



The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Department of Florida
S.U.V.C.W.

October 2017 Edition

Elected Department Officers

COMMANDER.... **David R Palmer DC, PCC**

Email - davplm6@aol.com

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER... **Edward J Manak, PCC**

Email - manake@pbso.org

JR VICE COMMANDER... **Ronnie G McCracken, PDC**

SECRETARY ... **Larry E Oppenheimer PCC,**

Email - leoppen@verizon.net

Treasurer.... Walter Richard Young Sr.

COUNCIL # 1... **Harvey Linscott, PDC**

hkl36ov@peoplepc.com

COUNCIL # 2... **Ronnie G McCracken, PDC**

COUNCIL # 3... **Charles S Reeves, PDC**

Appointed Department Officers

Patriotic Instructor: Roger L Heiple and Michael E Urell,
PCC

Chaplain: David Acheson: CC

Graves Registration: Adam C Klohr

Civil War Memorials Officer: Adam C Klohr

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Robert M Jones PDC

JROTC Coordinator: Richard D. Shaffer, PCC

Counselor: Robert M. Jones PDC

GAR Research: Roger Heiple

Signals Officer: Clair D Whitlam, PDC

Hello Brothers

It is with great honor that I accept the position of newsletter editor for "The Dispatch". I hope that you will enjoy the newsletters and will forward to me news and information to share with our fellow brothers.

Please forward to me any camp news to share at the following email address.

Doubledaves2@gmail.com

Thank You David Munson
Chestnut, CC Camp 1



MISSION STATEMENT

*Through Community Education and Service
to our Order*

*We Honor the Memory of the Grand Army of
the Republic*

*The men who fought to Preserve the Union
1861 - 1865*

Happy Columbus Day and Autumn too!

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More info about the Department of Florida can be found in our Department web site.

<http://www.dofsuvcw.org>

2017 Department of Florida Spring Meeting

Camp Commanders and Secretaries,

Commander Palmer received this invitation for Camps to participate with Camp 7 as indicated below. If you are interested in participating please contact Brother Shaffer.

INFO; On the weekend of November 10, 11 & 12, Veterans Day, we are planning to do a Civil War Living History and Recruiting event at Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL. It is FREE and in conjunction with a Native Rhythms Festival at the park. There is room for any of the Camp's to participate and I can be contacted at this E address <vinnfiz2@aol.com> or [954-683-5241](tel:954-683-5241).

Brother Shaffer
Camp # 7
Pembroke Pines

Dept. of Florida has the following camps

Active Camps

[Winfield Scott Whitehurst Camp 01 - Tampa](#)

[General Thomas J. McKean Camp 03 - Lantana](#)

[Lucius L. Mitchell Camp No. 04 - St. Cloud](#)

[General Eugene A. Carr Camp 05 - Ocala](#)

[Sergeant Frederick R. Jackson Camp 07 - Pembroke Pines](#)

[General John A. Logan Camp 09 - Jacksonville](#)

Department Membership-At-Large

[General William T. Sherman Camp 25](#)

Spring Department Meeting

Was held on May 19th, 2017 in St. Cloud, Florida



The Celebration of the GAR Hall in ST. Cloud Historical Marker Dedication was at 5:30 PM on May 19th. This is an important event in the History of St Cloud--a GAR Founded Community and one we as SUVCW need to support.



Congratulations to Edward Manak

Department Commander Dave Palmer has forwarded the below photo taken with President Trump. Edward Manak is assigned as part of his protection team when he is in Palm Beach Florida.



156 Years ago in New York City

61st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The regiment was organized in New York City on October 25, 1861, and was mustered in for a three-year enlistment in October, November, and December, 1861; the regiment was formed by consolidation of the Astor Rifles (or Regiment) with the Clinton Guards. At the expiration of its term of service, the men entitled thereto were discharged and the regiment retained in service, but at the same time consolidating Companies G and K into the other companies; on December 20, 1864, the men of the 54th New York Volunteer Infantry not mustered out with their regiment were transferred, forming the new Companies G and K.

