



Flying the Flag
See Page 2
to know when



See Page 14 to find out!

THE AUXILIARY VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Sisters,

As we have closed out 2021 and look now to continuing our patriotic work throughout 2022, I would like to thank each member for their continued support. Our Auxiliary has undertaken various projects to further the Order's success, and we will strive to promote this success throughout the year. With communication being at the forefront of importance during these trying times, I had decided to implement quarterly online meetings not only for the National Officers but for all Department Presidents and Presidents of the Auxiliaries at Large. My hope is to spread word of best practices, increase awareness, and encourage sisters to continue their efforts within the organization.

The greatest concern that was recognized at our first quarterly meeting in October is the need to not only retain our current members but to recruit, as well. Looking honestly at our membership numbers, the organization is at a severe low and is continuing a downward trend. So, what can we do? How do we gain the numbers to bring us back to where we once were? There is no one great answer to solve this issue. We must look to one another for ideas. Despite the setbacks created by the pandemic, some of the Auxiliaries thrived. So, what are they doing that is so different, and can we emulate their actions to improve membership numbers elsewhere in the nation?

One answer to this is to show the world who we are. We are all proud members of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We represent our ancestors, our families, and our nation. We march in parades, teach the public, raise funds for disadvantaged veterans, replace tarnished headstones, send care packages to service members overseas, and the list goes on. These amazing works need to be publicly celebrated. Show the world who we are and what we do by posting photos on social media and by submitting articles to our national newsletter or your own local papers. If we do this, members will come.

Any other great ideas are more than welcome and can be sent to me directly via a phone call or email. I hope for the best for all our members in the new year, and as always, please remain safe.

In F., C., & L.,
Allison Pollitt

National President, ASUVCW

FROM THE NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Rosemary Martin



AMERICAN NATIONAL FLAG: DAYS TO FLY THE FLAG

The Flag Code suggests displaying the Flag **every day**, but especially on holidays, including state holidays and during local celebrations. The Flag Code does not include Patriots Day or MIA/POW Day; currently, these are proclaimed each year by the President of the United States. National flag days are listed below. Note that those in italics are listed as the observed federal holidays.

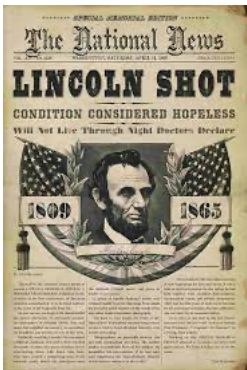
DAYS TO FLY THE FLAG			
January 1	<i>New Year's Day</i>	June 19	Fathers' Day
January 17	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	July 4	<i>Independence Day</i>
January 20	Inauguration Day	July 27	National Korean War Veterans' Armistice Day
February 12	<i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	August 4	Coast Guard Birthday
February 21	<i>Washington's Birthday/ Presidents' Day</i>	September 5	<i>Labor Day</i>
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	September 11	Patriot Day (half-staff)
March 29	National Vietnam War Veterans' Day	September 16	National POW/MIA Recognition Day
April 5	Gold Star Spouses' Day	September 17	Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
April 9	Nat'l Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day	September 18	Air Force Birthday
April 17	Easter Sunday	September 25	Gold Star Mothers' and Fathers' Day
April 22	Earth Day	October 9	National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service (half-staff)
May 4	International Firefighters Day	October 10	<i>Columbus Day/National Indigenous Peoples Day</i>
May 8	Mothers' Day	October 13	Navy Birthday
May 15	Peace Officers' Mem'l Day (half-staff)	November 8	Election Day
May 21	Armed Forces Day	November 10	Marine Corps Birthday
May 30	Memorial Day (half-staff to noon)	November 11	<i>Veterans Day</i>
June 6	Remember D-Day	November 24	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
June 14	Flag Day	December 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (half-staff)
June 19 & 20	<i>Juneteenth National Independence Day</i>	December 25	<i>Christmas Day</i>

Flying the flag at half-staff is to indicate that the country or a state is in mourning. Only the president or state governor can issue a half-staff order for a flag flown on a government property. The order will also specify for how long the American flag or state flags should be flown at half-staff. The usual reasons for a half-staff proclamation include deaths of prominent U.S. government, state or local officials; military personnel; civil-service individuals; or foreign dignitaries. However, there are specific dates on which we always fly the American flag at half-staff. The five dates marked in the **red** color and in bold to the left indicate when your flag should be at half-staff.

