

COMMANDER GARY SCHEEL 2021-2022



I would like to share a little about myself. I was born in 1952 in St. Louis and have lived in the State of Missouri most of my life except for about five years.

In 1970, I met my future wife Mary and this July, Mary and I will be celebrating 50 years of marriage. We have three children, three grandchildren and one grandchild we inherited when our son married his wife.

In December 1971, I actually won the lottery. I was number 84 in Uncle Sam's lottery. July 1972, I received a nice letter with the first word, "Greetings!" and

said something about my friends and neighbors had a task for me. I passed the physical and was told I had about two weeks before I received my orders. On August 4, 1972, I enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and served for twelve years.

I retired from Chrysler in 2002 and in 2007 Mary and I purchased a Bed and Breakfast in Ste. Genevieve and we sold it in 2019.

I joined the SUVCW in March 2002 becoming a member of the U.S. Grant Camp #68 serving in various positions to include Camp Commander. In 2007, Mary and I moved to Ste. Genevieve and in 2008, I started forming the Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp #326. When I discussed with one of our future members about starting a SUVCW Camp, he shook his head sadly and stated, "No one in Ste. Genevieve is interested in the Civil War, they only care about French Colonial." My response was, "That is the stupidest thing I have ever heard." When the camp was officially formed, as organizer, I could pick the Camp Commander. I chose the one who

stated that no one in Ste. Genevieve cares about the Civil War. I am unsure if he ever realized that I chose the one who said it couldn't happen as our first Camp Commander. I am the author of three books about the Civil War and one of them covered my ancestors regiment the 31st Missouri Infantry Regiment. I had two other ancestors in the Civil War and both of them were in the 34th Enrolled Missouri Militia, like many militia units at the time they were called into service during General Price's Raid into Missouri in 1864.

As Department Commander my goal is to attend a meeting or activity of each Camp in our Department. I can only make this happen if you invite me. So please feel free to invite me. If it is possible, I will be there. My first camp I had the privilege to be asked to attend was the Installation of Officers to our newest Camp, Isaac Murphy Camp #2 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to attend our upcoming National Encampment taking place in St. Louis during the week of August 4th through August 8th. This is your encampment. Become invested in our National Encampment.

August 7th is the actual day of the Business meeting. If you have never been, I would venture to say that you will not have the opportunity to attend one that is going to be closer.

We are a good Department, but we are only as good as our individual member. Become involved.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Gary Scheel, PCC
Department Commander