

*Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)*

# THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS

Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962  
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

[www.scvcamp1962.org](http://www.scvcamp1962.org)

Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949

SEPTEMBER 2019

*The cool autumn weather is a good reason to enjoy the ride to the meeting  
but you don't really need a reason to come and share your Confederate friendship*

**CAMP DIXON MEETING**

**Belle-Clair Fairgrounds**

**TUESDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

**6:30 P. M.**

## FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to each and everyone of the loyal members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV Camp #1962.

It was sure great to see Adjutant Gale Red at the last meeting even though he can't remember much about the incident. The Lord answers prayers, and Gale can attest to that.

It sorely vexes me concerning the assault upon the heritage of the Southern people. Every institution from their past is to be vilified and desecrated for the stain of slavery. Amazingly, it was the Northern states who prospered as well from this peculiar institution due to the uneven taxation upon the Southern states and the transfer of wealth to the more than noble Northern states. The apparent contradiction and hypocrisy of the Northern elite still resonates in the halls of academia. Justin and I once attended a Civil War roundtable event in which a lawyer-author spoke on the subject of slavery as being the only cause of this conflict. True to form, he quoted many references from Southern statesmen from the period as to their belief about the defense of slavery and uplifted all Northern views concerning the noble fight against that institution. In typical lawyer fashion he fashioned his arguments in favor of his viewpoint and totally ignored any and all references from Northern views that might equally disprove his main thesis. At the question and answering phase of the meeting I challenged his views by stating that there are many newspaper articles from the Northern press as well as statements from Northern politicians that could easily be used against his argument that slavery was the cause of the war. He typically white-washed this line of questioning as an invention of a defeated and a later false defense of the Southern cause. It was simply amazing how he would use Southern quotes to bolster his story and totally ignore those of Northern leaders such as Lincoln himself which refuted his assertions. Many years after the conclusion of the war, Jefferson Davis wrote that even with the defense of slavery an issue, the real stake was the U.S. Constitution as written and originally agreed to by the 13 states. In later years, R.E. Lee wrote that even at a later date, he still could not believe that a President under the constitution would have ever considered raising an Army for purpose to invade any state. This conflict, as any difficult human relationship is, must not be reduced to the simplest causal effect. Rather, just as inter-personal trials between close relations are a tangled web of trials and perhaps errors, so too one must avoid the temptation to simplify a national calamity as that of the Civil War. Food for thought.

See you at the next muster. God Bless,

**Confederately,**

*John Stanton*



**FAREWELL  
COMPATRIOT  
RONNIE CHARLES  
OTTINGER**

**August 3, 1951 – November 9, 2018**

Ronnie had been fighting cancer,  
and his daughter, Wendy, just  
advised he passed nine months ago.

More info on page 2.

### \*\*\* NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING \*\*\*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center**

**200 South Belt East, Belleville IL**

**Parking/Entrance on East Side of Building**

**PRESENTER: lady Anita "Jane" McKee**

**PROGRAM: Mrs. Robert E. Lee**

**REFRESHMENTS: Chaplain Mike & Mrs. Mary Biekert**

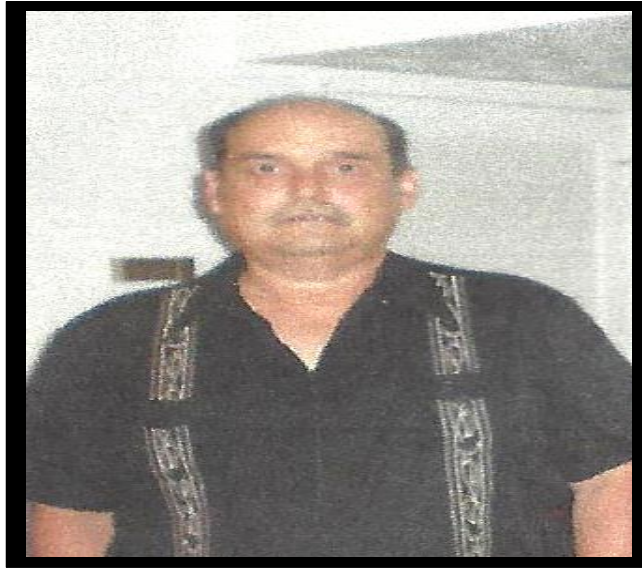
*Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
<b>From the Commander</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Farewell, Compatriot Ronnie Charles Ottinger</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Minutes: Camp Dixon Meeting, August 13</b>	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Homecoming Parade at Freeburg IL, August 17</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>News Around the Camp</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Calendar of Events ~ September Birthdays ~ Camp Leadership</b>	<b>10</b>

