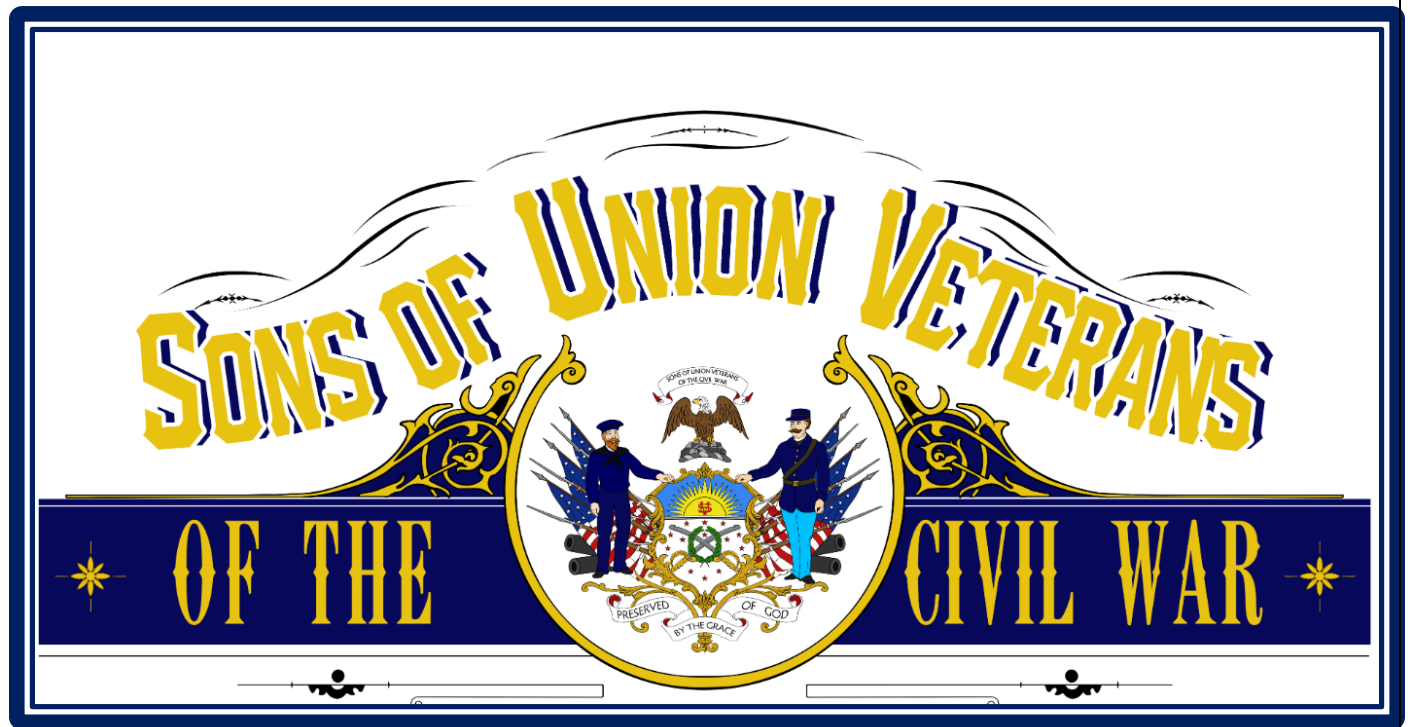




DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

144th Annual Encampment

June 13, 2026

2026 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Guide, determine if all present are entitled to remain. And Color Bearer, to the right.

(Chatter.)

(Brief pause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Ready? Okay.
The Secretary will call the roll of officers of the Department.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Senior Vice Commander.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Junior Vice Commander is present. Secretary, present. The Treasurer is excused. Department Council 1, Don Darby.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL DON DARBY: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council 2, John Huffman.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL JOHN HUFFMAN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council 3, Steve Ball.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL STEVE BALL: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chief of Staff.

CHIEF OF STAFF JOHNATHAN DAVIS: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Patriotic Instructor.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR R. MICHAEL MERSHON: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chaplain.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN J. THOMAS MCBRAYER: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Counselor.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: I am.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Assistant
Treasurer, James Crane.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Color Bearer.

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER RON MARVIN: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Guide.

DEPARTMENT GUIDE DOUG BOWEN: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Guard.

DEPARTMENT GUARD GRANT BATES: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: GAR Records
Officer.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: GAR Highway
Officer.

DEPARTMENT GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER PETER HRITSKO, JR.:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Graves
Registration.

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION KENT DORR: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Eagle Scout
Coordinator.

DEPARTMENT EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING:
Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Signals Officer.
I'm representing that. *Buckeye Bugle* Editor.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Buffington Island
Representative was excused. Memorials Officer.

DEPARTMENT MEMORIALS OFFICER RONALD MARVIN, JR.:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Sir, the roll of officers is called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Brothers, upon the principles of our Order, yeah, it's right there in front of me, Brothers, upon the principles of our Order founded and what the duties we do inculcate?

IN UNISON: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Brothers, we meet again as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in our annual session to review the work of the past and plan and for the future. May our conduct and our deliberations be marked by mutual tolerance and fraternity, courtesy, even keeping in our minds the duties to our Country, and to the Order, to ourselves.

The Chaplain will invoke the Divine blessing.

(Three raps *)**

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN J. THOMAS MCBRAYER: Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, the High and Mighty Ruler of the universe, who looks down upon the government of men, we earnestly ask your favor to bless our native land and preserve in purity and integrity its free institutions for all coming time. Bless our Order. Grant that it may long exist, and that it may continue to be an instrument of great good to all. Give us willing hands and ready hearts to carry out properly its principles and objectives. Keep green in our minds the memory of those who sacrificed so much that the life of the nation might be preserved, and deal with them in all things with your special mercy. Give us your aid in conducting the business for which we are assembled and so bless us that Charity and Justice, and Peace and Harmony shall remain and flow from us. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Color Bearer, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN UNISON: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Okay. By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby declare the 144th Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it.

(One rap *)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: These are the rules of the encampment:

Number 1, we will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Number 2, Officers will not read their reports. Corrections or additions to submitted reports are not to exceed three minutes.

Any Brother wishing to be recognized will raise a hand and wait until they're called on. Once recognized by the Chair, please come to the podium, well, you're going to go to that mic right there, and identify yourself, the name of the Camp you so represent, and you will have an accurate record for the proceedings.

No Brother will speak more than once on a subject unless answering a question.

Brothers may speak no more than two minutes on a topic.

We are on a time limit in this room, so please bear in mind that we will try to work our way through the busy agenda quickly as we can.

All discussions will be conducted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Okay. Brother Secretary, please read the roll of the Camps.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANNN: Camp #1, Governor William Dennison.

CAMP #1 GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON REPRESENTATIVE:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANNN: Camp #2 General Benjamin D. Fearing.

CAMP #2 GENERAL BENJAMIN D. FEARING REPRESENTATIVE:
(No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANNN: Camp #7 Brooks-Grant.

CAMP #7 BROOKS-GRANT REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANNN: Camp #10 General William Lytle.

CAMP #10 GENERAL WILLIAM LYTLE REPRESENTATIVE:

Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #12 General William McLaughlin.

CAMP #12 GENERAL WILLIAM MCLAUGHLIN REPRESENTATIVE:

Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #14, John S. Kountz.

CAMP #14 JOHN S. KOUNTZ REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #21 William McKinley.

CAMP #21 WILLIAM MCKINLEY REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #26 Vienna.

CAMP #26 VIENNA REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #33 Jacob Parrott.

CAMP #33 JACOB PARROTT REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #43 Philip Triem.

CAMP #43 PHILIP TRIEM REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #73 Sergeant William (sic) Enderlin.

CAMP #73 SERGEANT RICHARD ENDERLIN REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #89 Chaplain William Earnshaw.

CAMP #89 CHAPLAIN WILLIAM EARNSHAW REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #92 Henry Casey.

CAMP #92 HENRY CASEY REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #93 William T. Sherman.

CAMP #93 WILLIAM SHERMAN REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #108 John S. Townsend.

CAMP #108 JOHN S. TOWNSEND REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #126 Cadot-Blessing.

CAMP #126 CADOT-BLESSING REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #142 James A. Garfield.

CAMP #142 JAMES A. GARFIELD REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Sir, the roll of camps is called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: At this time, we will recognize our guests. Guide, please escort them to the podium if they wish to address the Encampment. Brothers, please join me in welcoming them. And we have Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Tucker.

(Applause.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Thank you. Good morning, Brothers. I have a little hot air to get rid of, so bear with me if you will.

Brothers of the Department of Ohio, it's an honor and privilege to stand before you today as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I bring you the fraternal greetings, admiration, and sincere appreciation of our entire Order.

Brothers, the Department of Ohio occupy the place of extraordinary distinction in both the history of our Order and the history of our Nation. When the Republic was threatened by Civil War, Ohio answered President Lincoln's call with unparalleled dedication. The Buckeye State supplied the third highest total number of Union soldiers, surpassed only by New York and Pennsylvania. Yet, perhaps more remarkably, Ohio recorded the highest per capita military participation of any Union state. Nearly 60 percent of Ohio's military-aged men, those between 18 and 45, served in the Armed Forces of the Union. Think about that. Six out of every ten eligible Ohio men answered the call to preserve the Nation. Hundreds of Ohio Infantry, Calvary, and Artillery units marched into the crucible of war carrying the hopes of their communities and the future of

the Republic on their shoulders.

Ohio's contribution extended beyond numbers alone. More than 5,000 African-American Ohioans served in the United States Colored Troops, courageously fighting for the preservation of the Union and the cause of human freedom. That service stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by countless Americans seeking a more perfect union.

This state also produced some of the most influential Military leaders in American history. Ohio is home to Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, Phillip Henry Sheridan, Commanders whose leadership helped secure the Union victory and preserve the Nation.

Although much of the conflict was fought far from Ohio's borders, the war touched this state directly. In 1863, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan led his calvary force through the southern and eastern Ohio during what become known as Morgan's Raid. This was the only significant Confederate Military campaign within this state. The raid ended with the defeat and capture of Morgan's forces at the Battle of Salineville, I hope I said that right, sorry, the northern most battle of the Civil War.

