



# SONS of VETERANS RESERVE 4<sup>th</sup> MILITARY DISTRICT

May 2025



## PAST IN REVIEW



### 4<sup>th</sup> District Staff Officers

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Commander

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**Lt. Col. Jerome W. Kowalski**  
Chaplain

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kim J. Heltemes**  
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### COMMANDERS COLUMN

Brothers,

Please welcome the Northstar Volunteers as an addition to the 4th District. Their contact info can be found on the last page.

Spring is here; summer is coming soon, Memorial Day and events during the summer. Take pictures of your participation in your events with a short description and send them to 2nd. Lt. Kim Heltemes, District Public Information officer. His information is on the 1st. page of the newsletter.

We have a few National events upcoming including the National Encampment in Houston, TX in Aug. The information is on the National Website. Hotel, registration, tours, and SVR Breakfast on Remembrance Day in November at Gettysburg, PA is not on the website yet but coming soon.

Information will be sent out soon for SVR Awards, the information criteria and award nomination form. There are individual awards and unit citations that can be nominated. So, if there is someone in your unit that is deserving of one of these awards or if your unit deserves an award, please submit it to the Awards Review Board. My Chief of Staff Cpt. Brian McManus is in charge of the review board for the award nominations.

I saved the best for last. The 4th Military District with the National Civil War Artillery Association will be running a School of the Piece (Artillery Safety School) at St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort, MO. Details are located in the newsletter. The school is open to re-enactors, living historians, SVR and SUVCW members. It is a great learning experience.

I hope to see some of you at Artillery School in June, The National Encampment in Houston, TX in August and Remembrance Day in November at Gettysburg, PA. If you have any questions, feel free contact me or the District Adjutant Cpt. Kent Peterson our info is in the newsletter.

In F, C, & L,

Lt. Col. Thomas J. Brown

SVR4th Military District Commander and Event Coordinator

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**School of the Piece, June 28, 2025 (details in newsletter)**

**National Encampment August 7 - August 10, 2025 Houston, Texas**

**Remembrance Day Parade - November 15th, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania,**

## CHAPLAIN COLUMN

Brothers,  
No Chaplain column this time.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty  
Chaplain Emeritus Jerry

## 1st Missouri Light Artillery, Company M

Thank you to all of the units that  
submitted articles for the newsletter.

The Department of Texas is proud to host the 144th National  
Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the  
Allied Orders.

August 7 - August 10, 2025 Houston, Texas

Sonesta Hotel, Houston IAH Airport

Dress: Male business attire, to include jacket, tie, long pants and  
Membership Badge.



Lower left: On April 24, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kim J. Heltemes presented the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War ROTC award to Cadet Emma Stebbeds of the Oshkosh Battalion. The ceremony was held at Marion College in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Lower right: The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States ROTC presentation with Kim J. Heltemes





## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



### 2025 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

The 69th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony commemorated the 160th Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It was held at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL on April 12, 2025. Afterward, services were held at the Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson Grave site in nearby Petersburg. Photos by Danielle Michaels.

Left: Fourth Military District Commander LTC Tom Brown waits with his escort from the 14th Michigan Infantry (SVR 3rd Military District) to present a wreath at Lincoln's Tomb on behalf of the District.

Right: Prior to the ceremony, SVR Inspector General Col. Steve Michaels (also a member of Headquarters Company) met a family visiting from Austria. Totally by chance, their visit to see Lincoln's Tomb coincided with our ceremony.







The first "School of the Soldier" training program was organized by LTC Tom Brown and IG Steve Michaels. It was held March 30 in Milwaukee and was attended by seven members of Headquarters Company. The two-hour session included a Sons of Veterans Introduction, essential information on uniforms, basic drill movements and marching, and ceremonies where the training can be put to good use. Photos by Susan Fallon.

Left: 2025 School of the Soldier – Joe Fallon instructing.

Drill activity was conducted by Patrick and Joe Fallon as a warm up for the summer parade season.



Above: Attendees and instructors at the first annual School of the Soldier were (front row, L-R) Tom Mueller, LTC Tom Brown, Pvt. Andrew Sabin, Pvt. Tom Hesse and IG Steve Michaels. Top row: Privates Patrick Fallon, Will Ammann, Joe Fallon and James Matthew.





Left: Colonel Steve Michaels is escorted to present a wreath at Lincoln's Tomb on April 12, 2025.