# **FAREWELL, RONNIE CHARLES OTTINGER**

## **from Newport, Tennessee**



Camp Dixon has been very blessed to have Ronnie as a member for nine years. He was very interested in his heritage and the activities of the camp. We are so sorry he suffered from cancer but fought a good fight. Ronnie was a dedicated father and his daughter, Wendy, said she was very proud of her father.

Here's a note from Wendy to the camp (August 2, 2019):



*Dear Camp Dixon (Gale Red),*  
*It has taken me a long time to finally send cards out on behalf of my father.*  
*It's been a very difficult time for me since my father passed.*  
*He was a wonderful man who enjoyed being a part of Camp Dixon.*  
*I will never forget when he first had me email you to get information on how to join*  
*because he was so excited to be a part of something such as this.*  
*I want to thank you so much.*  
*He always enjoyed the newsletters and always would read them to me.*  
*My father passed away November 9, 2018 at 6:00 a.m. at the age of 67.*  
*I really wished he was well enough to have attended some of your functions.*  
*He really would have loved that.*  
*Thank you, once again.*

*Also, thank you for his birthday card with the confetti and the get-well card.*  
*I will put it in his desk that I kept with all of his camp stuff.*

*Sincerely,*

*Wendy Ottinger*

## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ AUGUST 13, 2019 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly Muster at 6:35 p.m. on August 13, 2019 at the Exposition Hall, Belle Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville IL; this being the 8<sup>th</sup> Muster of the year 2019.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commander John Stanton called the meeting to order.

**COMMANDER'S WELCOME:** Commander Stanton welcomed the Camp's members and friends.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Mike Biekert

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS (Pledge of Allegiance, and Salute to Confederate Flag):** The American Flag was properly displayed. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Matt King led everyone in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the salute to the Confederate Flag.

**SWEARING IN:** None.

**PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:** None.

**ROLL CALL (23) (1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander King).** Please ensure everyone signs the muster roll.

Those present included: Janice Beasley, Walter Mike Biekert, Walter Hall, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. & JoAnn Gideon, Bob Herr, Johnny Kicklighter, Matthew King, Doug & Betty Lawrence, Jim & Barb Lumma, John & Jane McKee, Ralph Oelschlager, Gale & Sharon Red, Jack Sandford, Dave Schmitt, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Steve & Mary Wilson.



### SMILE AND SAY "DIXIE"

(L-R) (1<sup>st</sup> Row, seated) Mary Wilson, Betty Lawrence, JoAnn Gideon, Jane McKee, Barb Lumma, and Janice Beasley  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Row) Gale Red, J. C. Gideon, Jim Lumma, Steve Wilson, John Stanton, Matt King, Eric Funkhouser, Phil Tate, Jack Sandford, Mike Biekert, Dave Schmitt, John McKee, Bob Herr, Ralph Oelschlager, and Doug Lawrence

*Photographer: Sharon Red*

**MINUTES:** The July 9, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by a motion to accept by John McKee and seconded by Steve Wilson with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Gale Red reported the financial report of \$7,169.48. Pleased to report we have completed our membership renewals except for five. Dropped three (1 locally – Tim Mackey, and a couple long distance). Have 62 SCV members and 14 Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle plus one Associate Member, Col Tulak, who lives in Hawaii. We are truly an international camp. Now I need to file a record for tax exemption with the IRS. Paid Johnny for the camp web site posting (\$93.98). The Financial Report was approved by a motion to accept by John McKee and seconded by Walter Hall with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.



## **CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ AUGUST 13, 2019 Muster (cont'd)**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**KNOW OF ANYONE IN OUR CAMP WHO IS ILL OR STRUGGLING WITH MAJOR PROBLEMS? (Commander Stanton).** Please let Adjutant Red, Chaplain Biekert, or me know so we can try to help.

(Gale Red) It is very important that you let us know about our members. We have had three die this year. Also, please remember Compatriot Ham Lemmer in your prayers.