The 1908 book The Union army: a history of military affairs in the loyal states, 1861-65 -- records of the regiments in the Union army -- cyclopedia of battles -- memoirs of commanders and soldiers gives the following description of the regiment's service:

This regiment, was stationed for a short time at Washington, but moved on to Manassas on Nov. 28. It moved on to the Peninsula early in the spring, took part in the operations of the siege of Yorktown and was first closely engaged in the battle of Fair Oaks (Also called Seven Pines), in which 106 were killed or wounded and 4 reported missing, out of 432 who went into action. There Lieut. Col. Massett and many other gallant men lost their lives. The loss in the Seven Days' battles was still greater, and the ranks that gathered at Harrison's landing after the battle of Malvern hill were sadly depleted. At Antietam the regiment was in the thick of the fight - led by Colonel John Barlow, the 61st NY, with the 64th NY, flanked the 'sunken road' which was holding up the advance, and delivered enfilade fire on the confederates in the road, and at Fredericksburg it served in Hancock's division in the charge on Marye's heights and lost 36 in killed, wounded and missing. At Chancellorsville in May, 1863., the troops under Col. Miles made a gallant defense of the retreating union army which won them high praise, and at Gettysburg the loss was once more severe, participating on the II Corps' advance in the 'Wheatfield', where the regiment was exposed to heavy enemy fire, losing more than half its strength. There was little rest for the worn regiment during the autumn. At Auburn, Bristoe Station (where the II Corps shattered an attack by Confederate general AP Hill), Rappahannock Station and in the Mine

Run campaign, it was active, and it was mid-winter when it finally established permanent quarters near Brandy Station. In December and January a large number of men reenlisted and received veteran furlough. The regiment was reunited in the spring of 1864 and served with honor through the severe fighting which led up to Cold Harbor and Petersburg, suffering most severely in the bloody angle at Spotsylvania. It joined in the first assault on Petersburg, June 15; was engaged at Deep Bottom, Strawberry Plains, Reams' station and Hatcher's Run. It was present at the Fall of Petersburg, joined in the pursuit to Appomattox, and was engaged at Sailor's creek and Farmville. Its record is a long and glorious one and it bravely earned its right to rank among the most gallant organizations of the Union army.[1]

(article from Wikipedia, Musicians of the 61st New York Infantry (detail). Source: LOC.)



Topics from the Commander

While talking with Ronnie McCracken I learned that there was a third veterans' retreat town in Florida, Lynn Haven. It was founded by a company that also founded St. Cloud and Fitzgerald, GA (Zephyrhills was founded independently.) I'm sending you two web sites that contain the history of Lynn Haven and some interesting information about their statue of a Union soldier, the only such statue in the south, (see statue below).

Lynn Haven was established in 1911 as the third of three Union Veterans Colonies in the South. Fitzgerald, Georgia was established in 1896. St. Cloud, Florida was established in 1909. Although each of the three "Old Soldiers Colonies" was organized separately by independent development companies, each site was chosen for "health, climate and productiveness of the soil" and each recruited future land owners through the use of The National Tribune, a newspaper of the Grand Army of the Republic veterans' organization.

W. H. Lynn, A. J. Gay and R. L. McKenzie were the primary stockholders of the St. Andrews Bay Development Company. Lynn had been an associate of the National Tribune and the Grand Army of the Republic veterans' organization; both A. J. Gay and R. L. McKenzie were also major investors in the Gulf Coast Development Company - creators of the new town of Panama City (incorporated in 1909) located on the shores of St. Andrews Bay. These three men purchased large tracts of land to the east and to the north of Panama City and hoped to use the nucleus of that small city to build a much larger community. That idea was met with much resistance so they then turned their sights to the vast areas of "cut over timber lands" along the northern arm of St. Andrews Bay where Andrew Jackson Gay had already created a small community referred to as "Gay, Florida," site of today's Panama Country Club.

While the actual location of the "new soldiers' colony" was not announced until late December 1910, large numbers of Union Veterans had already started the trek down to North Florida to be ready for the opening of the new settlement. On January 11, 1911 the first offerings of land in the new "Lynn Haven" took place. One "town lot" and a five-acre plot outside of the new colony were offered as a package for just \$150.

Read more at the Lynn Haven web site, <http://www.cityoflynnhaven.com/photo/monument-park>