Other days of which to take note as well:

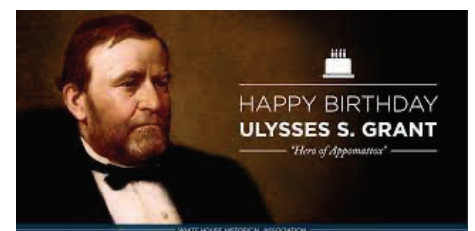
– “Let Freedom Ring!” on **National Freedom Day, February 1.**

On June 30, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the proclamation appointing February 1 as the official National Freedom Day in the United States. This day was founded to celebrate the freedoms enjoyed by U.S. citizens. Specifically, the holiday commemorates the day in 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln signed what would later become the 13th Amendment, although it was not ratified by the states until later. This amendment is so important because it effectively ended slavery in the United States. Freedom is one of the founding principles of the United States of America, and this day was envisioned as a way for all citizens to take a moment to appreciate freedom which should never be taken for granted.



April 15, 2022 – April 15, 1865 - Lincoln’s Death Day. On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, was assassinated by well-known stage actor John Wilkes Booth, while attending the play *Our American Cousin* at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. Shot in the head as he watched the play, Lincoln died the following day at 7:22 am in the Petersen House opposite the theater. He was the first U.S. president to be assassinated, with his funeral and burial marking an extended period of national mourning. President Abraham Lincoln believed that we are one nation. When the United States of America was torn apart and the future was in doubt, he knew our country was more than a collection of States but had a shared bond that would not break. Over one hundred fifty years after President Lincoln’s death, Americans still join together across the Union he saved to honor his memory and celebrate the freedom for which he gave his “last full measure of devotion.” Sometimes Presidents of the United States issue a half-staff proclamation on this day.

April 27, 2022 – Happy 200th Birthday, Ulysses S. Grant! Civil War leader and 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822. The son of a tanner, Grant showed little enthusiasm for joining his father’s business, so the elder Grant enrolled his son at West Point in 1839. Though Grant later admitted in his memoirs he had no interest in the military apart from honing his equestrian skills, he graduated in 1843 and went on to serve in the Mexican-American War. He re-enlisted in the army in 1861 and embarked on a stellar military career. The presidency of Ulysses S. Grant began on March 4, 1869, when Grant was inaugurated as the 18th president of the United States, and ended on March 4, 1877. The Reconstruction era took place during Grant’s two terms of office.



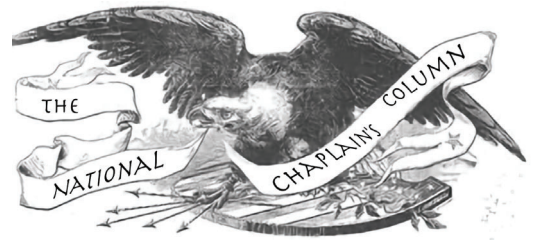
Yours in F, C, & L,

Rosemary Martin, National Patriotic Instructor 2021-2022

Credits: Various flag Internet sites; Wikipedia

National Chaplain's Corner

By Kim Villalva, National Chaplain



Happy New Year, Sisters! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and your time with family and friends!

Now that the holidays are over, we find ourselves in that time of year when we look to a fresh start, a new year, a new us!

Do you typically set New Year's Resolutions or goals?

While we can always begin anew at any point in the year, January is great month for focusing on

all that we'd like to accomplish in the new year, all that we would like to do and become—both for us individually and our Auxiliary! It's simply a great time for a fresh start...for all things new!

Now, you may be feeling a bit challenged as we head into 2022 because, well, we are still fighting Covid! That's just one of the many challenges from 2021 that we hoped would be moving on but sadly that's not the case...yet!

This is why we need to turn to God's Word for some hope and inspiration as we begin a new year for the ASUVCW. I love how many times the word "new" is mentioned in the Bible. It is mentioned over one hundred times! Here are just a few of my favorite "new" verses below:

*"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland."*

Isaiah 43:18-19

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!"*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

*"Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him."*

- Psalm 98:1 (NIV)

Old into new. New things. New ways. New ideas. New creativity. New members. New energy. What "new" things are you hoping for in 2022 for the Auxiliary? How can you bring new thinking and energy to your auxiliaries amidst some of the ongoing challenges we face? I'd love to hear your ideas and excitement on our National Chaplain's Corner Facebook page!