**BILL PASSED FOR LBGT HISTORY COURSE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Commander Stanton).** Today the IL Governor passed this bill. Parents who defy this mandatory attendance and pull their child from class will be fined \$1,500.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**SMITHTON IL HOMECOMING PARADE THAT WAS HELD ON JULY 27.**

(Commander Stanton) Sure was hot. Good turnout.

(Adjutant Red) Regarding my fall, I want to thank you for your care, concern, and best wishes. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year we've participated. We made a positive impact. The City of Smithton gave us \$100 for being the Color Guard.

(Compatriot Steve Wilson) Great to see people saluting the US flag and the Confederate flag.

(Adjutant Red) That's a good point – good to see them stand also.

**FREEBURG IL HOMECOMING PARADE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 (Adjutant Red).**

- Meet NLT 4:30 p.m. in the grocery store parking lot by ACE Hardware so that we have 30 minutes to ready the float.
- Hands up saying they will be there: Janice Beasley, Mike Biekert, Eric Funkhouser, Johnny Kicklighter, John/Jane McKee, Gale Red, Jack Sandford, Phil Tate, and Steve Wilson.

**ANNUAL DUES (Gale Red).** Still missing dues from five people. Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues. Currently have 62 SCV members and 14 Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle, plus one associate member.

**JOINT PICNIC WITH SUVCW AT JOHN STANTON'S HOME (Commander Stanton).** Put off until September or October – will advise.

**ALTON CONFEDERATE CEMETERY MEMORIAL, OCTOBER 12, 2019 (Adjutant Red).** Please put on your calendar to attend the memorial beginning at 11:00 a.m.

### **REFRESHMENTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Matt King** brought assorted sub sandwiches, variety of chips, mini pecan pies, and beverages.

*Matt, thanks for taking such good care of us.*



## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES -- AUGUST 13, 2019 Muster (cont'd)

**PROGRAM:** Power point briefing by Compatriot Steve Wilson from Columbia IL on his "Shiloh Trip."

Last year on March 3-5, Steve and his wife, Mary, traveled to the Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. They toured the area but especially the battlefield. The Battle of Shiloh moved Steve so much that he wanted to express his thoughts and feelings. His presentation to Camp Dixon discusses his ancestors who fought there, what he saw, and how he felt.

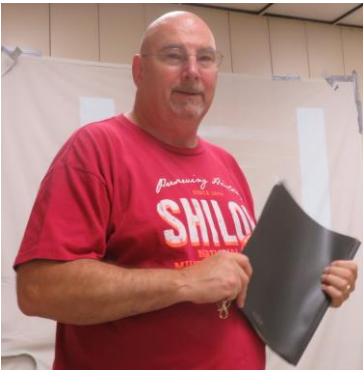


### Synopsis

I have always been interested in the Civil War and especially the Confederacy. I discovered I had three ancestors (two Union and one Confederate, my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfather, Andrew Jackson Tucker of McKoin's 55<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Confederate Infantry, Co. F) who were engaged in the Battle of Shiloh. All were mustered in and out as privates and survived the war. The 55<sup>th</sup> regiment was under Woods Brigade in the Third Army Corps commanded by Maj Gen Hardee in the Army of the Mississippi commanded by Gen Albert Sydney Johnston and Gen P. G. T. Beauregard. The battlefield was extremely well marked and had metal tablets marking each regiment position at different times and days compared to Gettysburg. Mary and I retraced and walked in each one of my ancestors' footsteps during the course of the battle.

The battle was named after a log cabin Methodist Church, built in 1851. Ironically, Shiloh means "place of peace." When inside, I imagined being in the time of the battle, trying to envision the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions that the people went through.

At the beginning of the battle, the Shiloh Church was surrounded by Union camps but before the end of Sunday, the first day, General Beauregard had set up his HQ by the church. Leading up to the battle, the purpose of the Union was to advance up the Tennessee River instead of the Mississippi and keep Beauregard and Johnson from consolidating their armies.



**Speaker: Steve Wilson**

The Union recognized Corinth as a railway hub that connected Memphis to Charleston and wanted to destroy the rail lines to isolate Memphis and that section of the Mississippi River from the south thus controlling the entire western part of Tennessee. Pittsburg Landing near the Shiloh Church already had roadways and it was only 20 miles to Corinth. Johnston wanted to unite with Beauregard and Polk to drive the invading Union from Pittsburg Landing and he wanted to do this before Buell could consolidate his army with Grant's forces.