Below the Colonel is introduced at the Benjamin Stephenson Memorial by PDC Jim Lyon, the Master of Ceremonies at the grave.



### **1st IL. LT ARTILLERY BATTERY L**

Left: Battery L fired a round off as part of the ceremony at the Stephenson Memorial in Rosehill Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois on April 12, 2025.



## 2nd Regiment, Missouri Infantry, Co. A (1861)

Members of our SVR unit assisted working an event on March 30 in Calvary Cemetery at the graves of General William T. Sherman and Dred Scott. Members of 4 camps from Illinois and Missouri and 2 SVR units participated in the event. Ms. Lynne Jackson, the great-great-granddaughter of Dred Scott spoke at the memorial to her ancestor. Michael Johnson, director of the Sherman House Museum in Lancaster, OH, spoke on the General.



We had a presence at the Lincoln Tomb ceremonies, but no pictures have been turned in showing us there. Individual members of our unit have been presenting awards at J-ROTC ceremonies throughout the metro St Louis area.

Coming up: Besides Memorial Day (location to be determined as to what ceremony we will be supporting, there are two major events coming up sponsored by US Grant Camp 68 and supported by our unit.  
19 July 10am President and General Ulysses S. Grant Remembrance Day – Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (White Haven), 7400 Grant Road St. Louis, MO 63123  
19 July 7pm-10pm – U.S. Grant Colloquy: An Evening Dinner with General Grant author & historian, Brooks D. Simpson, Frontenac Hilton, 1335 So. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO 63131. Cost of dinner and event: \$150. Check out [grantcamp.org](http://grantcamp.org) for registration and info on the event.



The National Civil War Artillery Association and the Sons of Veterans Reserve of  
the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Present

## *A School of the Piece*

June 28, 2025

On the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church, 2149 Lutheran Church Rd., Beaufort, Missouri  
63013

Registration Deadline: June 13, 2025  
Check-in on Saturday morning begins at 7:30 a.m.  
Instruction begins at 8:00 a.m



Participant crews take their places at their guns to prepare for the firing demonstration at the close of the school during the 2023 NCWAA Region XII School of the Piece on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church in Beaufort, MO, June 24, 2023.

A School of the Piece, a muzzle-loading artillery safety qualification program for re-enactors and living historians, will be held Saturday, June 28, 2025, on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church, 2149 Lutheran Church Road, Beaufort, Missouri 63013. The program is presented by the National Civil War Artillery Association and the Sons of Veterans Reserve of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. A registration fee of \$20 per participant seeking qualification should be prepaid. This fee includes a two-year membership in the NCWAA.

NCWAA staff members will instruct and qualify. Cannoneers successfully completing the course will be issued a qualification card valid for two years.

Crews and guns from all muzzle-loading periods (Civil War and earlier) and serving under all flags are welcome and encouraged to attend. Reenactors who regularly serve artillery are urged to attend, and those who do not regularly serve artillery but who wish to extend their knowledge are also encouraged to participate.

Interested individuals and units should contact Steve Allen, Turner Brigade, at (573) 578-5822, email [steveallen855@centurytel.net](mailto:steveallen855@centurytel.net), for registration materials. Registration forms are also available online here. Registration will close on June 9. Checks for the \$20 registration fee should be made payable to "HQ 4th Military District, SVR" and should be submitted with registration forms by the close of registration.



School of the Piece continued

Camping will be permitted on site. Signs will be posted with directions. Water and indoor sanitary facilities will be provided free. The nearest motels are about 20 minutes away in Union for those participants who do not want to camp.

Due to the limitations of the event insurance, we ask that no other firearms be brought to the school other than muzzle-loading artillery.

A Friday evening meal, a Saturday breakfast, and a Saturday lunch will be offered by the ladies of the church for a free will offering.

A School of the Piece, a muzzle-loading artillery safety qualification program for re-enactors and living historians, will be held June 28, 2025, on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church, 2149 Lutheran Church Road, Beaufort, Missouri 63013. (Click [here](#) for map.) The program is presented by the National Civil War Artillery Association (NCWAA) and the Sons of Veterans Reserve of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SVR). A registration fee of \$20 per participant seeking qualification should be prepaid. This fee includes a two-year membership in the NCWAA

NCWAA staff members will instruct and qualify, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Cannoneers successfully completing the course will be issued an NCWAA qualification card valid for two years.

