

The Lieutenant Colonel's Report

Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Camp #326

Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Camp Date of Rank 27 February 2009

Photo of Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James Grave Site.
His Father and Mothers Grave Marker.
Photo from 2016 Camp Newsletter.

Brothers,

Camp Commanders Comments,

2026 is shaping up to be another banner year for Lt. Col. Felix St. James Camp #326. Already this year we have installed new officers, member Greg Wolk gave a presentation to us and the public on "The Rise and Fall of John and Jesse Freemont" at our February meeting, Gary Scheel and Tony Smee participated in the 2025 Eagle Scout Class at Southeast University and brother Bill Janis cleaned the tombstone of Union Veteran George Byrd in Valle Springs Cemetery and tended to the grave of a member of the 47th Missouri Infantry. Looking forward we will be hosting the State meeting in June, we have the 250th anniversary of our country to celebrate and the following month the bank raid recreation and who knows what else is in store for us. I would like to thank every member for their planning and participating in these events which make it fun and educational to be a member of this great camp.

Commander Ed Millinger, PCC

Davis Clayton Bruce

October 11, 1946 – October 29, 2025

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He lived in Farmington at the time of his death.

At the age of 16 he joined the USMC one week before his 17th birthday. He completed his GED and began studies at an intensive language program run by the US Navy Intelligence. After four years in the USMC he went law school and after serving as a Assistant DA, he enlisted in the USAF as Captain as a JAG officer at Sheppard AFB in Texas. Returned to Boston where he practiced law. After he retired he moved to Farmington to be close to his sister and practiced law.

He was a member of Gen. George L. Hartsuff Camp #50 in the Department of Massachusetts and in 2020 he joined our Camp and has been a member until the time of his death.

Department Order #10 issued by Department Commander Mark Coplin was issued to pay tribute to him as a member of the Department of Missouri.



Check out our facebook page for future activities. <https://www.facebook.com/SUVCWPOST326>

Check out our website on the SUVCWMO web page <https://www.suvcwmo.org/lt-col-j-felix-st-james-camp->

CAMP ACTIVITIES



At our Camp meeting on January 13th, Department Commander Mark Coplin served as the Installation Officer. We had a short business meeting followed by our installation of Officers.

Our Elected Officers are, Camp Commander Ed Millinger, Senior Vice Commander Paul Kist who also serves as our Chaplain, Junior Vice Commander Bill Janis, Secretary Bob Bach, Treasurer Marty Aubuchon, the three Council Members are Tom Greminger, Bob Mueller and Tony Smee. Our appointed officers are Historian Bob Mueller, Grave Registration Officer Scott Reed, Civil War Memorials Officer Mike Schaaf, Patriotic Instructor Gary Scheel, and Eagle Scout Coordinator Tony Smee.

L-R Tom Greminger, Bob Bach, Ed Millinger, Bill Janis, Marty Aubuchon, Bob Mueller, Department Commander Mark Coplin, Gary Scheel, Ryan Martin and Reuel Smith.



← At our meeting on February 10th, Brother Greg Wolk gave a presentation “Missouri in 1861: The Rise and Fall of John and Jessie Fremont.” It was a very good presentation. We did have some interruption during the presentation with faulty equipment but he managed to persevere.

Thank you Greg for coming down and giving us this presentation.

Present for the presentation were eleven members with five of their wives present. The community had been invited to come see the presentation and nine of them

attended.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR



Tony Smee (on the Right) is the Eagle Scout Coordinator of the LTC Joseph Felix St. James Camp #326 and also the President of the Southeast Missouri Eagle Scout Association. Each year, in coordination with Scout Anniversary Week, we honor an annual class of Eagle Scouts at a formal luncheon and Court of Honor at Southeast Missouri State University. On Saturday, February 14th, our 64th consecutive year of that event, honoring Scouts who earned their Eagle in 2025. This event honors Eagle Scouts in Districts in our local area, comprised of Troops in Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois.

This year, we arranged for the Department of Missouri (via Sumner Hunnewell and his gracious wife) to assist us in recognizing the entire class en-masse with certificates and patches. We also included a brochure on the SUVVCW with each of the recognitions as a way to promote our organization. Of the 47 Eagle Scouts who earned Eagle in our area in 2025, there were 17 from Southern Illinois. We had 23 attend the Court of Honor, and there were 4 from Illinois who were present. So they would not feel left out, the Department of Missouri provided certificates and patches for those four Illinois Scouts as well. .

They were very well received by those in attendance. This was our first year the Department of Missouri SUVVCW participated in the ceremony and it was so well received we will likely continue it in the future.

On the left front row is Gary Scheel also of the St. James Camp

MARIAN CLIFF MANOR FLAGS

Lt. Col. J. Felix Camp #326, SUVCW purchased a US Flag and a POW/MIA Flag to replace the severely ragged ones on the lower flag pole on Marian Cliff Manor property.

Marian Cliff Manor is an assisted living facility in St. Mary, Missouri.

Nearly three-fourths of the residents are veterans with several being Vietnam Veterans. After Chaplain Paul Kist blessed the flags he and Gary Scheel replaced the flags on March 6th.



These flags can be seen while traveling North to Ste. Genevieve on Highway 61 which you can plainly see on the right of Brother Kist.

These are the second set of flags that we have donated to honor our Veterans.

← New Flags Flying proud.

Paul Kist raising the new flags →



CAMP FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- March 10th Camp Meeting at 6 p.m.
- March 14th Department Meeting at Jefferson City, MO at 10 a.m
- April 14th Honor Guard at Grave site of Lt. Col. J. Felix St. James in Memorial Cemetery. We will start at 4 p.m. We will depart and assemble at Sirros at 5 pm for our usual meal and meeting at 6 pm. All are encouraged to attend. We need 4 or 5 men in uniform to stand guard. All Camp members are encouraged to attend and honor our name sake.
- May 2nd Mother's Day Market- Camp Informational Booth 10 to 5 pm
- May 12th Camp Meeting 6 pm
- May 30th Decoration Day. We will assemble at the Memorial Cemetery. We will honor all Veterans in the Cemetery. Plus we will honor all of those who perished while serving in the service of the US Military. Time to be announced at a later date
- June 5th & 6th Department Encampment.
Walking Tour led by Bob Mueller on Friday June 5th from 2:30 to 4 pm
Meet and Eat at 6 pm at Audubon Restaurant
Meeting starts 10 am at County Health Center on 115 Basler Street
- June 9th Camp Meeting 6 pm
- July 4th Celebration of the 250th 4th of July. Please make an effort to be there.
We are setting up a living history much like last year at the Felix Valle House SHS
We are starting at 10 am and we will close down at 2 pm
The following is requested, cannon, musician, Tent and Fly. We will set up on the 3rd July
- July 8th Camp Meeting 6 pm
- August 22nd Bank Raid, More Info later. The following is requested, cannon, musicians, Tent and Fly. We will set up on August 21st