Association of Gravestones Studies, is having their yearly event in York Pa this year, from June 17th through June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The home base will be York College. Contact Logan for details.

Brother Wayne shared with the group he has finally had a chance to meet the new Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society David Young. I'll be working with him, in ordering a wreath for the Hartranft monument for Memorial Day.

Brother Michael Peter encouraged Camp #15 members to attend the PA Department yearly Encampment in Cranberry Township, PA. June 19 – 22, 2025.

*Brother David stated the 2025 Holiday Christmas Party may return to Harrisburg and be co-hosted by Camp #15, along with 2-3 other interested sister camps. The key is to invite other Camp's to attend, to make it a successful co-camps event! Committee discussion down the road.....*

There is still a need for an Assistant Executive Director for the SUVCW National Office, headed by our own Brother David Demmy Sr. The office is located in the National Civil War Museum, just down the hall from our normal camp meeting room. David's email address is [execdir@suvchw.org](mailto:execdir@suvchw.org)! Presently, national staff are working on the job description prior to publishing the vacancy announcement to local camps in south central PA.

#### Patriotic Instructor Presentation:

Brother Jeff was not present today, and we hope he is doing well after recent eye surgery.

Brother Wayne did a short presentation on the Samuel Zook monument in Gettysburg. It is located along Wheatfield Road. Recently Brother Wayne has purchased a "mini" monument replica of the Zook Monument. He shared this monument with those in attendance.

#### Adjournment:

Adjournment of Camp #15 took place at approximately 3:38 PM., with Commander Kyle using the SUVCW Ritual. Next meeting is April 6,

2025, at 2:00 P.M., In Harrisburg, PA. **Please note the change of the date of the next meeting, and location. We'll meet in the Education Gallery on the Lower floor of the Museum.**

Respectively submitted,

In F C & L

Wayne N. Blattner,

Camp Secretary

#### **Testimonial Dinners for seated Department Commander Bill Fischer**

For new brothers and new readers of *Hartranft Herald*, it is a tradition for the Department Commander's local camp to host a dinner for him before he departs his command. Recently Camp 8 of Scranton held such an event for brother Bill:

"It went great! Camp 15 had good representation - me, Wayne, Scott and Greg. I was also able to see the GAR museum in the mall out there. They have a very impressive collection! I did give David's regards to Commander Fischer and explained both of you [Chuck and David] were under the weather. Both of you would have enjoyed the dinner. Hope you're feeling better as well! -- Kyle camp commander. Post Note: David was hospitalized and learned he now has 3 kidney stones to contend with.



"No it's not" – DD!  
Chuck's better too!



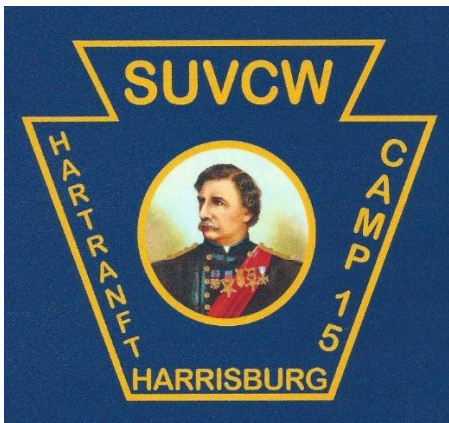
EditorialCAMP 15 SHIRT PROJECT

## UPDATE

The Camp 15 Shirt Project, which was suggested more than five years ago, has reached the point when we will soon be able to purchase Camp 15 shirts.

## BACKGROUND

An ad hoc committee of four brothers (David Demmy, Logan Swanger, Kyle Purchase and Chuck Brackbill) met on 2 November 2024 to conceive a design for the artwork for the shirts. It was agreed that the design should consist of a keystone, an image of General Hartranft, and the words SUVCW, Hartranft, Camp 15 and Harrisburg in Union blue and gold inside the keystone. A collective effort produced the design below:



Actual size of the image should be 2 ½ x 2 ½

Camp 15 promptly submitted a request to National SUVCW for a license to produce the shirts for camp use. Approved license on file.

## PRODUCTION OF SHIRTS

Chuck interviewed two companies that put images on shirts, Rowe Screen Print of New Cumberland and Shenk Company of Mechanicsburg. At a monthly meeting of Camp 15, the brothers decided that the Shenk Company is best suited to produce the Shirts.

Depending on the on the level of detail we want in the image of General Hartranft, the shirts can be produced using screen printing, embroidery, or a combination of the two. Embroidered images last longer than printed images, which eventually fade. Further discussion with Shenk Company is needed to decide on the imaging process that best suits our needs.

Images can be put on different kinds of shirts and other apparel such as baseball caps and on objects such as coffee mugs. The brothers agreed it that Union blue short and long sleeve polo Shirts are the most desirable. In addition, some brothers would like short sleeve dress shirts. Sweatshirts might be a good option for others.

## PURCHASE OF SHIRTS

Shenk Company will create a website that our brothers may use to order and pay for shirts. It will be most economical if the shirts are imaged in a single production run, so orders will not be fulfilled at the time the order is placed.