Ohio played a significant role in housing Confederate prisoners of war also. Camp Chase in Columbus and Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay became well-known prison camps. Johnson's Island alone confined approximately 15,000 Confederate officers during the course of the war.

One of the most remarkable examples of Ohio's patriotism occurred in 1862 when Confederate forces threatened Cincinnati. Governor David Tod called upon civilians to help defend the city. Thousands of Ohio volunteers answered the call, arriving with their personal hunting rifles and shotguns. Known affectionately as the Squirrel Hunters, these ordinary citizens built fortifications and stood ready to defend their homes and their state from invasion. Their willingness to serve exemplified the determination of Ohio's people to preserve the Union. The cost of victory was immense. More than 35,000 Ohioans died in service to the Country. 35,000 fathers, 35,000 sons, 35,000 brothers. Their sacrifice helped secure the survival of the United States and the abolition of slavery.

The influence of Ohio's Civil War generation continued long after Appomattox. Five Union officers with Ohio ties would later become President of the United States; Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley. Their leadership reflected the enduring impact Ohio veterans had on the Nation they fought to preserve.

When the Grand Army of the Republic was formed after the war, Ohio veterans became some of its most devoted members and leaders. Across the state, the GAR Posts promoted patriotism, care for veterans and their families, established Memorial Day traditions, and ensured that the sacrifices of the Union soldier would never be forgotten. The Grand Army of the Republic flourished throughout the state. Great posts of veterans gathered in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Akron, Canton, and countless other small communities across the Buckeye state. By the early twentieth century, Cleveland alone maintained eight active GAR Posts with nearly 900 members. In Cincinnati, Posts such as George H. Thomas Post #13, William H. Lytle Post #47, Israel Ludlow Post #76, and Fred C. Jones Post #41 became pillars of veteran activity. Dayton's Old Guard Post #23 became one of the State's most respected veterans' organizations. And this city was home to the influential -- to many influential posts such as J.C. McCoy's Post #1 and Josuha W. Wells Post #451. Across Ohio, these posts were not really meeting places, but centers of patriotism, charity, remembrance, and civic leadership. Brothers, as I said, Ohio holds a unique and honored place not only in the history of our Nation and the great Army of the Republic, but also in the history of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Throughout its history, the Department of Ohio has produced an extraordinary number of leaders who have guided the Order at the National level. As I reflect on my own journey of more than three decades in this Order, I'm reminded of just how profound Ohio's influence has been. During my 30 years of service in the Sons of Union Veterans, I have had the privilege of serving, personally serving, under and learning from six Commanders-in-Chief from the Department of Ohio: Bob Grimm, Don Darby, young Dave Medert, Ken Freshley, Don Martin, and Pete Hritsko. I know there are many more that served as Commander-in-Chief before I joined and were still serving with the Order with great dedication when I became active in 1996. Past Commanders-in-Chief Gordon Bury, Jack Corfman, and old Dave Medert. Each brought his own considerable strengths, talents, and leadership style to our Order. Each helped shape the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War into the organization we all know today. And each in his own way demonstrated the dedication, commitment, patriotism that have long distinguished the Department of Ohio.

That record of leadership is not a coincidence. It's the product of generations of Brothers who have embraced service, preserved our history, and accepted the responsibility of leadership when called upon to do so. Ohio's fingerprints can be found throughout the history of our Order. Its influence has been felt in our Camps, Departments, National Encampments,

and the continued growth and success of our Brotherhood. For that reason, Brothers, I stand before the Department of Ohio today, I do so not only with admiration for your Civil War heritage, but with deep gratitude for your decades of leadership and service to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil.

Today, Brothers, we are the heirs of that legacy. We cannot stand where our ancestors stood. We cannot march where they marched. We cannot know the full measure of what they endured. Yet, we can honor them through our actions. Every Camp meeting, every Memorial Service, every grave decorated, every young person taught about the Civil War each becomes part of a sacred trust that has been passed on to us. The future of the Order does not rest solely on traditions. It rests on our willingness to carry those traditions forward. The veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic did not preserve the Union merely for its own generation. They preserved it for all those who would come after them. Likewise, we must ensure that the stories of courage, sacrifice, National unity remain alive for future generations.

Today, our Nation continues to be defended by great Americans serving around the globe. Though the battlefields are different, the spirit of service remains the same. The young men and women of our Armed Forces carry forward a tradition of duty that stretches from the soldiers of the Union army to service members of today. Therefore, let us keep them in our prayers. Let us pray for our soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, Guardians, and coastguardsmen serving in dangerous and hostile regions around the world. May God watch over them, may He protect them, may He strengthen their families, and may He return them safely home to their loved ones.

I'm getting there, guys. Brothers, this year, our Nation commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. 250 years ago, our Founding Fathers proclaimed to the world that all men are created equal, and that liberty is the birthright of every human being. The Declaration of Independence gave birth to the American Republic. But nearly 90 years later, the Republic faced its greatest test. The Nation founded in 1776 stood on the brink of destruction. The principles proclaimed in Philadelphia were challenged by rebellion, division, and civil war. It was then that the Boys in Blue answered the call. They marched from farms, factories, towns and cities, including hundreds of thousands from here in Ohio, to preserve the Nation that the Declaration had created. The Declaration of Independence founded the United States. The Union soldier preserved it.

As Son of Union Veterans, we are uniquely entrusted with telling both parts of those stories. We must remind future generations that our freedom, as first declared by the Congress

and later defended by the citizen soldiers who wore the Blue.

In this season of America's Semi-quincentennial, let us recommit ourselves to preserving history. Let us tell the story of 1776, and let us tell the story of 1861, and let us be sure that future generations understand that the same Nation born in Independence Hall was saved on the battlefields of the Civil War. But without the Declaration, there would be no United States and without the sacrifice of the Boys in Blue, there might not have been a United States to celebrate 250 years later.

Brothers, the Department of Ohio has much to be proud of. Your dedication to preserving the memory of the Great Army of the Republic and the Union soldier continues a known tradition. As we move forward together, let us remain steadfast in our purpose, faithful to our principles, and united in our mission. May we always remember that we are not merely students of history, we are its guardians. Forward, Brothers, always forward to the work of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: The Department of Ohio traditionally gives a gift to the Commander-in-Chief. This year (indiscernible - away from microphone).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's my favorite.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Thank you very much. I can't take this on the plane, but I'm going to try to drink it all today.

(Laughter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: So if you see him stagger out of here, you'll understand.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can help you.

(Laughter.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: I told Darby that I requested (indiscernible - away from microphone).

BROTHER DON DARBY: I can drive that to Gettysburg for you if you --

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He'll deliver a bottle.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah. It might

not be full.

Okay. At this time, I would like to recognize the Past Ohio Department Commanders and Past Commanders-in-Chiefs. Brothers, please rise when I call your names. So let's start with Commanders-in-Chief. We got Pete Hritsko and this guy here, Don Darby. I don't think we have any others.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: And I don't have a list. So Past Department Commanders, please stand up, and I'll call your name. All right. We got Brad Tilton. We got Jim Crane. We got Don Darby. We got oh, Huffman. We got Al Howey, Spaulding, Pete Hritsko. Yeah, there's Jonathan Davis --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shane Milburn.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Shane Milburn and Steve Ball.

(Applause.)

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jonathan --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah, I got Jonathan.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Brad Tilton, James Crane, and Kent Dorr are appointed to the Credentials Committee. And I guess, Brad, Brad, you're going to be the Chairman appointed to Credentials Committee, Chair. So you can give a report.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRAD TILTON: All right. Commander, Brothers, I'd like to give a Credentials Committee Report. I'm Brad Tilton, Camp #12, Past Department Commander. Has everybody that came today, is everybody signed in, paid their \$5.00, got a member -- an Encampment badge? Okay, great. So today, you will remember that for voting purposes, each Camp gets one vote for ten members in their Camp. All Past Camp Commanders, all Past Department Commanders each get a vote regardless. So today, we have nobody from members-at-large. Governor William Dennison will have five votes. Camp #2, Fearing Camp, we assume two people are on their way. If they get here, they will have two votes, each a vote each. No one from Brooks-Grant. William Lytle Camp will have three votes, and they also have one Junior. I'm sorry, Juniors don't get to vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. He's a full member.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRAD TILTON:

Oh, he's oh, 14. Okay. Then you're eligible to vote. So that will be four for the Lytle Camp. Camp #12, three votes. John Kountz Camp #14 has one vote. No one from William McKinley. No one from Vienna. Jacob Parrott Camp will have six votes today. No one from Triem. Enderlin Camp has two votes today. Earnshaw Camp has one. Henry Casey Camp #92 has two votes. William Sherman Camp #93 has three votes. John Townsend Camp #108 has four votes. No one from Cadot-Blessing, and Garfield Camp #142 has one vote. So that means we have a total of 32 Ohio members today, 32 votes. Everyone in the room is qualified at this time. If I made any mistakes, let me know, and we'll get it corrected by the time voting starts. Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. Okay. I am appointing the following assignments for the Encampment: Resolutions Committee will be John Edelmann. Parliamentarian will be Don Darby. And Officers' Reports will be John Edelmann. Okay.

The proceedings from the last Encampment have been posted for review on the Department's website. Are there any corrections?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: At this time, I will entertain a motion to approve the proceedings.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need to state names.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need, yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: You need to state your name. Stand up, state your name.

BROTHER MICHAEL SPAULDING: Mike Spaulding, PDC, Sherman Camp. I make the motion to approve the --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Proceedings.

BROTHER MICHAEL SPAULDING: -- proceedings from the last Encampment.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there a second?

BROTHER PETE HRITSKO: Pete Hritsko, Past Commander-in-Chief, Past Department Commander. I second the proceeding motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What Camp?

