

# MISSOURI'S LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

**Purpose:** To honor the last Union soldier of each county and the city of St. Louis of this state, these guidelines are designed to eliminate as many potential candidates as possible for each county and, hopefully, insure that the last true Union soldier receives the honors he deserves.

**Problem:** Currently, no standards exist to help camps determine which soldiers are the last soldiers in counties. These guidelines will provide camps with information and some of the tools necessary to document the soldiers of the various counties.

Example of Problem: A newspaper article records a soldier as being the last soldier living in the county and that man has just died. Six months before this death, another soldier, who has lived there all his life, moved to a family member's home or a VA hospital in another county. That man lives two more years before dying. He is buried in a national cemetery in another state. Since both were life long residents of the same county and the latter only moved for care, he is still a resident of the county he left and is truly the last soldier of that county.

**Guidelines:** By vote of the Department of Missouri meeting on October 18, 2008 in regular business meeting, no camp in this department may hold a "Last Soldier" ceremony or ask for funds from the department's past commanders' fund or national SUVCW without first complying with these procedures.

1. Camps must register the name of the person they wish to honor on the form provided.
2. Camps must verify that records have been checked on the Missouri Secretary of State's website for death certificates.
  - a. <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>
  - b. Records must be checked from 1940 to 1954 for each county as Civil War service is recorded on these forms.
  - c. Last soldiers dying before 1941 do not have their service listed on death certificates, as such checking records between 1920 and 1939 will require additional documentation.
  - d. To help increase the accuracy of documentation, the state website ought to be checked for names in surrounding counties as well. Example: The candidate for Washington County Last Soldier died in St. Francois County. Some think he was the last St. Francois Co. soldier and that is wrong.
3. If it is suspected that the Last Soldier of a county died outside of the state, the other state's records or national archive records must be consulted.
4. Camps should research the local newspapers, if available, and provide copies of obituaries. Local funeral home records are another option.

5. Local genealogical societies should be contacted to assist in developing information on the soldier. Since length of residency in the county might be in question, some documentation as to the soldier's past residences is very desirable. Getting these groups involved can also be a source of funds for the monument.
6. Camps may apply for funds from the department's past commanders' funds and from National SUVCW for markers after they have submitted this form and documentation. Since errors occur, it is desirable that camps obtain a written agreement with the family and cemetery that if the monument was presented in error, the SUVCW has the right to remove and/or correct the monument at a later date.
  - a. No funding from the department's past commanders' fund will be considered until such time that the fund exceeds \$1,000.
  - b. No department past commanders' fund money will be approved for more than one marker per county.
7. Any marker placed using department past commanders' funds or National funds will record minimally "Placed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Camp #\_\_\_\_\_, Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War". It will also contain the following phrase: "here in honored glory lies the Last Union Soldier of \_\_\_\_\_ County."
8. Monument requests for Last Soldiers will be submitted to the Last Soldier's Project Officer of Missouri, who can approve this for forwarding for national funding. Department's past commanders' funding may be voted on at any business meeting of the department of Missouri.

**LAST SOLDIER PROJECT CHAIRMAN:**

Historical Records Officer

Walt Busch [wbusch@suvcmo.org](mailto:wbusch@suvcmo.org)

8. Camps will forward to the Last Soldier Project Chairman copies of any ceremonies and news articles regarding the dedication of the monument.
9. The Last Soldier Project Chairman will maintain copies of those documents along with the application form and accompanying documents until such time as they are archived.



# MISSOURI'S LAST UNION SOLDIER PROJECT

CAMP SUBMITTING: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY FOR WHICH THE SOLDIER IS BEING SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SOLDIER: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ CO: \_\_\_\_\_

CEMETERY: \_\_\_\_\_

CEMETERY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOT/PLOT OR GPS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK

DEATH CERTIFICATE ATTACHED (Required)

SERVICE CARD/RECORD (Recommended)

NEWSPAPER, CENSUS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED.

REQUESTING PAST COMMANDERS' FUNDS

REQUESTING NATIONAL FUNDS

FAMILY AGREEMENT ON CONDITIONS FOR PLACEMENT

CEMETERY AGREEMENT ON CONDITIONS FOR PLACEMENT

I verify that records other than newspapers have been researched and that this candidate is the most likely candidate for last soldier in the above county.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Representing

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**FOR MISSOURI LAST SOLDIER PROJECT CHAIRMAN USE ONLY:**

- ( ) Records meet our standards.
- ( ) Copy returned to camp for additional information.
- ( ) Approved to request national SUVCW funds. Date Forwarded:\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Recommended for Past Commanders' Fund usage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Last Soldier Project Chair Date

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Past Commanders' Funding ( ) HAS ( )HAS NOT been approved in the amount of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ for this project by vote of the department held during regular business  
meetings on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Secretary Date

Dept of Missouri Check # \_\_\_\_\_ issued on \_\_\_\_\_ for this project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Treasurer Date