We don't know exactly how long Covid will be with us or how many people we may get at an upcoming historical festival or reenactment where we hope to recruit new members, for example. But! We can keep looking forward, do our best to plan out our year, stay flexible at the same time AND remember a great verse to keep on hand:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
- Philippians 4:6

Let's move forward into 2022 with hope and thanksgiving, excited for all the new things we can try!

Here is some of what you can expect from me for these first few months:

- 1) Each month often has an “awareness” theme. I will be posting specific prayers for those months on our National Chaplain’s Corner FB page. If you would like prayers during that month, (for example, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month), please either message me on the page OR send an email to me.
- 2) I will be organizing a card exchange called, “Sisters Inspiring Sisters.” If you would like to share some kind words and support with others through the mail and if you would like to receive some cheery notes in the mail, this is the program for you! 😊 Please email me with your interest by **January 30**. Please put “Sisters Inspiring Sisters” in the subject line of your email. I will then send details of our new program to those interested. There is no commitment at this time, I am simply generating an interest list.



- 3) As always, please keep those prayer requests coming and we will make sure they are shared so as many sisters as possible can be praying for you or your loved ones.
- 4) Lastly, if you have any suggestions for how I can better serve you as National Chaplain, I am always open to new ideas and suggestions!

Please know that you can reach me via email or phone/text for prayer requests or more. My email is chaplain@asucw.org.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty and with prayers for a beautiful year for us all,

Kim Villalva, National Chaplain

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



The United States was under attack. 183 Japanese aircraft bombed and torpedoed the airfields and naval vessels stationed at Oahu, Hawaii on 7 December 1941. Men, women, and children scrambled for cover leaving 2,343 killed, 1,272 wounded and 960 missing. On 8 December 1941, the United States declared war on Japan in retaliation, and shortly after World War II had begun.

Phoenix, Arizona has hosted a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony every year since 2013 when the city added the anchor and a 16-inch gun barrel from the USS Arizona to their memorial display at the Wesley Bolin Plaza. Nine steel pillars line the walkway displaying the names of the thousands of service men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. This breathtaking memorial stands proud and strong for any visitor wishing to pay their respects.

The ceremony was canceled due to the risks associated with COVID-19 in 2020, however the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor was not deterred this year. On Tuesday, 7 December 2021, hundreds gathered to participate and remember that fateful day. Chairs filled quickly as the military band began to play familiar tunes from that era. A helicopter flown by singer/songwriter Jeff Senour approached the plaza transporting two honored guests. Major Fannie Griffin McClendon was a member of the only all-black Women’s Army Corps battalion that was sent to Europe during World War II. She served 26.5 years combined in the United States Army and Air Force. Erlinda Gallegos Avila was an original Rosie the Riveter as she served her country working on various aircraft stateside.

As the crowd cheered and applauded the honored guests, attention was turned to the flyover of four World War II biplanes. Governor Doug Ducey gave remarks on the importance of remembering our nation’s heroes, and Commander Kevin M. Kahl spoke on the sacrifices, repercussions and impact the events of the attack on Pearl Harbor had on today’s military actions. Nearly 80 organizations were represented this year, and as each delegate made their way to the ceremonial stand, it was silently and respectfully understood just how much this one event in history influenced the nation’s citizens.



The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was represented proudly by the National President, Allison Pollitt. She was delighted to participate in this commemorative ceremony alongside SUVCW Commander in Chief Michael Paquette, DUVCW National President Norma Fiedler, and the sisters from Picacho Peak Auxiliary No. 1. The event was closed with a three-volley gun salute and a beautiful rendition of taps. We will always remember Pearl Harbor, we will honor those that died, and we will remain vigilant so as to not repeat history.



In F., C., & L.,
Allison Pollitt
National President, ASUVCW

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE

November 10, 2021 Arlington, Virginia. For the first time in nearly 100 years, and as part of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration, the public was given the rare opportunity to walk next to the Tomb and pay their personal respects to the Unknown Soldiers. This is a privilege otherwise given only to the sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard."



Honoring the Unknown Soldiers

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette,
Department of the Chesapeake Commander



Roger Leturno, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of the Chesapeake Past President and National ASUVCW Patriotic Instructor Rosemary Martin, and Past Department Commander / Sons of Veterans Reserve 2nd Military District Commander Kevin Martin braved long lines, pleasant temperatures and a perfect Autumn day to lay white roses at the Tomb as a symbol of their respect and honor to the Unknown Soldiers of our Nation.