Crews and guns from all muzzle-loading periods (Civil War and earlier) and serving under all flags are welcome and encouraged to attend. Re-enactors who regularly serve artillery are urged to attend, and those who do not regularly serve artillery but who wish to extend their knowledge are also encouraged to participate.

Interested individuals and units should contact Steve Allen at (573) 578-5822, email [steveallen855@centurytel.net](mailto:steveallen855@centurytel.net), for registration materials. Registration forms are also available online at <http://www.turnerbrigade.org/ncwaastl.htm>. Checks for the \$20 registration fee should be made payable to "HQ 4th Military District, SVR" and should be submitted with registration forms.

Camping will be permitted on site. Signs will be posted with directions from the intersection of U.S. 50 and Highway 185 in Beaufort. Water and indoor sanitary facilities will be provided free. The nearest motels are about 20 minutes away in Union for those participants who do not want to camp. Due to the limitations of the event insurance, we ask that no other firearms be brought to the school other than muzzle-loading artillery.

A Friday evening meal, a Saturday breakfast, and a Saturday lunch will be offered by the ladies of the church for a free will offering.

Please pass this announcement along to others you know who could be interested.

Steve Allen  
Damon Sumpter  
Bruce Clark  
Co-Chief Inspectors, Region XII  
National Civil War Artillery Association



**The National Civil War Artillery Association  
and the  
Sons of Veterans Reserve of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Present A**

# **School of the Piece**

**June 28, 2025**

**on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church,  
2149 Lutheran Church Road, Beaufort, Missouri 63013**



**A Qualification Program for Re-enactors and Living Historians**

**Fee: \$20 per participant**

*Includes a 2-year membership in the National Civil War Artillery Association  
Please make checks payable to "HQ 4th Military District S.V.R."*

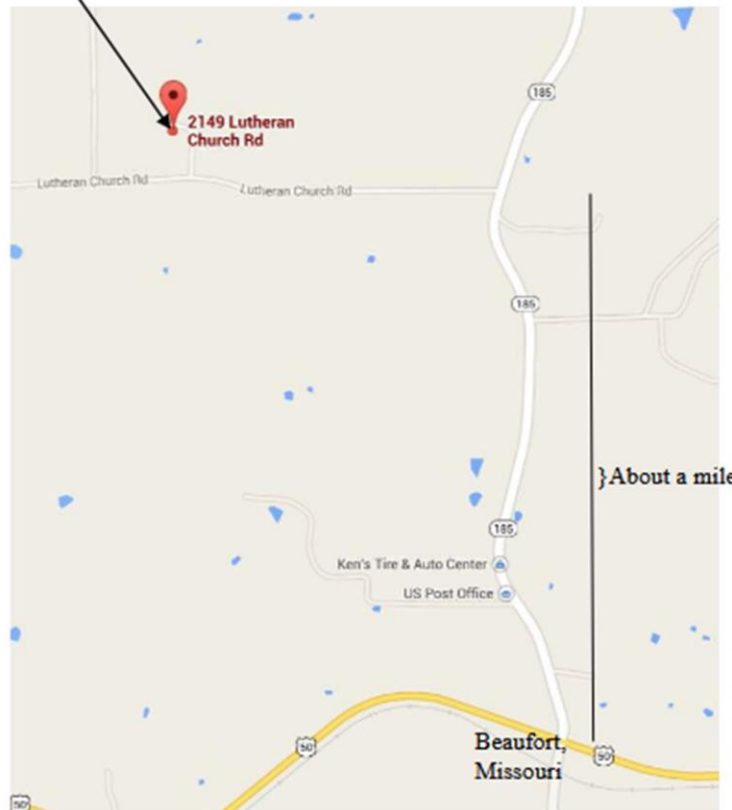
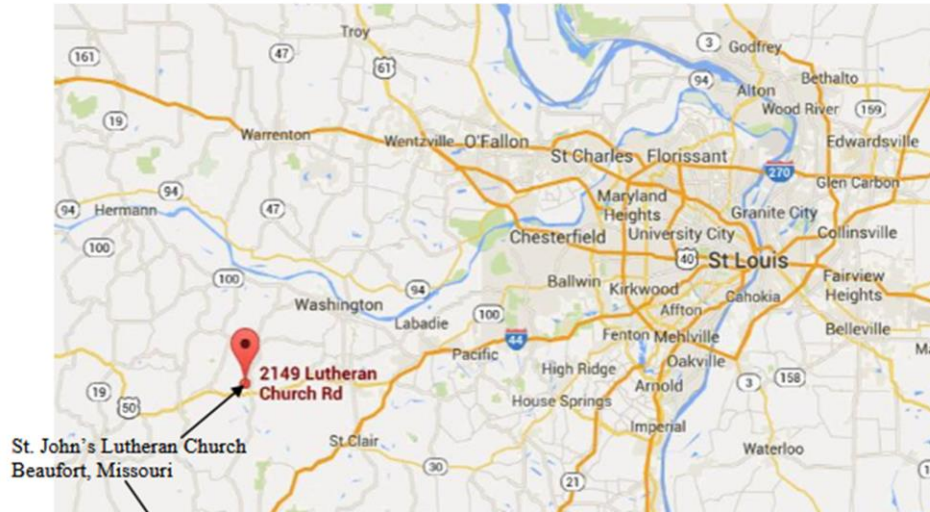
NCWAA staff members will instruct and qualify.  
Crews and guns from all muzzle-loading periods (Civil War and earlier) and under all flags  
are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For registration information, contact:  
Steve Allen, Turner Brigade, (673) 578-5822 email: [steveallen866@centurytel.net](mailto:steveallen866@centurytel.net)  
or go to <http://www.turnerbrigade.org/ncwaastl.htm>