BROTHER PETE HRITSKO: Oh, Camp, Garfield #142.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Is there any discussion? There shouldn't be. Good. All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Passed. Okay. We will now review the reports of the Officers and Camps. As a reminder, we will read -- not read the submitted reports, and there will be a three-minute time limit on oral updates or corrections to the submitted report. The Secretary will now lead us through those reports.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Thank you. The first will be the Commander's Report. You do not have to read --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. Senior Vice Commander's report is on page 18. The Junior Vice Commander's report is there. Secretary's report, I would like to just point out how the membership strength has been going over the last couple years. In '24, it was 387. 2025, we actually had a correction, so it was 380 instead of 379. This year, we are at 385. However, I would like to make a mention that the Department has received several requests for inquiries. So there is a large push of getting new members to the tune of, like, five or six or seven individuals who have been referred either to the member-at-large camp or to camps -- especially Garfield. You guys really are having a lot of activity up in the northeast part of the state for some reason. So hopefully, they will be joining the Camp there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have, like, two or three that have already joined.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Right, right. So that's great. So you know, the next, 2027, God willing, it should be more than that actually. And again, we did have the Camp #14 that was joined.

And I would just like to call your attention that most of the Camps did -- all the Camp's rosters are now on the roll sheets so that we can keep track of everybody's rosters. Whether you use them locally or not, I keep them up to date with all the information that you send to the Department if you haven't already done that. So other than that, we won't belabor that.

The Treasurer's report will be done later when that comes in the agenda. So we'll skip over that report. The Graves Registration report, all that is there for the reading when the -- otherwise, the agenda gets boring. You can look at that. Then we go on to the Camp's reports. Dennison Camp, everybody there, Camp #2 submitted. I'd like to move forward to, I believe, Camp #108 has something that they would like to bring up. If anyone else would like to that I'm listing, don't hesitate to raise your hand for a report that was submitted.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Okay. Yeah, this is Camp #108. There's an addition, a very important addition, to number five on my report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Carl, Carl, can you announce who you are?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Oh, I'm Carl Denbow. I'm Camp Commander of Townsend Camp #108, the John S. Townsend Camp #108. Now that I've said that, this is an important addition to point number five. This is really great news. In fact, I just checked and as of yesterday, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 450. And in Senate Bill 450, there's \$375,000 for the renovation and actually moving of the GAR Hall in Frost, Ohio. The plan is at this point to move it to Stewart, which is about five miles away and it's on a paved road. To get to the Frost GAR Hall now, you have to actually go from a paved road to a gravel road to a dirt road. It's very inaccessible.

So what I have to do next is I'm no expert on construction. I've got to talk to people who are in the construction business and figure out how to phase the project. It's probably going to cost \$750,000 for the whole project. So we have in the bill that was just passed and signed by the Governor the 375,000 plus we have 50,000 that was already there that's been held over for, like, two different bienniums that was given to us in a previous capital improvements budget for a total of 425,000 that we now have available to us for this project.

And I should also thank several different people who really made this possible, who helped work with the State Senator Chavez to get this done. Frank Scaturro and also Steve Ball were very, very helpful in that process and just wanted to thank them for their help.

So that's kind of where we are, trying to divide it into different phases so that we can get in this biennium at least a good portion of it done. I don't know exactly how that's going to break out. As I say, I'm not an expert in the construction area. So and particularly, Senator Chavez, I don't know all the details, but he did really yeoman work to get this into the budget and to get it passed. So that's my addendum to the report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Thank you, sir. Going on, we have a report from Camp #126. Nothing was submitted from Garfield Camp. And that is the Officer and Camp reports, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All right. We will now review the Committee reports. Again, we will not submit the reports, and there is a three-minute time limit on oral updates or corrections to submit the reports. Monuments and Memorials, Kelly Hopkins.

DEPARTMENT MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KELLY HOPKINS: No, I've already submitted that report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Encampment Site and Planning.

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT SITE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE: We're here.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Good. Bylaws Committee, John Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN EDELMANN: No activity.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. We will now review any submitted resolutions.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: If you notice on page 43, there were no submitted resolutions. At this time, do we have any resolutions from the floor?

BROTHER DON DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Past Department Commander, Enderlin Camp #73. Enderlin Camp #73 had a vote for a resolution to submit to National,

which means it has to be in my hands by not later than the 25th because we have to vote on it. The resolution was that basically a rehash of a resolution that was sent in before to make the *Banner* an all-electronic distribution. The reason for this is basically all the organizations I belong to have gone away from paper copy magazines. The *Banner* right now, I believe, costs \$58,000 to print every year. That's \$58,000 that the Order could save simply by doing it electronically. It would be sent from basically the *Banner* Editor to the Department Secretary, the Department Secretary, to the Camp Secretaries, and then the Camp Secretaries sending it to their members. We can make it much bigger than it is. You see the *Banner* or our *Buckeye Bugle* is over 40 pages. The -- what's the other thing that Don --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *Tales of the GAR.*

BROTHER DON DARBY: Yeah, the *Tales of the GAR*, that's another 40 pages, and it costs us basically the cost of having the Internet. So we go from basically \$58,000 to down to less than probably \$2,000 because Brother Pahl would have to have it set up as to how they make the magazine. So that's what we're proposing. You would have to vote here to have that resolution sent to National.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there a motion that we do this resolution?

BROTHER MICHAEL SPAULDING: Mike Spaulding, PDC, Sherman Camp. I move that the Department approves the resolution as described by Past Commander-in-Chief Darby and send it to National.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Do we have a second?

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: John Huffman, Past Department Commander, Enderlin Camp. I do second the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there any discussion?

BROTHER AL HOWEY: Al Howey, PDC, Chaplain, Earnshaw Camp. Would there be a corresponding decrease in National dues as a result and should that be a part of the resolution?

BROTHER DON DARBY: I cannot talk to that because that would be something that National would have to vote on and discuss. So I can't give you an answer on that. Personally, I don't think it should because I just don't think it should. But that's my two cents.

BROTHER JOHN EDELMANN: On that, this is John Edelmann, Department Secretary, Sherman Camp. Just for to Howey's point, keep in mind that the increase that occurred in Battle Creek, I believe, was specifically to offset costs of the printing. But I don't disagree with Commander-in-Chief Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief Darby that it probably at this point given how long ago that was, costs have increased in general. So just a point.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Anybody else?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All those in favor of the resolution, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All opposed, say nay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Passed.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Are there any other resolutions?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Camp Commander, John S. Townsend Camp #108. This is just a question whether this would be appropriate. Would it be appropriate to have a resolution thanking State Senator Brian Chavez for the work that he's done. I know when I was at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we gave awards to, like, almost every State Legislator who helped passed the bill who created our college. We were very careful to do it in the years when the particular Senator or Representative was not up for reelection. Brian is not up for reelection until 2028. So this is just a question. Would that be appropriate?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Counselor?

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: The Counselor's thinking. I'm thinking.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Thinking is good.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: I understand what you're trying to do. But Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department Counselor. I understand what you're trying to do. I

think it could be justified, but I also want to bring up that the Sons is not a political organization, and --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: -- that really lends us to in a roundabout way giving him support for a future, you know, he could say I got it. My personal opinion is that I don't believe that is -- it should be done.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Okay. Is this something that we could ask, like, legal counsel about and revisit, like, maybe --

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: Legal counsel as in who?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: I don't know. We must have legal counsel for the --

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: You have a National Counselor.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Right.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: And if you wish to have the incoming Department Commander bring that to his attention -- don't be bashful over there, Commander-in-Chief.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: Ed Norris is who you want to address it to. Ed Norris is the National Counselor --

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: But Kelly, that's who you would -- Kelly would be the one that contacts the National Counselor for a write up. But I just, I understand --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: -- and saying thank you for a ton of money, but I also question whether it actually --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Yeah. I understand the reservations too. So I was just raising this as a possibility. So we'll try to take it up the way you described and see what happens. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. Anybody else? All right. Let's move on.

Department Secretary, has the Department received any communications?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Start with recommendations.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Oh, recommendations, sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Page 43.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah. On page 43, you'll also note that there are some Officer Report Recommendations. One is from the Eagle Scout Coordinator encouraging and recommending every Camp Eagle Coordinator or Camp Commander to find at least one local Boy Scout troop, sponsored perhaps by a local church or American Legion chapter and discuss the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Eagle Scout Program. Mike, would you like to have any other comments on that? I think --

DEPARTMENT EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING: I think it's self-explanatory.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: And then, secondly from the Signals Office, we would recommend that the Camps be invited to leverage available websites should they desire a hosting service for their own local Camp site. This can be accomplished with access credentials separate from those used to manage the Department website. If approved, an invitation would be sent to all Camps of the Department to solicit interest in this endeavor. The Department Signals Officer would not be responsible for the design or any other support should a Camp wish to take advantage of the offer. Just make sure you understand, the Department's Bluehost web service has room for 20 websites included in what is being paid. I don't know it's just that's the tier. And so we are only using one officially, and one to play with the test of the new website with. That leaves 18, which is more than the Camps that we have, and certainly more than any Camp would have, you know, a website. So I would like to approve -- I guess we should approve these recommendations. Do they require a vote in a normal -- I think that's what we've done in the past.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: Are you going to bring this up under new business or the Officer Reports and do it now?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Well, this is under the Officer Reports for recommendations. I think last year we did it right now. We just had a motion, you know, a motion on the floor to accept the recommendations.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: You can do it now if you wish to vote on it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's start with Eagle --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. On the Eagle Scout, we have a motion -- yeah, we have a motion to present this communiqué or this report?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Recommendation.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Recommendation.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. I make a motion that we accept the recommendation of the Eagle Scout Coordinator.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Do we have a second?

BROTHER RONALD MARVIN, JR.: Ronald Marvin, Jr., Jacob Parrott Camp #33. I second the recommendation, the Eagle Scout project.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Next.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. I make a motion we accept the recommendation for the Signals Officer?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Now, do we have a second?

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: John Huffman, Past Department Commander, Enderlin Camp. I second the recommendation of the Signals Officer.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Any discussion?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Passed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now it goes to the communications.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Department Secretary, has the Department received any communications?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes, sir. The communications received include the letters of intent, both at the National and the Department level, which you will find at the end of the documents in your booklet that you're holding. We've also had several communications from the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief regarding new member inquiries as I previously mentioned, and that's basically it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. The Department Council has already received and approved both the Department Financial Report and budget for 2026. Assistant Treasurer, please present the Financial Report and budget for the record.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What page is that?