## REASONS TO HAVE CAMP 15 SHIRTS

There are several reasons to have Camp 15 shirts.

- 1 We can wear them when we do tabling and recruiting events.
- 2 They will give our brothers a unified, professional appearance.
- 3 When we wear them in our everyday lives, people will ask what SUVCW is and that might help with recruiting new brothers.
- 4 We can wear them when we go on *camp field trips* or visit schools to do educational presentations.
- 5 They will promote Camp 15 esprit de corps.

#### ORDER RECOMMENDATIONS

It is highly suggested that each brother that is interested and able make a purchase, to please order at least 1 **navy blue, short-sleeve polo shirt** so during the wearing, all brothers present, have look alike *esprit de corps* shirts.

In addition, any brother may order other shirts: long sleeve, short sleeve, dress shirts, sweatshirts etc. in a choice of multiple colors.

As soon as Shenk provides a website, we will gladly pass it along to all brothers of camp 15. A brother suggested that we may order different shirts for different options and make purchases of shirts too for grandkids etc.

#### 2025 Memorial day weekend events:

Note: wear good hiking boots or shoes for navigating the cemeteries this weekend.

May Memorial Day weekend Camp Day **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**! On this date the camp gathers for **7:15 a.m.**

breakfast [*reservation already made*]; and then off to historic Harrisburg Cemetery to pay tribute to veterans therein; followed up with visit to Lincoln cemetery in Penbrook just a mere couple of miles away. Penbrook is a small community next to Reservoir Park. Please RSVP to [execdir@suvchw.org](mailto:execdir@suvchw.org).

**Breakfast Details: 7:15 a.m.** at Peachtree Restaurant [HOME | Peachtree \(peachtree251.biz\)](http://HOME|Peachtree(peachtree251.biz)) or try [Online Menu of Peachtree Family Dining, Harrisburg, PA \(menupix.com\)](http://Online Menu of Peachtree Family Dining, Harrisburg, PA (menupix.com))

3-4 miles from the cemetery!

Photo below captured at March meeting

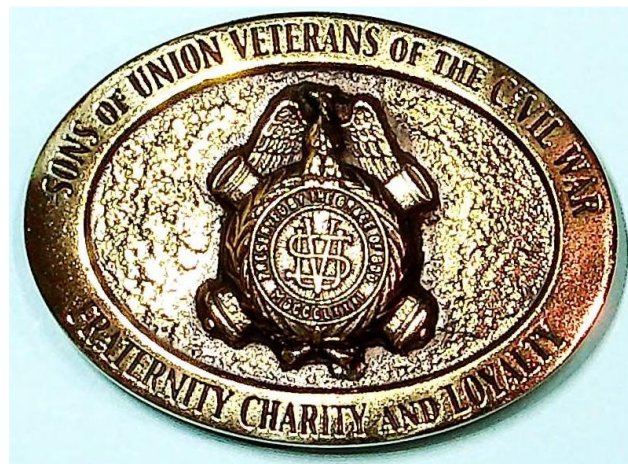


Brother Mike, centered by camp 15 brothers L to r David, Chuck, Dan, Kyle, *Mike*, Scott, Kelly, Logan and Gene. Photo source: by Chuck and Wayne





L to r David, Wayne and , Dan, Kyle, Mike, Scott, Kelly, Logan and Gene. Photo source: by Chuck and Wayne



## Solid Brass 'Belt' Buckle

*Fits up to 1 - 3/4-inch Belt*

send \$50 payable to

**General John F. Hartranft Camp 15**

**Scott Debo**

**144 Race St, Sunbury, PA 17801**

**Or purchase at encampment registration desk!**

*Licensed by national council for exclusive sales only by  
Hartranft Camp 15.*

2025

### Pennsylvania Department Newsletter news



All PA Department Camps can submit any photos, stories, and events that your Camp has participated in or is planning to conduct!

**Deadline: April 19th 2025**  
**Submit to Dept SVC Mike Peter**  
[mpete118@aol.com](mailto:mpete118@aol.com)



## Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

April Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> [due to Easter on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday]

April 12<sup>th</sup> National Council Meeting at Springfield

May Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> followed by annual event on:

Memorial Day weekend 24<sup>th</sup> with Camp annual breakfast prior to visiting historical Harrisburg Cemetery and Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook.

June 20 – 21 [Annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment](#).

July recess

August 7-10 **Annual National Encampment**

September Meeting 21<sup>st</sup>

October Meeting 19th

November 15<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Parade

November 16<sup>th</sup> National Council Meeting. Gettysburg.

December Holiday Event TBA

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

Copies of 2025 colorful word version camp calendar available upon request. submit email request to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc).

Calendar is not pdf so you may save the file and update it to suit your schedule and personal needs.

## Be Proud - Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and engage with us!

- **The Allied Orders of the GAR:**
- -Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to GAR,
- -Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- -Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War,
- -Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- -The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans Civil War.

Camp Officers & authors, the first Friday of each month is the Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos for *Hartranft Herald*.

Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as members submit them.

Complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

**Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, cousin, your neighbor and all your friends to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of the Allied Orders are always welcome!**

Camp 15 Established February 11, 1882  
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

God bless you and yours and God bless the USA.