Campaign at Pittsburg Landing: Union penetrated up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers

Principal Commanders: (US) Lt Gen Ulysses Grant. (CS) Maj Gen Albert Johnston.

Forces engaged: total of 110,053 (US 65,085 and CS 44,968)

Estimated casualties: total of 23,746 (US 13,047 and CS 10,699)

Casualties were 21.6% (1 in 5). During this 36-hour battle, an average of 660 casualties per hour. If you take out the night hours without hand-to-hand combat, an average of 990 men were casualties every hour. This single battle casualty rate was more than all previous losses in all American wars to date. It is the first battle with casualties of this scale.

Gen Johnston was killed in the battle – the highest-ranking officer in a war. While rallying Lytle's 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee against the 41<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Illinois, he was shot in the leg severing an artery filling his boot with blood. He bled to death in a few minutes at 2:30 Sunday afternoon. A monument honors him and his place of death.

The Confederate advance came to a halt at Dill Branch. They believed they had won the battle and bivouaced for the night. Gunboats began a terrible rain of shelling all during the night depriving Confederates of sleep. As the gunboats did their damage, most of the Confederate regiments believed they were successful in the battle and started pulling back as far as the Shiloh Church. The Union was reinforced through the night, and the Confederate lines reformed. Some of the heaviest and most lethal fighting occurred until 2:30 p.m. With his troops exhausted, Beauregard withdrew back to Corinth. The horrible aftermath of the battle began with burying the dead from injuries, infection and disease. The Confederate dead were buried in trenches of 150-250 at a time.

Steve closed his briefing by playing/singing Dixie with Mary on his ukulele – everyone joined them in singing too.

**BENEDICTION:** Chaplain Biekert delivered the benediction.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center. Presenter will be Lady Jane McKee who will speak about Mrs. Robert E. Lee. Refreshments will be provided by Chaplain Mike and Mrs. Mary Biekert.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gale F. Red*  
Adjutant



# Freeburg IL Homecoming Parade

## Saturday, August 17, 2019

*This was the second and last homecoming parade Camp Dixon marched in this year, and they had a wonderful time. The community of Freeburg gave them a warm welcome that matched the warm weather (90 degrees). But this didn't defray the members from participating. Representing the Camp in Civil War colors were: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander Johnny Kicklighter, Adjutant Gale Red, Asst Adjutant John and Lady Jane McKee, Chaplain Mike Biekert, Compatriot Phil and Mrs. Dianne Tate, Compatriot Eric Funkhouser, Compatriot Ron Lakin (with Alexa Rensing), plus perspective members (Gary, Tyler, and Steven Keelin).*



**GROUP PHOTO**

(L-R) Gale Red, Johnny Kicklighter, Phil Tate. Eric Funkhouser, Jane McKee, Alexa Rensing, Ronnie Lakin, Dianne Tate, Gary Keelin, Brenda (Gary's girlfriend), Tyler Keelin, Steven Keelin, and Mike Biekert



**PROUDLY CARRYING THE CONFEDERATE COLORS**  
(L-R) Tyler Keelin, Steven Keelin, Gary Keelin, Eric Funkhouser, Gale Red, and Mike Biekert



**ALL READY TO GO**  
(L-R) Alexa Rensing, Ronnie Lakin, and Mike Biekert



**OUR FABULOUS PHOTOGRAPHER**  
John McKee





#### OUR WONDERFUL FLOAT DRIVER

At the wheel is Johnny Kicklighter. He not only was the official driver but used his personal vehicle to pull the float and also arranged the details (reserved the float with his son, John Kicklighter; obtained the hay benches, and decorated).