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: 21.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 21, okay.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Page 21.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are we going to do the budget first?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, in order, it's the first thing -- report, the financial report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Treasurer's Report.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: As you know, several years ago we started to invest our money very well. And the top lines there are the CDs that we have and how much goes where. The general fund 70 -- you get down to the breakdown of the various funds we have, including the Chase business checking, which is there, you see these nice pretty colors and there that the Treasurer has done along with John Edelmenn and stuff. So if anybody has any questions, go ahead and ask them but a lot of information is there. And actually, some of the checks haven't cleared yet when we did the audit meeting a week ago Sunday, and we came basically exactly what we have in the checkbook after all the checks clear. The check to National for the dues has not cleared yet. So it shows a different line of 49,164.40. So after the checks clear, we actually have excess of \$38,425.50. So money has been added, but actually you can read because I don't need to read this. But you can see how much is in the Monuments and Memorials Fund. We've got, you know, I think we've invested our money wisely. I really do. And everybody that's on that audit meeting, there's a lot of discussion that takes place, most of the time taken up by Past Commander-in-Chief Darby on that.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Every once in a while, we have to call him and wake him up and remind him that the meeting is going on. Anyway, but I can remember back when we had, like, \$20,000 in the Department. And then we started doing CDs and everything else. The interest rate that we had this year for everything was, like, \$4300. That's in here. You can read it. I'm not going to go over everything. It's there. But we're in pretty healthy shape right now, I believe. When you're making \$4000 a year, that's pretty good. So I don't know if we want to start lending money to other Departments out there at about ten percent interest. No takers?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're all set.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: No takers for Massachusetts? You guys don't need any money.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Budget for '26/'27. You'll see a light shaded blue line in there for the actual. And the reason that blue stuff is shaded in there is because those are basically not final numbers for this year because we're still basically in that time frame. So when you go across and you get to the registration, we figured it would be \$190 received this year in registration funds. So the budget is the far light -- right column. That is the budget for '26/'27. So you can read down there. If anybody has any

questions about anything, you know, go ahead and ask. Interest in the permanent fund, I mean, you know, that's -- I can remember when we were getting, like, seven, \$8 for interest for the permanent fund. Now, we're getting four or \$500 a year. So that's why I was talking about the Treasurer's Report. Then you get down into the actual budget. If you look to the left -- the right line, if anybody has any questions, Buffington Island is 50. Department Commander is \$750. Is that too much for the incoming Commander, Commander?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: No.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I can tell you this, going to Houston, that didn't cover the whole trip.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Yeah, I know.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Wasn't close.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Commander-in-Chief Representative, \$300. Luncheon, the expenses of \$2200. We are paying -- Past Department Commander Huffman, what was the room rental, I forget, for this function today? Was it \$400?

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Sounds right, like five; is that right, John?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: \$500 to rent the space here today. Printing, \$300. Decorations and awards, 400. Proceedings, to have those done, 350. So I don't need to run down through here and read this all, but you can kind of look at it and just absorb it while I sit here and beat my chops up here. So anyhow, bereavement funds, we spent \$150 this past year. We have \$500 budgeted so on and so forth. So when you get down to it, it's those that we would make \$295 this year if we actually spend all the money that we have here or we could possibly spend more. So it just depends. But the Department is in great hands. It really is. And I'll tell you what, it's just fun being a part of it and see what goes on. Monuments and Memorials got a lot of money in there. So we didn't get any requests --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nope.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: That's all I have, Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Jim.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Question.

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT TREASURER JAMES CRANE: Yes, sir.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Enderlin #73 Camp, Department Counselor. I'm sure Brother Denbow is going to shoot me. I really question whether we want to give \$150 for the building fund if the Camp is sitting on, what did you say, 425,000?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I'm just wondering if we can better spend that in another project, and I don't know what that project -- I would just throwing out there do we want to continue with the \$150 to the Frost Camp for the building when they're sitting on almost a half a million? If -- I'm throwing it out there for discussion. You guys do what you want.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Kelly Hopkins, Senior Vice Commander. I have a question. How big is the hall?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How big is it?

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 20 by 40 by about 35 feet high, two stories.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: So once it's up and running and after it's moved, would the Department of Ohio be able to store items in it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A few, I suppose. I mean --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not climate, you know --

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: It's not climate controlled.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not climate --

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Because, you know, the question is, like, when a Camp goes under, we're gathering all their equipment back. And I'm in possession now of today with more stuff, and I gave all my stuff to John Edelmann when he stepped as Secretary, and we scanned a lot of that stuff, but we do have old records still. So we have all this material we need to find a place for it. We brought this up once before because a storage unit would cost so much money. So literally say, here's 150 for the storage, but the hall is not able to host that -- items, and that would be for a

later discussion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Camp Commander, John S. Townsend Camp #108, Frost, Ohio. I understand the sentiment. I guess I'm not totally against it. We've been receiving this money for a number of years. We've used it for such things as helping to put a new roof on 20 years ago. Certainly, they'll be continuing expenses even after we get the renovation completed. In terms of the storage, it just happens that nearby where the hall will be moved, there is a storage facility. It might be possible, I can't speak for the people who are in charge of that. One of the people in charge of that is actually a real estate guy in Athens County, one of the richest people in Athens County. He might be willing. He wants to have the GAR Hall moved, and he might be willing to do some kind of a storage, you know, for the kind of things you're talking about. So I can't speak for him, but that's a possibility.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: Frank Scaturro, member of Camp #108. Just say my own two cents. When a site is in danger, which the Frost GAR Hall is, it's important, I think, for all hands to be on deck to get as many funds as you can, modest donation, not-so-modest donations. Now, we're talking about something that has over 50 percent of its funding that's needed to complete this has been secured. There's a lot to be said for soliciting financial support in any amount from any number of individuals, organizations. I will say I'm a member, Associate Companion, of MOLLUS, on the committee that approves of projects like this, whether starred sites should get donations from the organization, and there are a good number of groups with a lot of, of course, overlapping missions with the Sons where hundreds of dollars are allocated to any number of sites with just a small, it's a drop in the bucket, of what those sites need for their annual operating expenses. But it means something that the organization is saying that we're giving financial support to this endeavor, not just endorsing its preservation, but supporting it financially. And I will say I don't want to put the cart before the horse because I still have to propose this in the next meeting that we have in the fall of MOLLUS, but I'm going to make a proposal that they add the Frost GAR Hall with a donation, very -- in fact, even more money than we're talking about for the same reasons that I think there is a lot of justification here for it. So I think it would be really worthwhile to have this included as appropriated. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. All

right. Go ahead, Brother Crane.

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: Thank you. Jim Crane, Past Department Commander, William Lytle Camp. I think if I remember correctly back many years ago, even before my time joining this Order, that this \$150 was being sent to the Frost to go ahead and help, you know, operate the hall. But it's -- I don't think it's open now, and basically so the \$150 I thought in the past was noted to maintain the operations of it, you know, electric bills and stuff like that. So that's what I thought all along that's what that was for. So yeah, it's a small amount of money, but if it's not open, good question is why do they get \$150. Maybe I'm wrong. Brad, you've been around a while, Brad Tilton. So you've got to speak up. You know, but I always felt that money was budgeted when I was Secretary/Treasurer for the operation of the hall because it was open. Brother Carl, how --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Well, I'll just point out that once the renovation's completed --

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Step up to that --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Camp Commander, Frost Camp #108. Once the renovation is completed, we will certainly have operating expenses. And these kinds of funds from the state and from MOLLUS, if that proposal goes through, would certainly be very, very helpful. We kind of estimated that we might have operating expenses of around \$5,000 a year once it's renovated. So we would certainly have use for those funds. And in the meantime, we certainly would keep them in our account and have them ready for when we did have operating expenses again.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.

(One rap *)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Not hearing a motion, we're going to move on. We will now go to old business. And there is no old business, is there? Is there any old business? Does anybody have any old business?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. We're going to move on to new business then. Does anyone have any new business? Oh, there being --

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. All right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is probably new business since it has to do with the Frost GAR Hall. When the Council voted on this up in Springfield, Illinois, one of the caveats that was had there was that they must have insurance to do this work. So --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The building is insured.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So it's not going to be moved, correct, or is it still going to be moved.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mic. Come up.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Camp Commander, Camp #108. The building is currently insured. We do have it fully insured if that's the question.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, what if it's moved? If it's in the process of moving, will it be insured for liability?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Yes, it is.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here we go.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Commander, I have a question, and this is the financial side of it. How is this 375,000 or \$50,000, how is that accounted for in your budget?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: At this point, it's, you know, it's state money. The state controlling board, we have to submit paperwork to the state to the Facilities Commission and then once we submit that paperwork, then once we decide what different phases we're going to have, then the state will issue, you know, they'll ask for bids. So it goes to the state controlling board.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. But I mean what -- so they're not giving you the \$350,000 --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: No, it doesn't go into our budget, no.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: We get to spend it, but it's got to go through the state controlling board.

BROTHER DON DARBY: And for whatever they determine is renovations is; is that correct?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Right, yeah. In other words, we'll have to make our, like, say phase one is moving the building, and say we decide there's several different possibilities of moving it. We can't move it intact. The possibility of moving the -- cutting it in half basically and taking the top half and moving it, then moving the bottom half is another proposal, to tear the whole building down and rebuild it. Whatever proposal turns out to be the most logical and the best one, we would have to submit a request for that to the state, and the state would have then bids go out and then people would bid on, you know, on doing that. And we have to pay prevailing wages and all sorts of state requirements.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. So --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: So the money is there. It's 100 percent for our use, but we have to go through all kinds of state paperwork.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. You know, just being a farm boy from Athens County, as I am, I would think it would be a lot cheaper just to shore up the foundation and leave it where it is, but you know --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And pave the road.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Well, part of that is access to the building. If it's moved in this new location, it can really become a good community resource that's actually in the same township, but it's much, much more accessible. You've been to the Frost GAR Hall, and you know it's off the beaten path. But yeah, this is something we're still kind of debating. But there's a lot of -- a lot of people with a lot of pull in Athens County, including Brent Hayes, the man I mentioned, who really want it near this park that he's developing in Stewart, and it could really become a real community center, which it was once in Frost. I mean, they used to have barn dances and things like that in it on the weekends and they had ice cream socials and all kinds of stuff for the community, and we could do that kind of thing again.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Let's be clear on one thing, if it gets moved, the ownership does not change, correct?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Right, yeah we --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: And the ground it sets on, the physical ground that it sets on will belong to Townsend Camp?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Right.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay.

