



The Dispatch

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

March 2025

30th Encampment Edition

The Department of Florida Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War met where the Department ‘began’—in Fort Myers—on Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st. One reason Camp 2 volunteered to host this year’s Encampment was in answer to Commander Dr. Timothy Campaign’s call last year for Camps to volunteer hosting our annual meetings. As the Florida Department received its charter from the National organization at the Fort Myers Historical Museum on May 18, 1996 (see details and photos on the Department’s homepage), it seemed appropriate to hold the 2025 Encampment here. Moreover, our meeting coincided with the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Myers, one of the few Union victories in Florida during the Civil War!

This year’s attendees assembled for a “Meet and Greet” at the Ft. Myers IMAG (Imaginarium)—the successor to the old Ft. Myers Historical Museum on Friday night. Following refreshments, the men of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR)—the ceremonial military component of the SUVCW—traveled to the Memorial Statue dedicated to the men of the 2nd United States Colored Troops (USCT) in downtown Fort Myers. This monument is dedicated to the African-American Union soldiers who defended the post from Confederate attack on February 20, 1865.

Saturday morning the attendees were officially welcomed to the City by Fort Myers Mayor, Kevin Anderson. After breakfast, the group traveled to the Old Ft. Myers Cemetery to pay tribute to the 21 Union soldiers who are interred there. Commander Campaign officiated over our memorial ceremony that included a formal gun salute to the veterans and Taps being played by Departmental Bugler, Brian Wysong. An individual wreath was laid at the headstone of Pvt.

*Hello Brothers ,
It’s an honor to follow in the footsteps of several ‘giants’ of the Department of Florida who ably served as editor of The Dispatch before me. I hope you will enjoy the newsletter and send me pictures, information, and news to share with our fellow brothers. Please send them to me at the following address: jsbovee@aol.com. Thank you, H.S. “Jack” Bovee, Camp 2*



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

John W. Hall of Co. I, 73rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Hall served throughout the war in a regiment that saw action at the Battles of Perrysville, Stone’s River, Chattanooga, Kennesaw Mtn., Jonesboro, Franklin, and Nashville. After the war he studied medicine and was a doctor on the Florida “frontier” around LaBelle and Fort Myers..

Following the visit to the cemetery, attendees were treated to a lecture by Ft. Myers retired attorney Harry “Hank” Hendry on the Battle of Ft. Myers. Hank is a Councilor in Camp 2, a descendant of a Union soldier on his mother’s side and of Capt. Francis A. Hendry of the CSA on his father’s side of the family. F.A. Hendry was a leading citizen of the pioneer village of Ft Myers who served in the Florida legislature who helped lead a

**Elected Department Officers
2025 - 2026**

- Commander** [Timothy Campaign](#), DC
Email: tcampaign@hotmail.com
- Senior Vice Commander** . . [Edward J. Manek](#), PCC
Email: edwardmanak@att.net
- Junior Vice Commander** . . . [Jeffery A. Garten](#), CC
Email: gartenj@aol.com
- Secretary** [Larry Scovotto](#)
Email: floridalarry@me.com
- Treasurer** Robert Humker
Email: bhumker@gmail.com
- Councilor 1** [Richard D. Shaffer](#), PCC
Email: vinnfiz2@AOL.com
- Councilor 2** Robert Kerr
Email: bob.w.kerr@gmail.com
- Councilor 3** Walter Richard Young, Sr.
Email: dyoung22@aol.com

Appointed Department Officers

- Patriotic Instructor** Edward J. Manak, PCC
Email: edwardmanak@att.net
- Chaplain** Hubert L. Williams
Email: 52hlwilliams@gmail.com
- Color Bearer** Richard E. Wilder
Email: leaningw@live.com
- Counselor** Larry Oppenheimer, PCC
Email: loppen@verizon.net
- Eagle Scout Coordinator** H.S. 'Jack' Bovee
Email: jsbovee@aol.com
- J/ROTC Coordinator** . . . Richard D. Shaffer, PCC
Email: vinnfiz2@aol.com
- Signals Officer/Website** Larry Scovotto
Email: floridalarry@me.com
- Newsletter Editor** H.S. 'Jack' Bovee
Email: jsbovee@aol.com
- Guide** Reginald Hayes
Email: TBA
- Membership At Large** . . Larry Oppenheimer, PCC
Email: loppen@verizon.net

Department Committees

- By Laws Chairman** Larry Oppenheimer, PCC
- Legislative Chairman** . . . Timothy Campaign, DCC²



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movement of local citizens to have Ft. Myers secede from Monroe County in the late 1800s. He was successful in this effort and named Lee County after Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Today, Hendry Street in Ft. Myers and Hendry County, Florida, are named for the Captain.