#### FIRING OF THE MUSKETS

(L-R) Ronnie Lakin  
and  
Phil Tate



#### SHOWING OFF THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

(L-R) Ronnie Lakin  
and  
Mike Biekert



#### WHAT A HAPPY BUNCH

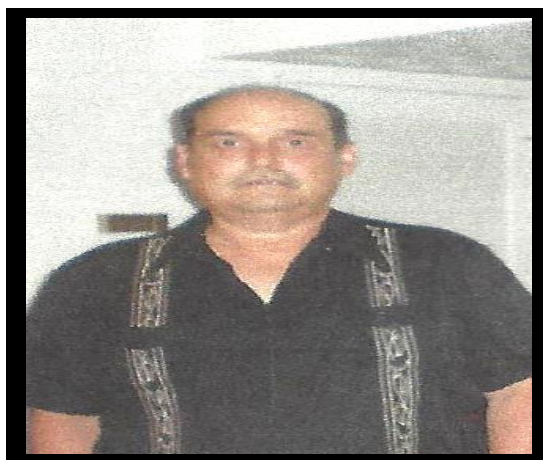
(L-R) Phil Tate, Ronnie Lakin, Alexa Rensing, Jane McKee (her back to the camera), and Brenda

## Many Thanks

. . . to Johnny Kicklighter, Gale Red, John and Jane McKee, Phil and Dianne Tate, Mike Biekert, Ronnie Lakin and Alexa Rensing, Eric Funkhouser, and perspective members, Gary (Brenda), Tyler, and Steven Keelin for taking the time to represent and support Camp Dixon in your period attire, donating the float and flags, driving in/marching in the parade, carrying the colors, taking excellent photos, firing the guns, throwing candy, and being wonderful special you! Nothing is more important than your being there with your big Confederate hearts. We won't forget your kindness.

Thank you very much!

## *News From Around the Camp*



**NOVEMBER 9, 2018  
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO WENDY OTTINGER  
ON THE PASSING OF HER FATHER,  
COMPATRIOT RONNIE CHARLES OTTINGER**

We were so sorry to hear the sad news last month about our member's passing and pray the Lord bestows on his daughter and family comfort and healing.

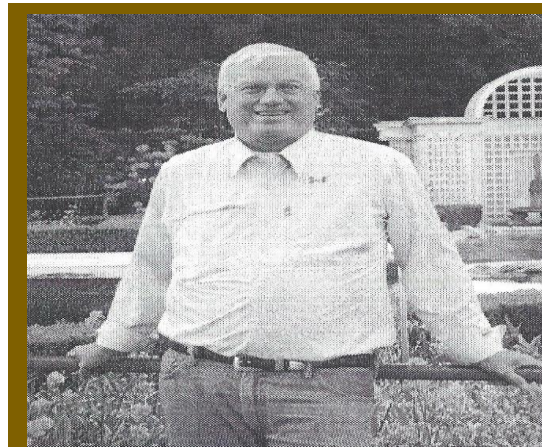
*(The camp sent a condolence card.)*



**GET-WELL WISHES TO  
COMPATRIOT JERRY SMITH  
(from Millstadt IL)**

The reason Jerry hasn't been to a recent meeting is because he is recovering from surgery. He is in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

*(The camp sent a get-well card.)*



**GET-WELL BLESSINGS TO  
COMPATRIOT JOHN LOPER  
(from Seabrook TX)**

John is recuperating from surgery and we pray he will recover quickly and be his great feel-good-self real soon.

*(The camp sent a get-well card.)*





**GET-WELL BLESSINGS TO  
COMPATRIOT ROBERT GRAY  
(from Wymore, Nebraska)**

David is suffering from Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) (same as Gale Red) and has undergone the stem cell procedure. We pray the Good Lord blesses him with cancer remission and a long, long life of much good health.

*(The camp sent a get-well card.)*



**THE WANDLING FAMILY  
Mike (son), Mary Frances (mother), and Al (son)**

**AUGUST 22, 2019  
SINCERE SYMPATHY TO  
COMPATRIOT & MRS. AL WANDLING  
ON THE PASSING OF HIS MOTHER**

"My mother, Mary Francis Wandling, passed away in her sleep Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the age of 98 years. She was a great mother and we will miss her so much. I am going to Ohio Sunday (Aug 25) to take care of my mother and make sure she is taken care of. I know you are now in heaven with my father, John – brother, David & sister, Susan. You will be missed but you are much better off in heaven. I will always be your son and love you. Thank you for being my mother. Your son always, Allen."