BROTHER DON DARBY: What happens to the ground that it's currently sitting on?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: That's a good question. I suppose we could sell it. It wouldn't be worth much. I mean, it's a very small little plot. It's probably worth a thousand bucks maybe.

BROTHER DON DARBY: First law of economics, God ain't making any more land.

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, Carl, have you -- does anybody have a copy of the bill that was passed?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: I actually have a copy on my phone, just a little section that lists our GAR Hall.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does that bill say that you guys just get the money or is it saying you have to move it to get the money?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: No. It's just money for the renovation of the hall. It doesn't specify how we have to use it, no.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So if it can't be moved --

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: We can still use the money, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can still keep the money there and renovate the building?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all I got, sir. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Is there anything else?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Am I done?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: You're done. That was it. Okay.

BROTHER SCOTT BAKER: Scott Baker, current Camp Commander, McLaughlin Camp #12. I've been to this hall. It is in a bad location. There is no parking. You're not going to

get people there. It's an historical site. Why we're quibbling over \$150 a year is quite astounding to me when we're talking about something that can never be replaced, and they're trying to do their very level best to move it to some place to make it more accessible and maybe and help grow our organization. I also have relatives that probably went there who is buried in Stewart, who fought in the Civil War. So I'm just thinking as we're thinking about this, think of the historical context and what it really means. Maybe when it gets up and running, we can see it again. But right now, \$150 for me isn't that big of a deal for what we're talking about. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you make a motion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Nobody made a motion. So we're going to move on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is the motion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: No. You don't want a motion. Sit down.

(Laughter.)

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: You don't want a motion. Now, normally we would break for lunch, but we're way early because, you know, because I'm Don "Darbying" this right straight through. So let's go on to the next subject, which is on our Form 35, the Department Annual Report. We report 317 members in this Department, excluding Juniors and Dual Members. This means we are entitled to 16 National Delegates plus our automatic delegates. So please raise your hand if you are planning on going to the National Encampment. And please see our Department Secretary immediately after to request a delegate card.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I need to see the hands.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Hands up.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. I got to write these down now because we have to vote you in. So could you please -- well, okay. I just need to know if you are not entitled already by based on the -- so just need to know the ones who would be as a true delegate, not Past Department Commander, not Department Commanders. So you two are going. Names?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from

microphone.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Brothers, I just want to mention by the rules, you got 16 delegates allowed. If you don't elect 16 delegates, you can't use alternatives for that. You can't fill those slots.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: State your name.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Sorry, Kevin Tucker, Commander-in-Chief. So we need 16 names for Ohio in order to have the ability to have a full delegate slate. So even if you know you're not going, raise your hand if you're not a Past Department Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief or a Department Commander.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Good point. Okay. So yes, so --

BROTHER LIAM KIDD: Liam Kidd.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. Okay. Who else?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow and also John Murray from my Camp is going.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: John?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: John Murray.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. Athens?

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes, sir, in the back?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone) Jacob Parrott Camp #33.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Well, what city?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I beg your pardon?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: City?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Canton.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: (Indiscernible)

the city, okay. And then, anyone else?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need a bunch more.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: So yeah, because we will have -- we'll have two votes. The first vote is to approve this list, and then we will have another vote to approve everyone else as a alternate. But that's an interesting point.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: You have 16 people in the room --

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay.

BROTHER DON DARBY: You got Ron Marvin and Brad Bailey and --

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. Well, so at the risk of doing this, I'll just take the roster that is not already entitled as an automatic delegate. So then we need a motion to --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's got all the names.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: That's what I'm saying. So I'm not going to waste time to write these names down right now. So we just need a -- go ahead, sir.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: What do I need, a motion?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: You'll need to come up to see -- to get a delegate card.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah, come up after the meeting to get a delegate card. Do we need a motion now? I need a motion if you're going.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You got me confused.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. I will now entertain a motion from the floor to accept these delegate designates for the National Encampment. So go.

BROTHER PETE HRITSKO: Pete Hritsko, Past Commander--

in-Chief, the Garfield Camp #142. I make the motion to accept the proposal of the delegates for the National Encampment. 16 of them, I believe, right?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yes. Thank you.
Second?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. I second the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Opposed?

(No response.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Keep quiet back there.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. I will now entertain a motion from the floor to accept all attendees from the Department of Ohio as alternate delegates for the National Encampment.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All members in good standing at the time of this Encampment will be eligible for alternates.

BROTHER PETE HRITSKO: Pete Hritsko, Past Commander-in-Chief, Garfield Camp. I make a motion to accept the alternates that are all in good standings as of this Encampment.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Second?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. I second the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All right. All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: We will now discuss items for the Good of the Order. I remind Brothers that you are limited on time, so please keep your comments brief.

You have something to talk about?

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: Thank you. It's Frank Scaturro, member of Camp #108. What I'd like to bring to everyone's attention here, all our Brothers, is an organizational license plate drive that I'm helping with to authorize a Land of U.S. Grant license plate. Many of you know, the State of Ohio has organizational license plate program. There are dozens, if not even more than that, of organizational plates that you can choose that will benefit any number of worthy causes. Around here, you see probably the Ohio State license plates are most common, but there are, again, a large number of them. They cost \$30 more than whatever it costs to get a driver's license, \$20 of which goes to the cause, \$10 in administrative fee for the State. To get these license plates, you need to collect signatures and also legislative authorization. And I'm happy to announce that the legislative authorization track is doing very well. There is both a Senate, a State Senate, and House sponsor for legislation to authorize a Land of U.S. Grant license plate. Now, Land of U.S. Grant is the name of the organization that administers both Grant's birth place in Point Pleasant, and his boyhood home and schoolhouse in Georgetown. So it's sort of an umbrella group that administers both. These are, by the way, State historic sites. They're Ohio history connection sites, so they're not in private hands. But this is the group that runs them. And it's a great name. It's nice that we can actually take the name of the organization for the license plate because this corresponds nicely to Illinois residents, their Land of Lincoln license plates that you'll see all over. But to support this worthy cause of protecting these sites, and also by the way to have -- it would be the first license plate of its kinds honoring any of the --

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Commander, a point of order. Sorry. I hate to be (indiscernible) a party. This is lobbying, and you can't do -- the organization can't do lobbying without written permission from the Commander-in-Chief. So you have to submit something to the Commander-in-Chief saying we want to lobby for this. Brothers can certainly sign up to support this individually. But as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we can't do that. That is a process to that. That's --

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: Is it okay to -- I was actually not going to ask for any support of the legislation, which is a lobbying category. There are individual --

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Even asking for the (indiscernible) is a form of lobbying. You can ask individual Brothers to support it, but not as an organization.

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: So could I make -- that's

what I was actually going to ask. If I could do it individually, it doesn't even have to be part of the proceedings.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: So it wouldn't be part of Good of the Order then since we're in a meeting. You can't do it that way.

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: Could I make this announcement later then, maybe before lunch or if I can make it now --

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: It's not part of the official meeting. I didn't hear anything.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Do it at lunch, yeah.

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: All right. So I'll talk about it then. There's not much more to say other than --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Next?

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: -- signatures --

(Laughter.)

BROTHER FRANK SCATURRO: Yeah, not for in the proceedings. I'll talk to you later.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Any other Good of the Order. Oh, here we go. Brad.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Commander, Brad Tilton, Past Department Commander. Some of you may know that for the past year, I've been -- I was appointed as a Trustee for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Mansfield. And then, here recently, they asked me to be President of the Board of Trustees. So I accepted that. In the 1880s, the legislature of the State of Ohio approved a mechanism for in our case the Township to raise funds to build and furnish a Memorial Building. About 12 different municipalities in the State took them up on that. Mansfield, Madison Township, the original county was one of them. And our building still stands. There are maybe four or five other buildings that are still standing. I think there's one in Hamilton County, certainly the one in Mount Vernon and ours in Mansfield. So our building has been closed since the virus happened. But Camp #12 still meets there, and I'd just like to invite anybody that would like to see the building, contact me. I got the key. We can get you in. Of course, the purpose of a Memorial Building was to provide a place for veterans' groups and their Allied Orders to meet. And of course, in the 1880s, the only group was GAR. Our

first floor was originally a library. The second floor is a GAR Meeting Hall, and the third floor was a museum of sorts. So we're trying to get more organized, get things cleaned up, get the building back open to the public. But like I said, in the meantime, if you all are in Mansfield, want to take a look, give me a call, and we'll go through the building. Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: I've seen the building. I've been in it.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Camp Commander of Townsend Camp #108. This is a sort of an interesting situation. You may not know that the National GAR Chorister was a man from Jackson, Ohio. His name was J.W. Hank. And he recorded in about 1925 on a 78 record some veteran's songs. And I got a copy of that years ago from his great great grandson who allowed me to make digital copies of it, and we put on a CD. And it says National GAR Chorister, J.W. Hank, Jackson, Ohio. And the songs on it are The Little Brass Button, The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground, The Veterans Last Song, and yeah, I guess that's it. And if you're interested in a copy of this, for \$25, I can give you one. Not today, but I can send it to you. And those funds will go to our GAR Hall fund.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. Go ahead.

BROTHER BILL FISCHER: Commander, Brothers, my name is Bill Fischer. I'm a dual member of Dennison Camp #1, primary camp, Lt. Erza S. Griffin Camp in --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Hold on. I forgot to introduce Bill Fischer. He is Past Department Commander of Pennsylvania.