We were delighted Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Fraser, Jr. joined us for our business meeting on Saturday. Brother Roderick is the Commander of the Dept. of Massachusetts and serves on the SUVCW National Council of Administration. He welcomed us on behalf of the National organization, provided updates on several items of national business, and installed our Departmental officers.

One new feature of this Encampment was the implementation of a trial balloon fundraiser consisting of a 'silent auction' and both a "50/50" and "General Raffle." Its purpose was to raise revenue to assist sending one or more Brothers to the next National Encampment. A total of \$372 was raised from this activity, minus a \$100 'prize' for the winner of the 50/50.

As it is the purpose of this issue of THE DISPATCH to serve as a photographic record of this year's meeting, Camp Reports and other matters of official business will follow in the next issue of our newsletter.



DEPT. OF FLORIDA OFFICER INSTALLATION



Brother Roderick Fraser Administering Oath to Dept. FL Officers

Below: Recognition of the Ladies of Affiliated Groups



Right: Commander
Dr. Timothy Campaign



MEMORIAL TO 2ND U.S.C.T. – FEBRUARY 28, 2025

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SVR Honor Guard at 2nd U.S.C.T. Memorial in Centennial Park, Fort Myers

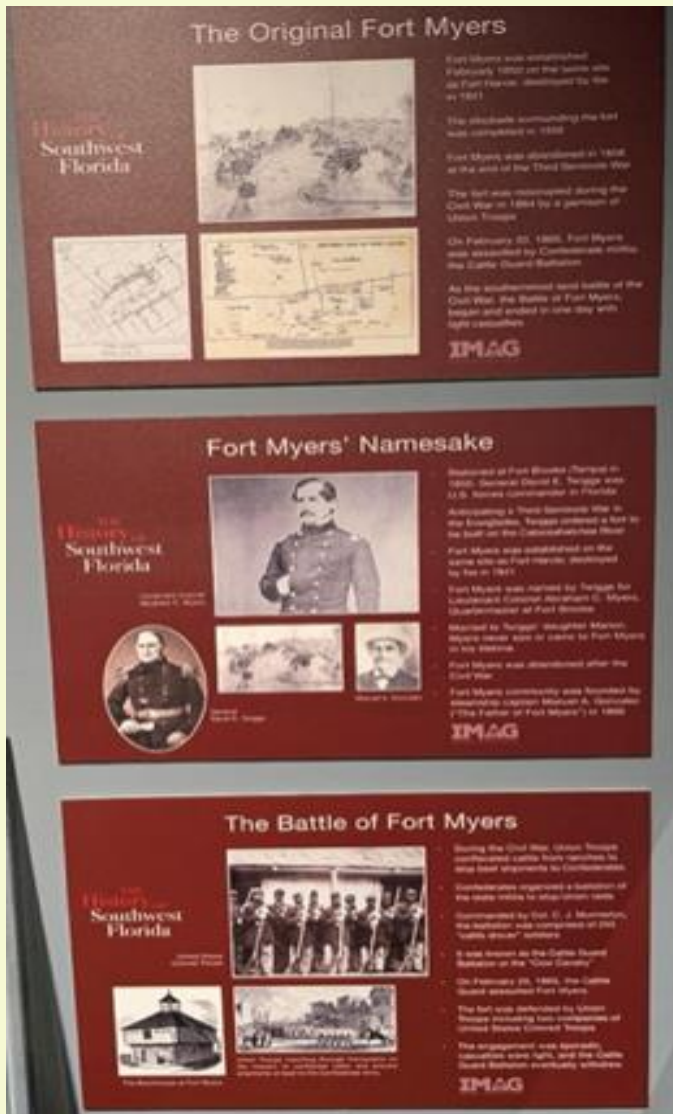


SATURDAY MORNING – MARCH 1ST



Ft. Myers Mayor Kevin Anderson welcomed SUVCW Attendees. An in-memoriam photo of Br. Michael Urell, PDC, PCC on the screen. Brother Urell was a long-standing officer and guiding inspiration in Camp 4 for many years. Commander Campaign is to the right.

Below: Chaplain- Secretary for Camp 2
Brother Father Shawn Roser with FL
Dept. Commander Tim Campaign



Left: One of several exhibits that the IMAG Museum had on display for the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Myers. The Department of Florida filled an entire room with authentic artifacts from the war and with Camp Displays.