**Dept. Cdr. Roger Leturno, PDP Rosemary Martin, CinC Michael Paquette
Credits: Roger Leturno and Kevin Martin**

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL, WATERLOO, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE

September 25, 2021, Waterloo, New York. National Patriotic Instructor PDP Rosemary Martin and SUVCW Council of Administration member PDC Kevin Martin were given a detailed tour of the American Civil War Memorial in Waterloo, New York, known as the “Birthplace of Memorial Day,” by

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 Past National President Caren Cleaveland. The American Civil War Memorial, dedicated on September 20, 2008, honors the fallen of the first Memorial Day, May 5, 1866. It pays tribute to the sacrifice made by citizens of Waterloo during the Civil War, and recognizes the soldiers from the North and South who gave their lives in the conflict. The Memorial is located on Lock Island along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, part of the Erie



Canal System, and the design incorporates the Memorial into the historic canal environment of Waterloo.

The Memorial includes individual cenotaphs for each man from Waterloo, who died in the Civil War and a North South Cenotaph recognizing all lives lost. A Women’s Cenotaph commemorates all the women who served during the Civil War. The Regimental Marker lists the Regiments in which the men of Waterloo and Seneca County served and the Civil War battles in which they fought. The central feature of the Memorial is a marble Star Stone (behind Rosemary Martin) set in an arborvitae lined enclosure with a stone Portal shown in the picture. A Stele on the western point of the island marks the site for travelers arriving by water. The Memorial has a Flag Pole carrying the United States flag of 1865. The elements of the Memorial are illuminated at night.

**National Patriotic Instructor Rosemary Martin, PDP
and DUV Past National President Caren Cleaveland**
Photo Credit: Kevin Martin; Credit: www.americancivilwarmemorial.com

KERNSTOWN BATTLEFIELD VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Larry Turner, DP Barbara Day, PCinC Mark Day, Karen Lyddane,
PDP Rosemary Martin, and DC Roger Leturno

Rendering honors to the 12th West Virginia



October 30, 2021 – Kernstown Battlefield Virginia. The Department of the Chesapeake conducted a ceremony to dedicate a marker for the 12th West Virginia Infantry.

Mr. Larry Turner of the Kernstown Battlefield Association presented the marker to Department of the Chesapeake Commander Roger Leturno, who presided over the ceremony. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War PCinC Mark Day, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 (Detached) President Karen Lyddane, and Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of the Chesapeake President Barbara Day rendered honors with the laying of wreaths. Department Chaplain Clifton Potter gave the prayer of dedication. The 2nd Military District, SVR, provided the Honor Guard, led by their commander, PDC Kevin Martin. PDC Jay Rarick coordinated all the moving parts for the ceremony. National Patriotic Instructor PDP Rosemary Martin also attended.

The marker is Private William Allison Fleming's story. Fleming saw action with the 2nd Winchester and 2nd Kernstown. Through him we get an account of Colonel Ely's Brigade actions in the Shenandoah Valley. Fleming survived the war and was honorably discharged on June 6th, 1865. He was a member of G.A.R. Meade Post 36, in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Several of Fleming's descendants attended the ceremony, including Elizabeth Van Lew Tent #1 President Karen Lyddane, who is his great (x2) granddaughter. Most noteworthy was the appearance of Karen's mother. Elizabeth Fleming Lewis, 100 years young, arrived in her World War II Army nurse uniform. Lieutenant Fleming saw all theatres of action aboard the US Army Hospital Ship Emily Weder, where she was assigned to the operating room.

Lt Fleming and JVC Chapman

Credits: Roger Leturno and Kevin Martin



MIAP INTERNMENT CEREMONY, CAMP NAVAJO, AZ

On **October 7, 2021**, Picacho Peak Auxiliary #1, Margaret Warner Wood DUVCW AZ Tent #1, and the Department of SUVCW participated in the Missing in America Project interment ceremony at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Camp Navajo, AZ.

This was the final interment ceremony for 20 unclaimed Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam, and one spouse gathered from two Arizona funeral homes. The cemetery is located at Belmont, AZ about 10 miles west of Flagstaff and is the newest National Cemetery in AZ.