BROTHER BILL FISCHER: Sorry. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: He didn't get recognized when the rest of them --

BROTHER BILL FISCHER: That's quite all right. I was initiated in Dennison Camp 25 years ago or so, was a co-organizer and first Commander of the rejuvenated William McKinley #21 in Lancaster. Had a job change in 2010 and joined the National Park Service as a historian and moved to Kansas, then got promoted and transferred to Scranton, Pennsylvania. And I'm pleased to say that about a month ago, my wife and I were able to move back to Central Ohio and it's good to be a Buckeye again.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.
Brother McBrayer.

BROTHER TOM MCBRAYER: Tom McBrayer, Department Chaplain and Department JROTC/ROTC Award Coordinator. Just wanted to remind everyone if you have not done the Form 7's yet, I've got to have those right away. They're due up to National in a couple days. So thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.
Anyone that had a JROTC or ROTC Award, you've got to have the Form 7's in. Brother Crane?

BROTHER JIM CRANE: I'm getting tired of coming up here. Jim Crane, Past Department Commander, Lytle Camp #10. You know, I've been doing this for many years, and I just want to let you guys know that these two gentlemen sitting up here have been doing this a lot longer than I have. And I'll tell you what, you've got to thank these guys for the work you guys do up there, and do this every year. Brother Tilton, you get the ribbons every year and stuff. That takes a lot of stuff off of the guy who's doing this, who is John Huffman now. So I just want to thank all three of you gentlemen for doing what you're doing right now. I'll tell you what, you do a great job.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, I would suggest that we break, and if there's anymore Good of the Order, to continue after lunch. But we should let the ladies know here that, you know --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. We're about 25 minutes ahead, but yeah, we can break for now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. We need to let the ladies know since --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lunch will be right on noon.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah, lunch will be at noon. It's about 25 'til. So we'll have a little time to intermingle here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Should the Charter be draped?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: It is draped.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is draped.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Draped up at the top.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. That's not draped.
Okay. That's fine.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: It's big enough I can cover the whole charter. Okay. Chaplain, please prepare to close the Bible.

(One rap *)

(Two raps **)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay.

(One rap *)

(Break.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Brother Bates is going to present the Fred Lynch Award. Barbara, could you come on up too?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Thank you. Again, I'm Grant Bates, William Sherman Camp #93. It is my honor to be able to present the award named for Fredric C. Lynch. Many of you here knew Fred. Some of you may not. Fred had a profound effect on Sherman Camp and on the SUVCW as a whole. When Fred passed untimely, we at Sherman Camp with the permission of his wife, Barbara, decided to name an award in his honor. And we came up with a list of some guidelines on what kind of a person we would award this to. It is not something we give every year. We only hand out this award when somebody reaches the level to honor him in the same breath as Fred Lynch. Just a few of the parameters real quick. I'd just like you to read on what kind of a person we look for. Who demonstrates leadership and the recognition of the efforts and sacrifices of those who served this Country in military service. Promotes public understanding of local military history through educational activities, including public presentations, living history demonstrations, history writing, or similar activities. Exemplifies leadership and historical preservation including the preservation of artifacts, documents, manuscripts, oral history, real estate, or other items of historical importance especially relating to military history and the Civil War. Those of you who knew Fred, Fred was a mountain of enthusiasm and dedication and knowledge. He was such a mountain that unfortunately his small body could not contain it. Thus, that's why we have come up with this award. And on a personal note, just so you can understand a little bit

how Fred was, in my time I would come into a meeting beforehand and Fred would be there early as usual, and Fred wouldn't even greet me. He would just say, oh, Grant, I'm so glad I saw you, I just read this the other day and I knew you mentioned that two years ago that you were interested in that. And the feeling that that gives you that somebody cherishes your thoughts or your ideas so much that he remembered that you were interested in that was just mind blowing. And that's the kind of man Fred was. So at this moment, if I could ask Barbara to please come up and join me. On all the ideals that I just said that we look for in a recipient of this award, and on his award itself, it says, in honor and recognition of your support of Civil War history through deed, word, and song, I am proud to present this award, the Fredric C. Lynch award this year to Brother Stephen Ball.

(Applause.)

BROTHER STEVE BALL: My goodness, that's beautiful.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: It's also nice to have a recipient who is of the same stature as Fred was.

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You'd have to shorten that thing.

BROTHER STEVE BALL: I'm at a complete loss for words for once in my life. This means a tremendous amount. Fred was absolutely one of my favorite Brothers. I remember my very first State Encampment. He was one of the very first people that I met. And you could talk to Fred, and in five minutes you felt like you'd known him for 20 years. He was just an absolute prince of a man and a wonderful guy, a wonderful Brother, a great supporter of this Order. And this means a tremendous amount to me. So thank you all very, very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Hold on, Steve. Hold on, Steve. I want to just tell you not an award, but you are getting recognition regardless. This man helped order and place 179, is that correct --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 173.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 173 tombstones at Greenlawn Cemetery here in Columbus for Civil War veterans that did not have stones, correct?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we just had a ceremony where they placed the last stone. This is the man.

(Applause.)

BROTHER STEVE BALL: Thank you. Thank you very much.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. You know, Fred was my --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I remember.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Next.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Real quick, on the Fred Lynch award, it is open to anyone who displays those types of qualities, Brother, Sister, anybody in your public. So please, we ask for nominations every January to be sent into our Camp Secretary. Please consider that the next time you run across some unique individuals. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Brother Crane.

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: I remember when you and Fred, your first Department Encampment that you came to, you guys sat in front of us and you got it right. What are we supposed to do next? Then you guys said yeah, we're all Air Force guys, Colonels. I said, damn, I was just a Petty Officer in the Navy, what the heck is going on here? I'm sitting here with Colonels. But it was great meeting you guys. I'll tell you what, you guys have done a great job with the Sherman Camp. So Fred, all you guys, so whatever.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: John Edelman, you need to come up here in front for a second. Commander-in-Chief. Right there.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: I'm about to award the Meritorious Service Award presented to John Edelman, Department of Ohio, for meritorious service to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and for preserving the memory of Union soldiers and sailors of 1861 to '65. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander-in-Chief, I need the microphone.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Past Commander-in-Chief Darby, could you please come to the front? Pete Hritsko, Past Commander-in-Chief, would you please join us up

here? As has been in the past history, Past Commanders-in-Chiefs from the Department of Ohio receive the sword. So --

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PETE HRITSKO: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Chatter.)

(Applause.)

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PETE HRITSKO: Thank you. I'm very honored to receive this, and I'd also like to thank all of you Brothers for allowing me to serve as your Past Commander-in-Chief and from the Department of Ohio. I will remember this for my entire life. I thank you all for everything that -- for each and every one of you. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PETE HRITSKO: I forgot to say special thanks to a few Brothers. I'd like to thank Brother James Crane as serving as my Chief of Staff. Also I'd like to mention Past Commander-in-Chief Darby as my National Counselor. I would also, who is not here either, is Past Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley, who was Assistant Counselor. Without their help, I couldn't have done this job without them. They did a great job, and I thank them as well. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: I'm the Chief of Staff for Pete, and I had the pleasure of working with him and Don Darby. And I'll tell you what, I think that's the best three-man team that's ever done this stuff for 30 years.

(Applause.)

(Chatter.)

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: Thank you, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Oh, here we go. We're doing a Charter for the new Camp. So Commander-in-Chief, you're not done yet.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: As you all know, the Toledo Camp is new. And they've been on my butt for six months to get this thing done. Matter of fact, I kept trying to tell them it's done. So finally, here it is being presented by

the Commander-in-Chief to John Huffman who's representing the Camp Commander.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: You hold one side, I'll hold this side.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Well, I was going to present an award to the Department Secretary here because he's the best Department Secretary in the Country barring none because he has really helped me out. But unfortunately, he didn't fill out the award. So --

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's paperwork.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yeah. He didn't want to do the extra paperwork. Let's give him a round of applause.

(Applause.)

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Commander-in-Chief. We're going to have the Commander-in-Chief speak now.

(Chatter.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: It's amazing to be here. I have some Good of the Order stuff. But I at least want to say how wonderful it is to see all the ladies here. Most of my Encampments this year have been all men, so it's nice to beauty up the room once in a while. So thank you.

For the men, how many here are either Past Camp Commanders, Camp Commanders, or Past Department Commanders? Raise your hand. How many have graduated Memorial University? If you don't know how to run an organization, you won't be successful. So those of you who have done it and are moving up through the chairs and are running Camps, Memorial University's online. It's been revamped. It looks great. It's well worth taking a few minutes to go up and learn how to see how it works, how meetings work. If you get a chance, please do that. You make our Order better that way.

The next thing I wanted to mention was we have a social media committee that puts on seminars every couple of weeks on how to use social media. And most old guys like me,

it's Facebook, right? But the rest of us probably need to if we want to recruit younger people, we have to have different media outlets, and that's going to be Instagram or TikTok or I don't even know what these things are. But if you get a chance to, look online at the schedule on the National website for their seminars. Well worth an hour or two on a Zoom call.

And the third thing, as Commander-in-Chief, you know, I put out a General Order to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Country. There are about 250 Camps in the Order, in the Sons of Union Veterans. My idea was to have one event per Camp, if possible, so that we have 250 events for the 250th. And I hope you'll continue to do that throughout the year even when I'm gone before the end of 2026. Join with you our community groups, historical societies, American Legions, schools, whatever it is and make sure that you tell them, like I said in my speech, that the Country was founded by the Declaration of Independence, and it was preserved by the Boys in Blue, the Union soldiers.

So and that's all I have. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Now, I'd like to ask the National President of our Auxiliary, Danielle Michaels, would you come up and say a few words?

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DANIELLE MICHAELS: First of all, here, I brought you something from Wisconsin. Enjoy.

(Laughter.)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT, AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DANIELLE MICHAELS: If I can win you gentlemen through your stomach, I would be baking for you and cooking for you. The reason I say that is you are a part of the Allied Orders as we are. You are called Brothers. We are called Sisters. If we would live by what the GAR really wanted us to do besides the principles is to treat each other with respect and work with one another. For some, there have been things in the past, but that's the past. In order to survive this year and future, we need to rely on one another more. You have a new Camp. Do you have a new Auxiliary? You need to work on it, sir, because many hands make light work when you are working with the same ideals.