Memorial Tribute to Union Soldiers – Old Fort Myers Cemetery



Following breakfast Saturday morning and a review of the display room, all attendees traveled the short distance to the Old Fort Myers Cemetery (est. 1898) to pay tribute to the 21 Union soldiers interred there. The media (Cape Coral Breeze newspaper journalist accompanied us.



The Sons of Veterans Reserve Color Guard performed the Memorial tribute to our fallen heroes.



Individual Tribute was Paid to Pvt. John W. Hall, Co. I, 73rd Illinois Volunteers



Herley, James P.	Loami	Aug. 7, 1862.	Aug. 21, 1862.	Died, Dec. 3, 1862, at Nashville.
Harper, George W.	"	"	"	Transferred to Inv. Corps, Aug. 1, 1863.
Hall, John W.	"	Aug. 5, 1862.	"	Discharged, May 11, 1865; disability.
Hileman, Thomas	Harrisburg	July 8, 1862.	"	Deserted, Aug. 24, 1862.
Hinds, James V.	"	July 28, 1862.	"	Deserted at Murfreesboro.
English, William F.	Auburn	Aug. 9, 1862.	"	Wounded; September 20, 1863; died.
Joy, William E.	Loami	Aug. 7, 1862.	"	Wounded; discharged, March 4, 1863.
Joy, James M.	"	"	"	Was prisoner; mustered out, July 22, 1865.

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Above: Co. I Muster Roller showing length of service for Pvt. Hall and his being discharged with a disability. He later trained and practices as a doctor in the pioneer town of Caloosa (Ft. Myers area) and retired in LaBelle, Florida. The picture below/left shows him with his grandchild in 1915. Right: Hall's record in the national Civil War Soldier database.



Hall, John W.

BATTLE UNIT NAME: [73rd Regiment, Illinois Infantry](#)

SIDE: Union

COMPANY: I

SOLDIER'S RANK IN: Private

SOLDIER'S RANK OUT: Private

ALTERNATE NAME: M539 ROLL 36

FILM NUMBER: none

PLAQUE NUMBER:

NOTES:

Following the ceremony at the cemetery, attendees returned to the Museum for a lecture on the Battle of Fort Myers by Brother "Hank" Hendry, whose ancestor helped lead the attack on the Fort and later became one of leading citizens of S.W. Florida. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a hearty lunch with many great desserts prepared by the ladies auxiliary groups. Following lunch, Commander Campaign directed our business meeting and presented a wide variety of awards to Camps and individuals. Information regarding these proceedings will be covered in our March 2025 newsletter. Two special awards and commendations were given to recognize the long-time services of Secretary Larry Oppenheimer and Treasurer Richard Young. Commander Campaign presented both Brothers with certificates and engraved gold watches! The meeting concluded with our fundraising raffle and silent auction! We ended our day in great spirits and ready for both the National Encampment as well as news about next year's 2026 Annual Encampment which will be held in Jacksonville. Stay tuned for details!



Above and right: Brother Guy Bachman as 'Andrew Jackson' and Leading 'Spirit' & SVC of Camp 3.



Brother Hank Hendry delivering our program on the Battle of Ft Myers



Br. Richard Wilder, Camp 4 Sec./Treasurer, playing "Taps" Fri. night.



Commander Campaign with Dept. Treasurer Richard Young, Camp 1



Dept. Secretary and Camp 1 Secretary-Treasurer Larry Oppenheimer with watch



Richard Wilder receiving Award



Mr. & Mrs. Roderick J. Fraser, Jr. –
SUVCW National Council of Administration

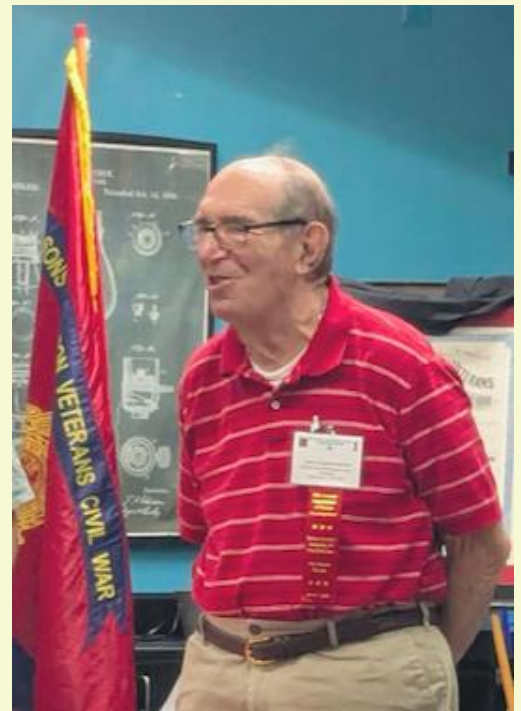




Attendees – 2025 Department of Florida SUVCW 30th Annual Encampment



Jeffery A Garten receiving Award for his fine work with SVR



Brother Larry Oppenheimer was all smiles that his service as Dept. Secretary would soon be at an end.