The purpose of the MIA Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

General US Grant Camp #3, Department of the Southwest, has been involved with two MIAP interment ceremonies, providing a final resting place for 30 unclaimed veterans. Since 2007 there have been 14 Civil War Veteran remains located and laid to rest through this program.



Hearse arriving at Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Camp Navajo, AZ

FRANCES FINCH AUXILIARY #9, DEPT. OF MICHIGAN

Sisters of the Frances Finch Auxiliary #9, Dept. of Michigan, placed a wreath in the McPherson GAR Post 18 Plot 241 in Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City, MI for Wreaths Across America. Oakwood Cemetery does not participate in WAA, but the sisters thought the veterans should have one. The wreath was made by our Aux President and sponsored by the Auxiliary.



SARAH EMMA SEELYE AUXILIARY OF TEXAS

The Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary of Texas joined the Edward Lea Camp in a beautiful memorial for Past Camp Commander and Department of Texas Commander William Pollard on November 30, 2021. He was the husband of Sister Norma Pollard. Everyone was given a special remembrance cockade. National SUV Chaplain Jerry Kowalski was in attendance along with Commander Pollard's family.



Auxiliary Members:
Jana Marsh, Val Reyes,
Mary Gillaspia,
Judy Turner-Chester,
Norma Pollard



In December, the Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary presented the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Hospital with a check for \$500 for patient Christmas gifts. We held a Stay at Home Tea Party during the year to help raise the funds for this yearly gift. The hospital will purchase needed items for the patients.

Pictured is our newest member, Judy Turner-Chester presenting the check to the Veteran's Administration Hospital Coordinator Barbara Bell.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT ALLISON POLLITT AT REMEMBRANCE DAY



Photo taken by PCinC Ed Norris



ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD ILLUMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE

December 4, 2021 Antietam Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Antietam Camp, Auxiliary #3, and Department of the Chesapeake guests participated in the setup and the lighting of the luminaries for the approximately 23,000 casualties of the Battle of Antietam.

The Battle of Antietam (or per the Southern United States, the Battle of Sharpsburg) was a battle of the American Civil War fought on September 17, 1862, between Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Union Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac near Sharpsburg, Maryland and Antietam Creek. As part of the Maryland Campaign, it was the first field army-level engagement in the Eastern Theater of the American Civil War to take place on Union soil. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day in American history, with a combined tally of 22,717 dead, wounded, or missing over the course of the single-day battle.



**National Patriotic Instructor PDP
Rosemary Martin along with members of
Antietam Camp #3 and Department of the
Chesapeake guests**



Antietam Battlefield Luminaries

Credits: Wikipedia

SARAH A. CRAWFORD AUXILIARY



The Sarah A. Crawford Auxiliary attended the Labor Day parade September 11, 2021 in Ford City.

On the left carrying the banner is Auxiliary member Jane John and on the right Peg Krecota. On a sad note: on October 25, 2021, Jane John passed away due to complications of Covid 19. She was an active member and will be missed.

Trinette Frerotte, Vice President,
Sarah A. Crawford Auxiliary



From the **NATIONAL ASUVCW PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**
Rosemary Martin

Calling Again All Auxiliaries, Departments, and Patriotic Instructors!

So far, I have not received any donations from any Auxiliaries or Departments. Now is the time to donate to the Patriotic Instructor Fund.

The donation for the August 2022 Grand Rapids, Michigan National Encampment is to go to Veteran Service Dogs of Howell, Michigan. Here is a little about them: "Veteran Service Dogs - Restoring hope for dogs and veterans. Our mission is to provide Service Animals to US Military Veterans. Through the hard work, dedication, and passionate care of our trainers and providers, we train both the service animal and the Veteran. The training of each dog is tailor suited to the Veteran in need. We train the dogs to assist with the following disabilities: PTSD, Panic Disorders, Physical Disabilities, Bipolar Disorder, Seizures, and many more."

Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please make out your checks to **National Organization ASUVCW** and send them/correspondence to:

Rosemary Martin
 National ASUVCW Patriotic Instructor
 8209 Skipwith Drive
 Frederick, Maryland 21702



The Society for Women and the Civil War
Presents
"Women of the Valley"
July 22-24, 2022

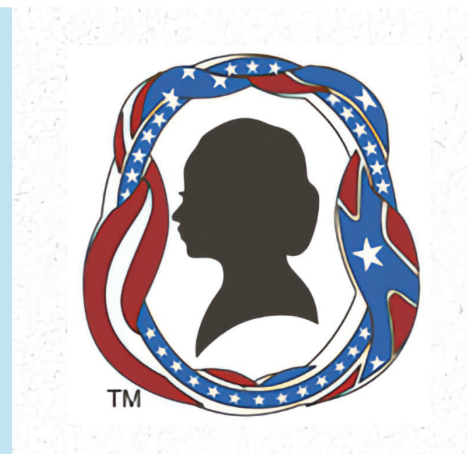
Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Conference Center,
 Harrisonburg, Virginia

Outstanding speakers and fascinating field trips
 are now being planned.

