

# Robert E. Grim



Robert E. Grim served as Commander of the Ohio Department SUVCW from June 1994 to June 1995. He served as Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders Central Region Association 1997-1998 and served as the 116<sup>th</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW 2002 – 2003. He received the SUVCW Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star at the 2006 National Encampment held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In 2018 he received the Elmer Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a leader in getting the Ohio General Assembly to pass the Ohio Veterans Heritage Protection Act in 2022.

He joined the SUVCW on March 26, 1988, as a member-at-large of the Ohio Department. His membership is based on the military service of his great grandfather William F. Grim who served in Company K, 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Cavalry from 29 Feb. 1864 to 30 July 1865. He transferred his membership in 1990 to the Gov. William Dennison Camp No. 125 which was meeting in Jackson, Ohio. In 1992 he recruited 26 new members and organized Henry Casey Camp 92 in Washington Court House, Ohio. He was elected commander of the camp and served in that post until 1995 when he was elected camp treasurer; a position he still holds in 2026.

He started his SVR career by enlisting as a private in Battery I, 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Light Artillery on May 12, 1992. He qualified as an artillerist at the National Civil War Artillery Training School at Old Fort Niagara, New York on May 23, 1993. He also completed the National Civil War Artillery Association School of the Piece sponsored by the First Ohio Light Artillery Battery I

held in Chillicothe, Ohio

In 1993 Grim organized Company C, 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served as its commander until 1997 when he was promoted to major and appointed commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District. In 1998 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed SVR Adjutant General. In 2000 he was promoted to colonel and on November 17, 2001, he was awarded the SVR Distinguished Service Medal and appointed Deputy Commander of the SVR. A position he held until he was commissioned brigadier general and appointed commander of the SVR on November 17, 2007. On November 20, 2010, he was promoted to major general becoming the first person in the history of the SVR to hold that rank. After 16 years of service as commanding general of the SVR, Grim retired in November 2023 and was transferred to the SVR Inactive Reserve as a major general.

He was born in Madison Mills, Ohio and grew up in nearby Bloomingburg and graduated from Bloomingburg High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and a Master of Education degree from Xavier University. In 1968 he was elected President of the Bloomingburg Board of Public Affairs (Responsible for the village water and sewer system). Two years later in 1970 he was elected to the Bloomingburg Council but resigned his seat to fill an unexpired term as village clerk-treasurer. In 1972 he was elected to a four-year term as clerk-treasurer.

He served a four-year enlistment in the United States Air Force. He was assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and served during the beginning of the Vietnam War. He served a two-year tour of duty in Morocco, North Africa. On November 2, 2006, he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame by Ohio Governor Bob Taft. He is a member of the Paul H. Hughey American Legion Post No. 25 in Washington Court House, Ohio.

In 2001 he retired from Miami Trace High School near Washington Court House, Ohio after 34 years as an educator. He received numerous awards during his teaching career including the Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator Award in 1974 and the DAR Teacher of the Year Award in 1995 and the Ashland Oil Co. Golden Apple Achiever Award. In 1996 and again in 2000 he was nominated by students to Who is Who Among America's Teachers. At the time of his retirement, he was completing ten years as chairman of the social studies department and was president of the Miami Trace Education Assn. He is a member of both the Fayette County and Ohio Retired Teachers Assn. and received their Community Service Award in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

He is active in numerous civic, Masonic, hereditary and patriotic organizations. He was appointed to Ohio Selective Service Board 15 (Clinton and Warren Counties) by President George H. W. Bush in 1990 and served twenty years; the maximum time allowed.

He served as Governor General of the National Society Sons of Colonial New England from 2005-07, and was elected Honorary Governor General in 2007. He served as President of the Ohio Society of the War of 1812 in the state of Ohio from 1993 to 1996 and served as Registrar General of the General (National) Society of the War of 1812 from 2002 to 2008 at which time he was elected Registrar General Emeritus. He is a past president of the Arthur St. Clair Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Chapter in Chillicothe, Ohio and has

received numerous SAR awards. He is also a member of the SAR Color Guard.

He has been a member of New Holland Lodge 392 Free and Accepted Masons since 1977 and served as Worshipful Master in 1983 and again in 1984. He received their Distinguished Service Award in 1985 and their Community Service Award in 1991. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the Ohio 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District (Clinton, Fayette, Greene and Pickaway Counties) from 1986 – 1989, and was appointed Grand Lodge Representative to the Philippines Islands in 1986.

He has been a member of the Valley of Columbus Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite since 1979 and was knighted in the Royal Order of Scotland in 1991 in Washington D. C. He has been active in the York Rite since 1984 and was knighted in 1991 a Knight of the York Cross of Honour, and served as President of the Clinton County KYCH Club 1998-2000 and has been Hospitaler for Fayette County since 2015. He is a past Sovereign Master of Harry E. Sark Council 186 Allied Masonic Degrees and was elected Knight of the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri in 2000. He has been a Knight Mason of Ireland Shannon Council 28 since 1993 and served as High Priest of Tabernacle No. 2 Apollo Dramatic Chapter of Ohio Royal Arch Masons 1997-98.

He was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel in 1999 by Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton and commissioned an Arkansas Traveler in 2020 by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. He has been a Notary Public since 1967 and was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 2022 in a ceremony at the Ohio State House in Columbus.

He is a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society and a member of the Society of the Families of the Old Northwest Territory; the First Families of Ohio, Settlers and Builders of Ohio, Century Families of Ohio, Civil War Families of Ohio, First Families of Fayette County and the Pioneer Families of Ross County and Scioto County.

He married Charlotte A. Morris (Cassio) in 1976 and they will celebrate their golden anniversary in July 2026. She was a business teacher at Miami Trace H. H. and retired in 2003. Their son Irvn and his wife Carolin have three children: Jason, Michael and Joshua. Grim and his wife have been active members of the Clinton County Western Square Dance Club since 1992. They were nominated to represent at the club at Miami Dance Council Honor Dance in 2012 and again in 2024. They have traveled throughout the country to participate in 15 national square dance conventions.