I was privileged to drive straight through Ohio, stopped off in Alliance to pick up three PNPs, and we drove to Pennsylvania and we instituted a new Auxiliary. It was breathtaking, so refreshing that a new Camp sponsored a new

Auxiliary of eight women. We laughed, we kidded one another, but they were there as the silent partner to witness what they wanted. They have a new Auxiliary that's going to work with them. Such a blessed feeling they have, and they thanked us for coming there and making that happen. I thank them, the gentlemen, for being wise enough to know you can't do it all by yourself. You need other like-minded people. And so you should see some new fresh ideas coming from the Pittsburgh area. I guarantee it. They are so wanting to do things. We are going to see great things from them.

I hope you guys are doing great. Get the job done. Go back to your areas. I have asked the Auxiliaries, do something special this year. You have your agenda, add one more. In fact, I asked them to add two for the simple reason we need to be out there and wear our badges proudly and do it right.

The Commander and I have had a wonderful relationship this year. In kidding, I've always brought him a little snack because we know those airlines don't always fly the same time that they promise us. It can be hours before we get out of the airport. So here's a little snack when you get back to the airport because I won't be seeing you until National. I want you to give this to your wife for the 250th as appreciation of her sharing her husband and thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Thank you.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT, AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DANIELLE MICHAELS:** You are the first.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Thanks.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT, AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DANIELLE MICHAELS:** Thank you all.
Please continue doing great work, and we'll see you --

(Applause.)

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT, AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DANIELLE MICHAELS:** One more thing,
gentlemen, see you at National.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER JIM CRANE: I was just going to read the inscriptions on here, Past Commanders-in-Chief's sword. Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. And on the other side, it says in honor of his dedicated service to the Order, 2023 to 2024. That's all.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to say the lunch was terrific (indiscernible) the menu. The food was delicious. I enjoyed it and I think we should round of applause.

(Applause.)

(Break.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good to go.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Ready?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

(Three raps ***)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Chaplain, please open the Bible.

(One rap *)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: There being no further items to discuss, we will proceed to the election of Department Officers. Guard, allow no one else to enter, and please secure the doors. Credentials Committee, please provide the final report.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Brad Tilton, Past Department Commander, McLaughlin Camp #12. Commander, nobody has come up with any corrections since the last report --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Brad?

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Casey Camp has three instead of two.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We got the Senior Vice, and us two.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Kelly Hopkins.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Here.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:

Shane Milburn.

BROTHER SHANE MILBURN: Here.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Charles Rose.

BROTHER CHARLES ROSE: Here.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Okay. My mistake. All are entitled to a vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. I believe we're --
Dennison Camp #1, we're at four now?

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Now?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Fischer, Bill Fischer
had to leave.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Oh so you're down?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, we're at four now rather
than five. Originally, we posted five.

DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR BRAD TILTON:
Okay. So now, they're four. All right. Thank you. Okay. So
we add one and subtract one. We're still at 32 members present,
and with no other corrections, all in the room are entitled to
have a vote. Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Right, okay.
Okay. All right. Let's get back at it. At this time, we will
take nominations of candidates for the Department of Ohio for
the year 2026-2027. First, is there a motion that if there's
only one nominee for any office, that the Secretary should
record a single vote in favor of that candidate, and the Brother
will be duly elected. Is there a motion now?

BROTHER PETER HRITSKO: Peter Hritsko, Past Commander-
in-Chief, Department of the Garfield #142. I make a motion to
accept the proposal for the --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Single vote.

BROTHER PETER HRITSKO: -- single vote, for the
Secretary to make that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Brother of the Department.

BROTHER PETER HRITSKO: -- Brother of the Department.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: You got it. Is there a second?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp, I second it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What he said.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: All those opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Passed. Finally, according to Roberts Rules of Order, while nominations from the floor do not require a second, should anyone wish to signal their endorsement with a second, such an action will not be ruled out of order. All right.

We will begin with the Office of Department Commander. Are there any nominations for the Office of Department Commander?

BROTHER CHARLES ROSE: Charles Rose, Henry Casey Camp #92, Camp Commander, I'll place into nomination the name of Kelly Hopkins.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay.

BROTHER CHARLES ROSE: For the position of Commander-in-Chief.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Understood. Do you have anything nice to say about him or --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: -- are you just going to throw his name out there?

BROTHER CHARLES ROSE: No.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: That works for me. Okay. Brother, you have been nominated for the Office of Department Commander. What other offices of the Order do you currently hold, and if elected, will you serve?

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: If elected, I will serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Use the mic.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: If elected, I will serve. I hold the Senior Vice Commander and Assistant Secretary for the Department of Ohio.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. Now, are there any other nominations for the Department Commander? Are there any other nominations for the Department Commander? Are there any other nominations for the Department Commander. You may vote.

(One rap *)

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Congratulations. You are elected to the Office of Commander.

We will now to proceed to nominations for Senior Vice Commander. Are there any nominations for the Office of Senior Vice Commander?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There is, Commander. I nominate John Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Who are you? Speak your name.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just going to tell him that.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. We're going to nominate John Edelmann. Everybody knows John, what he's been doing. You can read all the stuff he's achieved in this book here. I'm going to tell you that, you know, when John Huffman was talking to him about running and stuff, and the same with Kelly, okay. So actually, Kelly and John and Tom actually came in to a group as the new blood for the Department. So you know, aside from being a great pianist, I mean, he's just a great family man. I mean, he's got a lot of

character. He's talked to some of our National Officers about stuff that he felt was wrong on forms. So he's not scared of taking that job. Trust me, he's not. And we're just lucky, really lucky, to have a couple people here, that's all, that are really doing the job, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. See how that's done.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS:
That's okay. I'm okay with it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Brother, you have been nominated to serve for the Office of Senior Vice Commander. What other offices of the Order do you currently hold, and if elected, will you serve?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I currently hold the position of Junior Vice of the Department, Secretary of the Department, Camp Commander of Sherman Camp. I think that's all.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Will you serve?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I will serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Let's see. Are there any other nominations for the Office of Senior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Senior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Senior Vice Commander? Okay. You are Senior Vice Commander. You were elected. Congratulations on your --

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the Secretary vote.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay, Secretary. All right. We will now take the nominations for Junior Vice Commander. Are there any nominations for Junior Vice Commander?

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Not unless you want to start over, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: No. You go ahead.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. I know, I saw you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: You're back.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: So I'm here to nominate someone from my Camp, the Lytle Camp, as Junior Vice Commander of the Department. Basically, you can read about his history on this piece of paper. But I like talking about the stuff that isn't on paper. Rob Kidd was a Marine, unfortunately, and Staff Sergeant for eight years.

BROTHER ROB KIDD: Nine.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: That's all, nine? Whatever, but he was a Marine. And then, you get into further -- you get into further service from that, and he becomes a policeman in Florida. Then he comes to Ohio, goes to a city there, does his service there. The point I'm making is this man, his whole life has been to serve his country and the people of cities. I mean, there's no better calling than that, folks. There isn't. I mean, he was born that way. He is that way. Character and honor, you can use those terms (indiscernible) right above his head. And I'll tell you what, I'm honored to even bring his name up because I spent a lot of time with him. And so he's done it, he's been there. And (indiscernible) rough trying to find people to run for offices in Ohio. So we're definitely nominating him for the Junior Vice Commander. Commander, I'm done.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Brother Kidd, come to the microphone. You have been nominated for the Office of Junior Vice Commander. What other offices of the Order do you currently hold, and if elected, will you serve?

BROTHER ROB KIDD: I'm Camp Commander of William H. Lytle Camp #10, and I will serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Junior Vice Commander-elect, congratulations on your election to the office.

(Applause.)

BROTHER ROB KIDD: I'd like to thank Jim Crane for that introduction too.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yes, he's good. He's got a lot of wind.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Now we will take nominations for the Department Treasurer. Are there any nominations for the Office of Department Treasurer?

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Commander, John Huffman, Past Department Commander, Enderlin Camp. I'd like to nominate John --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tom.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For Treasurer.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Oh, I'm sorry, Treasurer. I'd like to nominate Tom Edelmann as Treasurer. He's had the job for the last three years. I was lucky enough to twist his arm to get him recruited into that position. He's done a great job. And he has a strong background, and the man that we need in that position.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Okay. Brother John will speak on his behalf. So if elected, will you serve, and what other offices does he hold?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: He holds the position of Department Treasurer for the Department and the Camp Treasurer for Sherman Camp #93. And yes, he will serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer? Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer? Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer? You can vote. Congratulations to --

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Now, we will take nominations for Department Secretary. Are there any nominations for Department Secretary?

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Yes.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: John Huffman, Past Department Commander, Enderlin Camp. I'd like to nominate John Edelmann for the position of Secretary. And all the good things that Jim Crane about him, I say ditto. Again, along with his brother, Tom, I recruited them very (indiscernible) three years ago, and John has done an outstanding job. He and I were both new to the position, I being the Department Commander, and he being the Secretary. We worked very closely together, and he helped keep me in line, and I did the same with him. He's done an outstanding job, three years of great experience, and we're looking for years in the future.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Thank you. Okay. You have been nominated for the Office of Department Secretary.

What other offices do you currently hold, and if elected, will you serve?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes, sir. I currently hold the position of the Secretary of the Department. I am the Senior Vice-elect, and I am the Camp Commander for Sherman Camp. And yes, I will serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Very good. Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary. Vote for yourself.

(One rap *)

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Department Secretary-elect, congratulations on your election to office.