Welcome Reception, Banquet, Scholarship-Benefit Auction,
 Displays and more!

See <https://www.swcw.org/annual-swcw-conference.html> for more details.

*For the past twenty-four years, the Society for Women and the Civil War has proudly hosted its annual conference focused on the lives of women during the period of 1861-1865, both in the United States and the Confederate States. Each year, SWCW invites professional and amateur historians, scholars, members of the Society, and **members of the public** to join us in celebrating women's contributions to our country's history during the Civil War. The conference is noted for showcasing original and innovative research.*





About Myrtle O'Brien, PNP

Mrs. W.D.A. O'Brien was elected Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. Auxiliary's National President at its first convention, held in Akron, Ohio on September 7-9, 1887.

Mrs. O'Brien was born Myrtle Delo Wirick on January 24, 1866, to Martin Van Buren Wirick and Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Reed

Wirick. Martin was a blacksmith who had served from June 11, 1861, to June 24, 1864, in Company D, 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He fought in the Battle of Perryville, where he was wounded, and at Stones River. On May 3, 1863, he was captured with much of his regiment at Rome, Georgia, and sent to Belle Isle. He was exchanged later that month at Camp Chase, Ohio.

On January 11, 1883, Myrtle married William D. Andrew O'Brien, ten years her senior and the son of Irish immigrants. The two lived in Sidney, Ohio, which was a rapidly developing town of nearly four thousand residents at the time. Here, William was a laborer and became an officer in the county labor union in 1887. Together, they raised three children: Howard (Nov 1883-Feb 1956), Edward (9 Dec 1891-18 Nov 1945), and Mary Elizabeth (1898-1973).

William was elected commander of Springfield, Ohio's Z. Barney Phillips Camp #37 and was installed in January 1885. That May, he was elected the Ohio Department's Junior Vice Commander. In September 1886, the camp's Ladies Aid Society #6 was instituted with 29 members. Officers were installed with Myrtle serving as vice president.

By the time of the first National Encampment in 1887, there were 6,000 sisters in 72 local societies. Sixty-five were chartered since January 1st of that year in California, Connecticut, Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. Eighteen delegates were present.

Interestingly, Mrs. A.P. (Nancy E.) Davis was elected as Chaplain-in-Chief, a position she was repeatedly re-elected to each year. She served at least until her husband's death 12 years later and was likely a direct conduit to the Order's founder, providing guidance and counsel. She died in 1912.

The Auxiliary filed papers of incorporation with the Ohio Secretary of State in 1887.

Mrs. O'Brien was re-elected National President at the 2nd National Encampment, held in 1888 in Wheeling, West Virginia. By September 1888, membership had grown to 1,716.

In January 1888, William was elected a director of the Cooperative Coal Company.

In 1889, William represented his department as a delegate at Sons of Veterans National Encampment in Patterson, New Jersey. The following year, Myrtle was elected delegate-at-large.

The O'Briens moved to Chicago for a few years in the 1890s, perhaps as the result of a four-year national economic depression, the Panic of 1893. By 1900, though, they had moved to the town of Milford in Iroquois County, Illinois, where William worked as a photographer. However, another financial downturn, the Panic of 1907, caused a nationwide economic crisis, which hit small towns especially hard. The O'Brien family moved back to Chicago, where William and his two sons took jobs as railroad office clerks.

