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# The Green Banner

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## FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

Brothers of the Brady Camp,  
I am extremely proud of all we have been able accomplish during the first half of this year. Several camp brothers have made great efforts to carry out our charter to honor the sacrifice and memory of our Union forebears. Just in the past few months we have had brothers participating in Battlefield Park Day projects, R.O.T.C awards presentations, and of course, our annual Memorial Day observance at the end of May. You will find lots more on those events on this and the next page. Thank you again to all the camp brothers who attended and made these events possible!

We have more events planned in the upcoming months, as listed below. Be sure to join us! As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, event ideas, please let me know.

### ***Faugh-a-Ballagh!***

[“Clear the Way!”—the Irish Brigade’s rallying cry]

*Eric Kirk*

Camp Commander

## UPCOMING CAMP EVENTS

*Saturday, 23 August* – Camp brothers will join in a memorial ceremony at 10am in front of the Charles City County Courthouse. The event will consist of a recognition of the men of the 119th United States Colored Troops (USCT) that fought for the Union during war. A luncheon will follow at a venue across the street.

*Saturday, 27 September* – The camp will participate in a guided tour of Fort Monroe starting at 1030am. A lunch will follow at the nearby Deadrise Seafood Restaurant.

*Early November* – Annual Camp Business meeting will be held at a time and location to be determined. Please share your ideas for that event and thoughts about activities in the next year.

*Early December* – Camp members will be invited to participate in a dedication event for a new Irish Brigade monument Fredericksburg. The camp contributed funds to the memorial earlier this past spring.

## SUVCW SPONSORED EVENTS

- 7-10 August 2025, National Encampment, Houston, TX

- 15 November 2025, Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA

## CAMP BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On Saturday, 19 April, eight camp brothers and two guests met at the Gaines Mill National Park for a tour of the June 1862 battlefield led by Brothers Doug Blake and Steven Von Hitritz. Visits to this site have long been a popular camp event. The tour enjoyed an amazing day with perfect weather for roaming the picturesque fields of the park. A lunch followed at a local eatery.



*Honoring Union Veterans in  
Southeastern Virginia since 2003*



**PARK DAY PARTICIPANTS**

A few camp brothers participated in spring 2025 Park Day events in the local area. These volunteer opportunities involved clean-up and other service projects at Civil War related battlefields and other historic sites. Brother Jeffrey Burden attended the clean-up event sponsored by the Williamsburg Battlefield Association and Brother Phil Russell (pictured at right) contributed to a similar event at Endview Plantation.

**DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT**

Camp Commander Eric Kirk and Patriotic Instructor Phil Russell attended the annual Department of the Chesapeake Encampment meeting. This year's event was held 4-5 April in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The first day featured a large luncheon (photo below) and tours of sites related to 1862 and 1863 battles in that area. The second day entail the conduct of official department business, a remembrance of lost brothers from the past year, and elections of new officers.

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

Brothers I.C. Smith and Tim Ahlgrim took charge this year to make sure the camp was able to present SUVCW award certificates and medals to deserving high school Junior R.O.T.C. cadets in our area. Despite logistical challenges with obtaining final award packages, Brothers Smith and Ahlgrim ensured the cadets received their recognition in a timely fashion. Thank you to both for continuing this important camp endeavor!

**MEMORIAL DAY 2025**

The camp's annual Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Monday, 26 May at the Cold Harbor National Cemetery. This was very possibly the largest event the camp has hosted to date, with over 55 people in attendance! Camp Commander Eric Kirk and Patriotic Instructor Phil Russell led the event, which consisted of the traditional ceremony and memorial recognitions. They were assisted by Brother Steve Von Hitritz. The Virginia Youth Regiment provided the honor guard, which was commanded by Brother Don Wells. Brother Tim Ahlgrim ensured the graves of Irish Brigade soldiers were specially marked. Brother Phil had also traveled to Arlington a few days before the event to accept a donation of flowers, which were placed on the graves by all those attending. A hearty Thank You all the camp brothers who made this such a special and memorable occasion.



**SALUTATION.** As always, thank you for supporting the Brady Camp and giving a voice and a presence to Union veterans. Warmest regards in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

*Bill Butler*

Camp SVC & Historian, PCC