**Registration Deadline: June 13, 2025**

Due to the limitations of the event insurance, we ask that no other firearms be brought to the school other than muzzle-loading artillery.

A Friday evening meal, a Saturday breakfast, and a Saturday lunch will be offered by the ladies of the church for a free will offering.





## 1st MO ENGINEERS

## 47th MO INF CO. E



Respectfully Submitted,  
1LT D. Christopher Warren, PDC  
Commanding,  
47th MO INF, Co. E – SVR  
1st MO ENG, Co. A - SVR



Upper left:  
Civil War School Day Program  
in Desloge, Missouri

Left:  
Civil War Flags Program in  
Bloomfield, Missouri

Below:  
Gen. Sherman Day Ceremony  
in St. Louis, Missouri





**47th MO INF, Co. E continued**  
**Farmer's Market / Tractor Parade in DeSoto, Missouri**



**NEBRASKA RANGERS**



On Saturday May 3, 2025 members of the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas Victor Vifquain Camp #1, Shiloh Camp #2 and Welstead Camp #3 and Nebraska Rangers SVR honored the Last Union Veteran of Dawson County Nebraska in the Sumner Nebraska Cemetery Charles Musser who mustered in on November 7, 1862 at Camp Dodge in Council Bluffs Iowa into Company A of the 29th Iowa at the rank of Private. After the war Charles married in Iowa and farmed in Iowa and Nebraska.



## **(Updated 2025) UNITS of the 4<sup>th</sup> MILITARY DISTRICT**

### **1<sup>st</sup> MO ENGINEERS**

Commander: D. Christopher Warren  
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### **1<sup>st</sup> IL. LT ARTY BATTERY L**

Commander: Robert Hauff  
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Adj: Tedd Ill  
tedd1968@gmail.com

### **NEBRASKA RANGERS**

Commander: 1<sup>st</sup> LT Keith Rockefeller  
Adj: 1<sup>st</sup> SGT Gage Stermensky  
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### **IRON BRIGADE GUARD**

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### **NORTHSTAR VOLUNTEERS**

Commander: Mat, J. Nyquist  
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Adj: James J. Johnson  
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### **4th MILITARY DISTRICT HQ COMPANY**

Commander; Thomas Brown  
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Adj: Kent Peterson  
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### **47th MO INF CO. E**

Commander: D. Christopher Warren  
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> REGIMENT MISSOURI INFANTRY, CO. A (1861)**

Commander: Robert Amsler, Jr.  
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Adj: Walter E. Busch  
webusch@hotmail.com

### **COMPANY M, 1st MISSOURI LIGHT ARTILLERY**

Commander: Randel Baehr  
robaehr@earthlink.net

### **2<sup>nd</sup> MISSOURI CAVALRY**

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Adj: Dale Crandell  
Email: dcrandell@swbell.net

Remember to send your newsworthy articles to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kim  
J. Heltemes at [heltemesk@centurylink.net](mailto:heltemesk@centurylink.net)

Your unit cannot be posted in the newsletter unless you  
send in the photos and captions.