Dept. of Florida SUVCW Officers
being officially sworn in



Bugler Brian Wysong:
"Taps" at the Old Ft
Myers Cemetery



Blockhouse exhibit and artifacts recovered from the old Fort's site. Three such
Blockhouses comprised the main defense of the Civil War fort.



Presentation of engraved gold watches to Larry and Richard by Commander Campaign!



Robert McGuire receives SVC Camp 2 Award for hosting the Encampment

Media Press Release resulted in our event being covered by the Cape Coral Breeze

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Florida

Date: February 23, 2025

PRESS RELEASE:

The Florida Department of the Sons of Union Veterans from the Civil War (SUVVCW) will be hosting its annual state meeting at the Fort Myers Imaginarium (IMAG) Museum located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers on Friday evening February 28th from 5:00-7:00 pm and Saturday, March 1st from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The SUVVCW is a volunteer, charitable, fraternal, patriotic, and educational organization dedicated to the promotion of patriotism and good citizenship, and keeping alive and continuing the mission of the "Boys in Blue" who preserved the Union during the nation's greatest crucible 1861-1865.

Members of the organization will be arriving in Fort Myers from across the state to help commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Ft. Myers which took place February 20, 1865. Wreath laying ceremonies are planned for 6-45pm Friday night at the City of Ft. Myers Memorial to the 2nd United States Colored Troops in Centennial Park, who—along with white soldiers from the 110th New York Infantry—defended Fort Myers during the battle. Another memorial ceremony complete with gun salute and taps will be performed by uniformed Union troops at noon on Saturday at the Old Ft. Myers Cemetery in honor of Union soldiers who are interred there. Retired attorney Harry O. "Hank" Hendry, a descendant of Capt. Francis A. Hendry who led the attack upon the fort by the Confederate Cow Cavalry, will provide a historical lecture about the Battle on Saturday at the IMAG. Although the business meeting of the SUVVCW will be closed to the public, interested persons are welcome to visit both the many IMAG historical exhibits related to the Battle as well as another exhibit room composed of authentic Civil War weapons, artifacts, and educational materials that will be on temporary display by the SUVVCW.

Attached please find an agenda and further information about the two-day event. For additional information please contact any of the following:

Tim Johnson, Ex. Dir. of the IMAG Museum, (Ph: 239.243.0043 email: timj@theIMAG.org)
 Bruce Bovee (Ph: 239.272.3308 email: jbovee@ao.com)
 Timothy Campaign, Dept. of Florida Commander, S.U.V.C.W. (Ph: 716.485.8519 Email: timcampaign@bortmail.com)

Attachments: Encampment Flyer and Encampment Agenda

2025 FL SUVVCW Encampment
February 28th - March 1st 2025

Hotel Information

- Edison Downtown Holiday Inn - Ph: (239) 332-3232
2431 Cleveland Ave., Ft Myers 33901
- Hampton Inn Downtown Ft. Myers - Ph: (866) 994-6612
2151 Johnson St., Ft. Myers 33901
- The Banyan Hotel - Ph: (239) 337-3446
1520 Broadway St., Ft. Myers 33901

Family Fun at Fort Myers
Wake History
Science Center

Hertz Fort Myers
U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

2nd U.S. Colored Memorial
Edison Hotel

Our "Save the Date" flyer to promote the 30th Annual Encampment

Our First-time Fundraiser Raffle was a success!

Save the Dates!
February 28th - March 1st 2025
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Florida 2025 Encampment
at the Ft. Myers IMAG
 2000 Cranford Avenue
 Fort Myers, FL 33916
 Ph: (239) 243-0043

- Meet & Greet SUCW Brothers Fri. Nite at the IMAG!
- Attend our Annual Business Meeting /Learn of New Initiati
- Celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Ft. Myers!
- Listen to Historical Lectures about the Battle & Its Aftermath!
- Tour the IMAG's Civil War & other Historical Exhibits!
- Join the local SCV in Honoring our Ancestors at the Old Ft. Myers Cemetery!
- Visit the Monument to the 2nd U.S. Colored Infantry in Centennial Park Ft Myers!
- During your stay, visit the Historic Thomas Edison Lab & Home, the Henry Ford Home, the Burroughs Home, Ft. Myers Beach, Sanibel Island or Captiva Island!