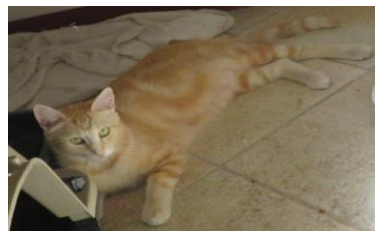
**Surviving are her sons, Al and Mike, daughter-in-law, Robin, and granddaughter, Brook.**

*(The camp sent a condolence card.)*

**SEPTEMBER 25  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
COMPATRIOT DAVID SCHMITT & YVONNE FRICKER  
ON THEIR 29<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

We hope Dave and Yvonne are blessed with a happy anniversary day, and they will enjoy many more happy and healthy years together.

*(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*



**JULY 26, 2019  
COMFORTING BLESSINGS TO  
ADJUTANT GALE & LADY SHARON RED  
(from O'Fallon IL)**

On May 11, Gale and Sharon brought in Fuzzy (orange tabby in top photo) and three newborns, then Fuzzy delivered two more kittens in the bathroom. The baby girls (Ruby, Lovey, Dovey, Dottie, and Dusty) thrived with their 1<sup>st</sup> time mommy, and then ten weeks later it was time to take them all to the Missouri Humane Society to find permanent homes. They are still missed in the Red hearts but are now in God's care and keeping.

"I have been a little busy -- just finished my doctorate – turned in my dissertation yesterday – 359 pages.

Here is an article I just published. <http://apdf-magazine.com/new-era-of-deterrence/>

My dissertation covered some of these same issues, with a focus on educating our Field Grade Officers at the Army War College to do a better job of planning against the Communist Chinese and the Russians. The title of the dissertation is "Strategy Education for Winning in a Complex World: An Evaluation Study of the US Army War College."



**AUGUST 2019  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
COMPATRIOT ARTHUR TULAK  
FROM EWA BEACH, HAWAII  
ON HIS PhD**  
Col Tulak (Retired, USA) is a  
SCV Life Member  
Camp Dixon Associate Member  
And Member of Camp Joseph  
Kanaka #2288 (Hawaii)



**SEPTEMBER 10, 2019  
GOOD LUCK AND PRAYERS  
TO  
LADY JANICE BEASLEY  
OF WALSH IL**

Janice will undergo hip surgery in St. Louis MO. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers for a successful operation.

*(The camp will send a get-well card.)*

## CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### SEPTEMBER

2 LABOR DAY  
 10 6:30 CAMP MEETING  
 23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN

### OCTOBER

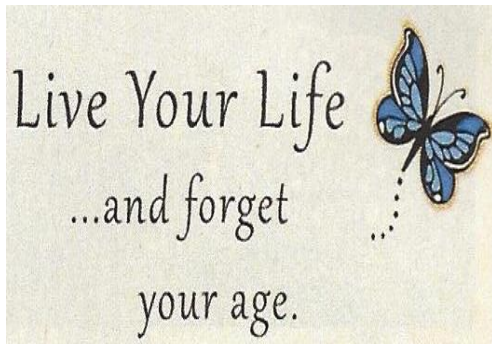
8 6:30 CAMP MEETING  
 12 ALTON MEMORIAL  
 14 COLUMBUS DAY  
 31 HALLOWEEN

### NOVEMBER

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends  
 (set clocks back one hour)  
 5 ELECTION DAY (Vote)  
 11 VETERANS DAY  
 12 6:30 CAMP MEETING  
 28 THANKSGIVING



## A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



### SEPTEMBER

6 WALTER HARRIS (Glen Carbon IL)  
 7 GORDON HAYES (Granite City IL)  
 15 RONALD LAKIN (Freeburg IL)  
 16 DWIGHT MOORE (The Villages, FL)  
 21 HANS HENDRICKSON (Germany)  
 22 MATT KING (Highland IL)  
 26 BILL BOYD (Columbia IL)  
 30 JOHN STANTON (Godfrey IL)  
 30 SUSAN HARRIS (Belleville IL)



### CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	Cell 618-610-6464
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Commander	Matthew James King	(H) 510-213-1972
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Asst Adjutant	John Mitchell McKee	618-416-5072
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190
Sgt of Arms	David Francis Schmitt	Cell 618-334-6148
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Door Greeter	Lady Susan Harris	Cell 618-550-8784
Historian	VACANT	
Quartermaster	VACANT	