William died on August 8, 1910, at the age of 52. After her husband's death, Myrtle moved back to Springfield and lived with her bachelor son, Edward. She died on July 6, 1921, and was buried next to her husband in Springfield, Ohio's Ferncliff Cemetery. *(see article on page 15 concerning her tombstone)*

by PCinC Steve Michaels with research assistance by PDC Kent Peterson and PDC Robert Wolz

Sources:

Akron City times: 14 Sep 1887

Federal Census: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920

Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of Rebellion, 1861-1866 by Ohio Roster Commission

Ohio County Marriage Records, 1774-1993

Springfield Daily Republic: 8 Jan 1885, 13 Jan 1885, 25 Sep 1886, 3 Sep 1887, 9 Sep 1887, 17 Jan 1888

Summit County Beacon (Akron): 14 Sep 1887, 22 Aug 1888

The Akron Beacon Journal: 21 Jun 1890

The Cincinnati Enquirer: 17 May 1889

Additional information on Myrtle Delo Wirick O'Brien by Wanda Langdon, PNP

SISTER ANTHONY O'CONNELL AUXILIARY

Caring for our PNPs' Graves

by PNP Wanda Langdon

When I saw the picture of our 1st elected National President's (Myrtle O'Brien) headstone, I was deeply saddened. Not only is there no marker or other designation to show the role she played in our organization, the headstone was overgrown and neglected. The Sister Anthony O'Connell Auxiliary is the closest to the Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield, Ohio. Member Shari Milburn and her niece, new Junior Member Sarah Milburn, went to the cemetery and cleaned up the headstone. No, we don't have a grave marker yet, but they left a flower and thanked her for her service. The Auxiliary plans to keep up the care of the gravesite.



Headstone of Myrtle Delo Warick O'Brien:

Ferncliff Cemetery 501 West McCreight Ave. Springfield,
Clark County, Ohio 45504
Section H, Lot 544
Photo by Carol JCJ • Find a Grave Memorial: 58417711

National President Myrtle O'Brien presided over the 2nd National Encampment of the ASUVCW, then called the "Ladies Aid Society," held at Akron, Ohio.

The 1888 National Encampment Proceedings can be read here:
https://asuvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/1888_Proceedings.pdf



*Friendly
Reminders*

The ASUVCW awards a scholarship of up to \$1000.00 to high school seniors and college students (male or female) annually. Applications are accepted from January 1 until June 30 for those that meet eligibility requirements. Please visit the national website, asuvcw.org, for details. Completed applications and references may be sent to:

ASUVCW Scholarship
Allison Pollitt, NP
116 Liberty Parkway A08
St Robert, MO 65584

Report of the Grave Registration Officer

Dear Sisters,

Since August when I accepted the appointment from President Allison, I've learned many new ways to do research about our Civil War veterans, learned how to post on the National Registry site, but most of all I have learned a new respect for those who are in charge of getting the correct information on a deceased loved one *first hand*.



My younger sister, Sandie, passed away on New Year's Day from Covid Pneumonia. Her three sons were then thrown into a situation, not unlike our deceased Veterans' ancestors family. Our family wasn't prepared; we did not know where she would be buried. When my husband and I decided we would give permission for her burial in the plot meant for our four family members, it made me realize how important it was to document EXACTLY WHERE she would be buried within my family's plot, especially since, maybe 30-50 years from now, one of Sandie's descendants would want to know more about their ancestor. I was going to do everything in my power to assure those who might seek more information would have as exact a record that the family and I could provide.

So I want us all to put in perspective why, though our task seems monumental, it is equally as important. We can be taught the skills to do the best job we can to get as complete information as possible on our Civil War deceased. When we have done that, then comes our dedication to the task of the ACCURATE input of that information so those who follow may find their ancestors.

When this information is obtained, and accurately placed in archives, our dead will "live again." *It will be almost as if our ancestor could take on flesh and blood and tell us what they did in the War that preserved the United States of America.*

I invite you, if you are able and willing, to offer help with this task, and allow our "Boys in Blue" to be remembered, and *live again*.

-In F, C, & L, Connie Horning, National Grave Registration Office



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

This cemetery is one that the Jackson Austin Blair #7 Auxiliary & Sons help to maintain and clean up for *all* veterans' headstones. We also pull and reset CW veterans' headstones. Registry of CW veterans' graves was done previously on local level, *but soon this will be a cemetery that the Jackson Austin Blair Auxiliary will have volunteers walk through, looking for CW veterans' graves.*

Laying a wreath at the grave of a Revolutionary War veteran are Christi (non-ASUVCW, sister of Vicki Weiss); Vicki Weiss, ASUVCW Dept MI Sec/Treasurer, Jackson Austin Blair #7; Connie Horning, ASUVCW National Graves Registry Officer, Jackson Austin Blair #7. One of the veteran's descendants is a CW veteran buried in same Chapel cemetery.