

Donald D. Palmer 2001-2004



Donald D. Palmer, Jr. of Ballwin, Missouri was elected Commander-in-Chief at the 130th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in Reston, Virginia on 13 August 2011. In the 130-year history of the SUVCW, he is the first Missourian to be elected Commander-in-Chief.

Don claimed his right to membership through his great-great grandfather, Sylvester J. Alden, who served as a private in Co. D, 11th Iowa Infantry. He has also researched 14 other members of his family known to have served in the Union forces during the Civil War. Don's interest in the Civil War began when, as a child, he was shown an old tin-type photo of his great-great grandfather in uniform as well as letters he wrote home to his wife.

Don joined Ulysses S. Grant Camp #68 located in St. Louis, in December 1997. He served in a number of Camp offices, including Camp Commander in 2000. To date of this writing, he is the only three term commander of the Department of Missouri. Don is also a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), holding a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in Co. A, 2nd Missouri Infantry and

also serves as a private in the 1st Missouri Engineers.