

Donald L. Martin, PCinC *Written May 2026*

The Department of Ohio elected Donald L Martin Commander at the 129th Annual Encampment in June 2011. Commander Martin joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1998 and served as the Commander of the Chillicothe Enderlin Camp #73 from 2006-2010. His support of the last Union Civil War Veteran Project resulted in placement of plaques on the graves of Nelson Dunlap of Ross County, Samuel Shattuck of Pike County, and David Fast of Pickaway County recognizing these men as the last living Union Veterans of their county.

He led the project to replace the headstones of David D. Mitten and John Double situated off Frazier Road in Pike County on the former farm of Ed Montgomery. Ed remembered a cemetery there as a young man. (Evidence of only two headstones were found.) A plaque was also placed remembering these and 22 others of the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry who died of measles between February and April 1862 in Clarksburg, West Virginia. The dedication was held in Oct, 2011. The effort to place a memorial to Civil War Soldiers in Waverly, Ohio's Canal Park was also headed by him and dedicated in June of 2015.

Commander Martin has conducted many presentations in period uniform within his local area and Waverly High School. Discussing and demonstrating aspects related to Union soldier, he also circulated historical replicas. He has a long record of participation in parades, memorial services, Civil War research, Boy Scouts activities and other SUVCW functions.

The National Encampment on 13 August 2016, elected Don the 135th Commander-in-Chief in Springfield, IL. The 17th from Ohio, he's the 4th from Sergeant Richard Enderlin Camp #73.

Having served in many positions at all levels, he's been Chair of the National Scholarship Committee since 2019, Buckeye Bugle Editor since 2024, on the Dept. Bylaws Committee and the Monuments Committee since 2023, Enderlin Camp #73 Camp Commander again since 2025, Camp Patriotic Instructor since about 2010, and compiled/updated the Enderlin #73 Camp History 2008 to 2023.

SUVCW membership is based on the military service of Great, Great, Great, Grandfather:

-Private Daniel Mote of Company B, 110th OVVI, Born 25 June 1844, Darke County Ohio. Mustered in 8 August 1862, Mustered Out 25 June 1865. Died Sept. 1 1920, Miami County Ohio. Buried Ludlow Falls Cemetery, Miami County Ohio

-Captain James Sowry, Company E, 48th OVVI. Born Yorkshire, England 31 Mar 1820. Mustered in 10 Oct. 1861, Captured with regiment at Sabine Crossroads, LA, Apr 1864, sent to Camp Tyler TX, exchanged Oct 1864. He assisted in hiding the regimental flag throughout their interment. Mustered Out 17 Jan 1865.

Previously Captain Sowry served during the **Mexican War** as a Corporal with 1st Regiment Ohio Infantry. Mustering in Jun 26, 1846 and out Jun 11, 1847. As a **British Army** Drill Corporal he was in the 7th Regiment, English Grenadiers, 1838-41, stationed Ireland & Gibraltar. Died Feb 25, 1905, Miami County Ohio, he is buried in Riverside Cemetery West Milton, Ohio

-Corporal William Sowry, Co. E, 118th OVI. (4-Great Uncle). Born Leeds, England 1823. Mustered in Aug 13, 1862, Mustered Out Jun 29, 1865, Disability Discharge for gunshot wound. Died Apr 5, 1881, Buried West Branch Cemetery West Milton, Ohio

Don, the son of Jack and Della Martin, grew up north of Dayton in the small farm town of Pleasant Hill, Ohio. In a family of carpenters and he began learning the trade during the summers of High School and College. He graduated with a BA in History in 1982 from Miami University, where he played on the Miami Lacrosse Club.

In 1983 he enlisted in the US Air Force where he flew as a Loadmaster on the C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft and later in administration. Stationed in Arkansas then Alaska, missions took him to various locations worldwide and throughout Alaska. He was Honorably Discharged in 1992.

Following the Air Force, Martin returned to his Father's construction business in Ohio, then was employed as a carpenter by the Department of Defense at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He earned a Science and Social Studies teaching certification at Fayetteville State University, NC, in 1996.

Employed by Waverly City Schools, Ohio, in 1998, he retired in 2023. Mainly he instructed 9th graders, however, over the years he also taught grades 8 and 10-12. Courses taught included US History, World Studies, Economics, Psychology, History Via Cinema, General Science, Integrated Science, Environmental Science and he served a semester as the in-school-suspension teacher.

Completion of a Master of Education in Classroom Teaching, at the University Rio Grande, Ohio in 2001, led to the Commander being hired by Rio Grande as a part time instructor, mentor and summer branch Program Director. As a mentor he assisted over 40 graduate students earn degrees.

Traveling to China in 2005, he lectured at the University of Bao Ji in China during a 4-day education work shop. Martin was part of a 9-person team from the University of Rio Grande participating in the joint program created by the Universities.

The Transatlantic Outreach Program of Germany and The Korean Foundation both chose Don in 2008 to participate in their respective study tour educator programs, each lasting about two-weeks. South Korea's program included a visit to the DMZ and brief entrance into North Korea.

Chosen a Fulbright Scholar in 2010, he traveled to 8 states in Brazil while participating in the 26-day Seminar Abroad Program, *"Diversity in Education: Attempts at Bridging a Historical Gap"*.

Selected a National Endowment of the Humanities Scholar in 2014 and 2015 Martin attended the 8 day workshops *"Mesa Verde National Park: Pueblo Culture in the American Southwest"* in Colorado and *"Mining in the Far West, 1862-1920"* in Montana.

Receiving the Ohio Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award in 2008 from the Sons of the American Revolution, he was a National Finalist. A member since 2006, Martin was the President of the Arthur St Clair Chapter 2009-2011.

An Assistant Cub/Boy Scout Leader 1995-2006 and District Committee Member, 2007-2008, Don was also a Merit badge counselor. He assisted in 4 Eagle Scout Projects and was the Master of Ceremonies for two Eagle Scout Ceremonies.

Commander Martin has been a member of the Ohio Ornithological Society since 2018, Ross County Historical Society since 2023. An avid traveler he has been provided the opportunity to visit all seven continents, thirty countries, all fifty states, and over 170 National Parks.

Wife Sherry, a native of Los Angeles, and Commander Martin were married while both served on active duty at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. They have a daughter, son) and 4 grandchildren.