I will now yield the gavel to the Senior Vice Commander-elect. Watch your step.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: For one term of the Department Council --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold on.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Hang on.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Department Council next year will be filled by John Huffman. The two-year term of Department Council will be filled by Steve Ball. Thank you both, gentlemen. It is customary to have the retired Commander fill the three-year term for the Department Council. Is there any nomination for David Rish to be elected as a three-year term of Department Council?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I make that motion to have our Department Commander become the Past Department Commander and also to be the number three-year term in office for the Council of Ohio.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Is there any other --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: No. Don't you have to ask me if I will serve? Yes, I will serve.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Brother, you've been nominated for the three-year Council

position. What other office of the Order do you currently hold?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: In about five minutes, none. Yes, I will serve.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Thank you. Is there any other nominations for the three-year Council position? Is there any other nominations for the office of three-year Council position? Last, are there any other nominations for the three-year Council position? If not, nominations are closed. Councilor-elect, congratulations on your election of office.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: I'd like to thank my wife and my mother. It's gets better in a year, Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's on probation.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: That's right. Okay. There's that. There's that. There's that. Where we at? Commander, here we go, Commander-elect, have you decided on who you wish to serve as your Installing Officer?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT: The National Commander because he wants to talk some more.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: He has answered. Okay. It's up to you. I'll get out of the way. I'm going to actually go back and sit with my guys because I'm done.

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Commander, I'm relieving you of command of this Department. On behalf of the Officers, I convey to you their thanks for the manner in which you have discharged your duties. I trust that in surrendering command of this Department, your interest in the welfare of this Order will not cease. Having received the highest honors which your fellow members can confer upon you, your continuing commitment will point the way for others who still serve the Order. Please be seated.

Commander-Elect, are you prepared to announce your staff appointments? If so, the Guide will hand your list to the Secretary. Secretary, call the roll of the Officers-elect and the staff appointments, who as their names are called will rise.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. So we have Senior Vice Commander John -- just the appointed, right?

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Yes.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Just the appointed ones, okay. Patriotic Instructor, Michael Mershon. Counselor, Don Darby. Eagle Scout Coordinator, Michael Spaulding. GAR Highway Officer, Peter Hritsko. Civil Wars Memorials Officer, Ronald Marvin. Camp Organizer, David A. Rish. Guard, Grant Bates. Recruiting Officer, David A. Rish. Signals Officer, David Moravek. Chief of Staff, Shane Milburn. Assistant Treasurer, James Crane. The Buffington Island Representative remains James W. Oiler. *Buckeye Bugle* Editor, Donald Martin. ROTC/JROTC Coordinator, Thomas McBrayer.

(Three raps ***)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Brothers, these are your regularly chosen officers for the next term. If any Brother has any valid reason why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

(One rap.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Guide, please present these Brothers before the altar for installation. Officers, you have been selected to positions of great honor and trust. With the Commander, you will be responsible for the financial and material prosperity and interests of this Department. And the members of the Encampment confidently expect that your discharge of the duties and responsibilities resting upon you will be conspicuous for zeal, ability, and good works. I trust that you will appreciate the great confidence placed in you and that you remember that the success or failure of the administration of your Department will depend very largely upon the manner in which you discharge the duties of your respective offices. Are you now willing to pledge solemnly to the faithful performance of your duties? If so, say I am.

IN UNISON: I will.

(Three raps ***)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: If you'll each raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible or the shoulder of the Brother in front of you. Repeat after me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your other right hand.

(Laughter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Repeat after me, using your name where I do mine.

I, (each member stating their name, and repeating, as directed) having been regularly chosen as an Officer of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, hereby renew the sacred obligation given at the time of my initiation and in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of this Encampment here assembled, do furthermore solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will to the best of my ability in word and deed and without fear or favor faithfully, honestly, and impartiality perform all the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

(One rap.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: You may drop your hands. This Encampment, attention.

(One rap *)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Guide, conduct the officers to their respective stations. Acting officers vacate. Guide, conduct the Commander to this station.

(Chatter.)

(One rap *)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Commander, by the votes of the members of this Encampment, you have been elected to the highest honor within their gift. Your election to this honorable position is evidence not only of their regard and appreciation of your work and ability as a Son of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, but it is an assurance that your conduct of the affairs of this Department will be characterized by faithful, earnest, and conscientious devotion to the responsibilities resting upon you. Great trust and great cares await you and to their faithful performance, I must now solemnly direct you.

(Three raps.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: As no work of this nature can be a success without the assistance of the Divine Provider, the Chaplain will ask his assistance and guidance. Cover.

DEPARMENT CHAPLAIN TOM MCBRAYER: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly ask your blessing on these Brothers assembled for installation. Grant them your wisdom that we may

daily perform the duties of the office into which you are to be installed with the knowledge that Thou art ever watching over them. Keep them in good health that they will not falter on the way. Bless them with your great mercies that they might be competent to administer the many problems that will confront them. Bless their every action in your Name through the mediation of your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Commander, your officers are now at their respective stations, and I am about to place you in full control. But first, I give to you the care of the Charter of the Department. Prize it for the privileges it bestows and guard it sacredly for the filial heritage it represents.

Next, I place in your care the ritual of this Order and a copy of the Constitution and Regulations for the government of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, both of which I advise you to study with care, to be true to its principles, and faithful to its teachings.

Lastly, you will receive this gavel, the emblem of your authority. One rap, (one rap*), calls the Encampment to order and seats the same when standing. Two raps, (two raps **), calls the Officers to their feet. Three raps, (three raps ***), calls up the entire Encampment.

And now, by the virtue of the authority invested in me as the Installing Officer of the Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby declare the Officers of this Department legally elected and installed and qualified to enter upon the discharge of their several duties for the term ending June 2027, or until their successors are regularly elected, qualified, and installed.

Now, I am pleased to present you with the badge of the Office of the Department Commander.

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: Commander, assume your command. Be true to your vow, faithful to your trust, unflinching in your loyalty, and rule with civility, impartiality, and firmness, and may your administration be successful.

(One rap.)

(Applause.)

INSTALLING OFFICER NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN

TUCKER: And if the Past Commander-in-Chief would come up, I want to decorate him also.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: Thank you so much. I appreciate this. Before -- Dave, don't go anywhere. Just come back up here. So I get the privilege to address you as the Department Commander for the first time. With that, my first act is to recognize the great appreciation that Commander Dave Rish has shown us for his dedicated service to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Ohio. Where I come from, we kind of give a token to that. And so I had this plaque made. It's to hang on your wall because I think that he needs to be recognized.

(Chatter.)

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: So also, I don't know, most of the organizations I usually belong to, we usually give flowers to the wives. Well, talking to my wife, she's, like, don't ever get me flowers because they'll just die. So I thought about this, what kind of gift would I really like to give somebody for Ohio, everything that's made in Ohio. So I got a Longaberger basket, some Gold Star chili because, you know, if you're from Ohio, you need it. Some Gorilla Glue that's made in Cincinnati. And then, I've got all the snacks and stuff that is made in Windy Hills and Ohio as well. And you get some jam and a bottle of bourbon. So there you go.

(Chatter.)

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DAVID A. RISH: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: So I know it's the -- it's also a tradition to give a gift to the National Commander at Nationals. But again, we're from Ohio. There's only one state, okay. With that, I'm also going to give a small token of appreciation to our National Commander from Ohio. That means everything from Ohio from Gold Star chili to the basket, which is made here in Ohio, Longaberger. Your wife will enjoy that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN TUCKER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS:

Commander Tucker, honored Brothers of the Department of Ohio and guests, again, I welcome you to the Ohio Department Encampment, the 144th. I wish you all the thanks and support, all the kind words over the years. I would be amiss not to wish, again, thank you to Commander Rish for all he's done for our organization this past year. Sir, you truly have gone out of your way to make -- be a part of every Camp event throughout this great State of Ohio.

You all might know the perfect speech by President Grant. I truly believe it's one of the best speeches by a leader. "I rise only to say that I do not intend to say anything. I thank you all for your heartily welcomes and good cheers." So from Ohio.

Well, I just need to add a few more words to this coming year to explain my focus as Commander. My biggest thing is always going to be retention. The gentlemen in this room understand that. You know, I want to make sure that you guys are thanked, that you guys are appreciated. Because without you, this organization is nothing. So it's you guys that come here and actually do all the hard work on a daily event that really makes our organization, this Brotherhood, very important. I'm going to make that my biggest goal is to tell you thank you.

I'm also going to start a Commander's Awards Streamer Program. If a Camp completes all requirements, the Camp will receive a Commander's Award Streamer like most of the ones that are on the colors. So I will put out an order to say here's what those requirements are. They're not going to be that much. But participation might be a key. To give you an idea of that, there's 11 Camps actually showed up today. Six Camps showed no one came to our own Encampment. I will like to bring that to a change. I'd like to have everybody attend.

I'm also going to start a Commander's zoom briefing schedule. This will take about six times this whole year. The meetings, or correction, the briefings will last less than an hour. The goal is to share upcoming event information between Camps and the Department where we can work together. The goal is also to have the Camp Commander, the Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander attend these Zoom briefings. That will be also a part of the goals to get the Camp Commander's Streamer Award.

I have to also thank Brother Oiler, who could not make it again today. His continued work on Buffington Island is a very important thing. I really ask all Camps to participate in this event this year again, and to bring your Camp colors. I would like to see all 17 Camps present on that day, and I don't know if that's possible, but I would like to see it.

Again, I want to thank you all for your hard work and the continuing of you (indiscernible) for this organization. Thank you again.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: So before everybody leaves, we're going to get three photos: one photo with all the group, and then, we're going to go into photo of all the Camps and also Officer. I want a photograph of all the Officers, and I want to get a photograph of all Past Department Commanders as well. With no further business coming before this Encampment, I will proceed to close.

(Three raps ***)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: Give your attention while the Department Chaplain asks the blessing of God to honor our deliberations. Parade rest.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN TOM MCBRAYER: Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven, we pray that you will deal with the events of this meeting as you deem proper and fitting. Please answer the heartfelt prayers of each one of us as permitted in your perfect will. Preserve us in health, strength, and integrity while we remain here, and when our mission on earth is ended, take us to a better world. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KELLY HOPKINS: Brothers, we are about to leave this Encampment to retire to our respective homes. Let us regulate our conduct so that to bring honor and credit upon the great patriotic organization we represent. May we be faithful to our vows, mindful of our duties, and exhibit towards each other an unbroken Fraternity, a tenderness of Charity, and an unwavering Loyalty.

Color Bearer, attend to the altar, and station banners.

Attention. I now declare the 144th Annual Encampment of the Department of Sons of Union Veterans of Ohio of the Civil War duly closed.

(One rap.)

(Applause.)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)