

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



**Irish Brigade Camp #4
Patriotic Instructor
Brother Ross H. Schwalm**



February 1

National Freedom Day



- First observed on February 1, 1949
- To promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.
- Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, fought to have a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. When Wright got his freedom, he went on to become a successful businessman and community leader in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Major Wright chose February 1 as National Freedom Day because it was the day in 1865 that President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Article XIII (Amendment 13 - Slavery and Involuntary Servitude)

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

February 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday or Union Defender's Day

- First observed 1866
- From Lincoln's humble log cabin beginnings to his martyrdom, his intellect, determination, humility, wit, and savvy is recognized. His determination to keep the nation together during the Civil War, his prowess in stopping the bloodshed, and most importantly his Emancipation Proclamation are hallmarks of his shortened presidency.



SUVCW Commander-in-Chief in reference to a proper observance of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, but would recommend that instead of denominating it is "Sons of Veterans' Day", that the same shall be known as "Union Defenders' Day", and that the Commander-in-Chief issue proper orders providing for its observance by the Order.

March 17 – St Patrick's Day

Official Holiday of Irish Brigade Camp #4

- ❖ a cultural and religious celebration held on the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland.
- ❖ Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland,^[10] Northern Ireland,^[11] the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the British Overseas Territory of Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish Diaspora around the world, especially in Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand.
- ❖ Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival.^[12]
- ❖ Modern celebrations have been greatly influenced by those of the Irish diaspora, particularly those that developed in North America.

**NOTE: This holiday was not included in the NPI Handbook!
But we celebrate in honor of our Irish Brigade Veterans.**

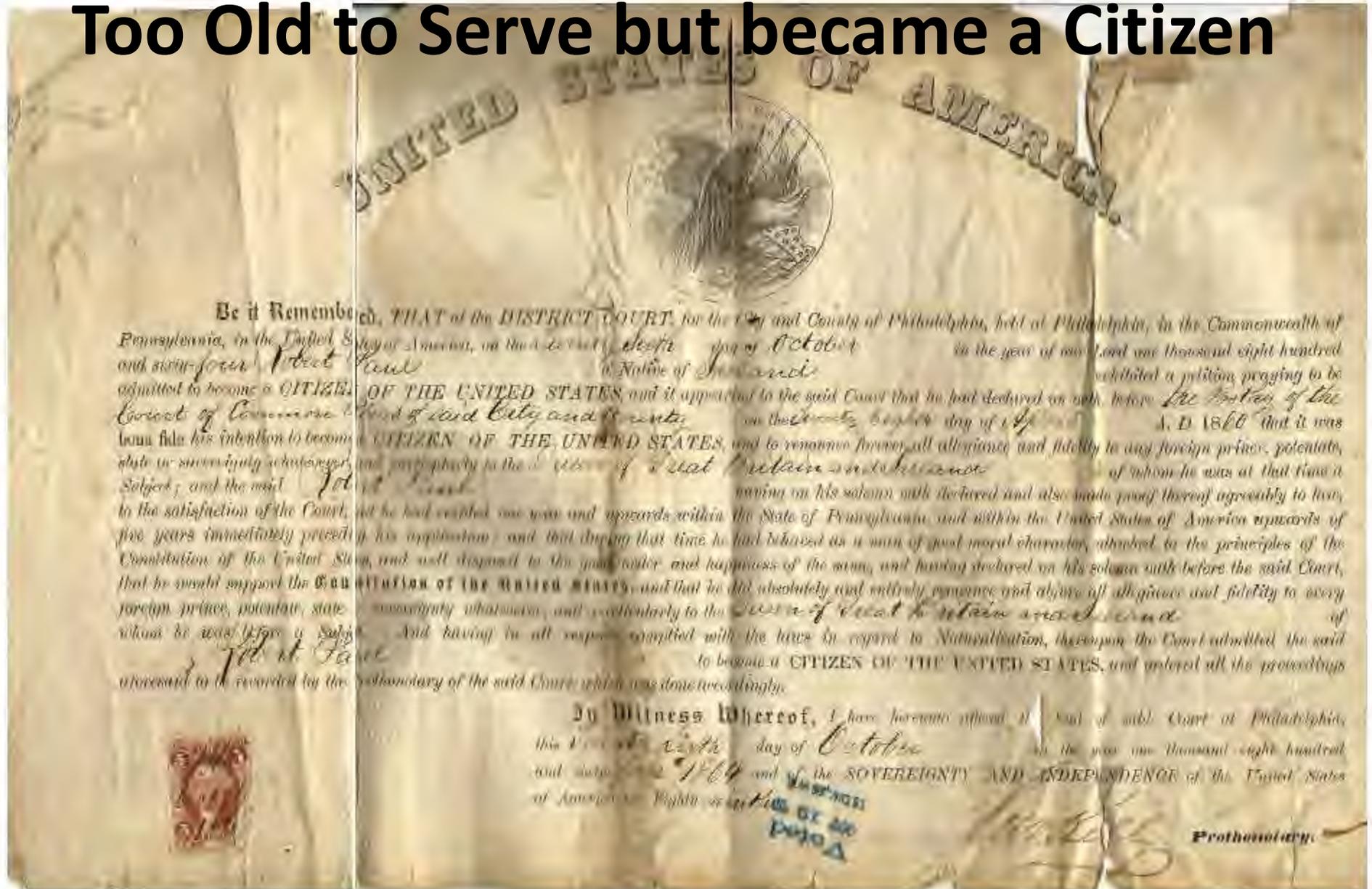
Some Irish Facts

- Immigration due to the Irish [Great Famine](#) (1845–1852) had provided many thousands of men as potential recruits ..
- Seven Union generals were Irish-born while an estimated 150,000 Irish-Americans fought for the Union during the war.

Great Grandfather of Carol Moury Schwalm and 2nd Great GF of Connor Paul Schwalm

Robert Paul – age 65

Too Old to Serve but became a Citizen



April 6 - Grand Army Day

The date upon which the Grand Army of the Republic was formed in 1866 in Decatur, IL by Benjamin F. Stephenson.



Third Monday in April - Patriots' Day

- First observed in 1894 – Celebrated today in Maine, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.
- Patriots' Day commemorates the battle of Lexington and Concord, which were fought on April 19, 1775. Part of the history of this famous revolutionary battle was the midnight ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes. The Sons of the American Revolution in Massachusetts were largely responsible for the official recognition of the event.



John Adam Lebo – Continental Militiaman - 2months in 1779
4th Great Grandfather of Brother **Ross H. Schwalm**



May 1 - Loyalty Day



- First observed in the 1930s
- a day of parades of veterans, drum and bugle corps, Boy Scouts, visits to national shrines and doing things in the honor of the patriots. Schools, churches, fraternal societies and different organizations come alive to sponsor these events. The motto is to instill the zeal to 'remain loyal to America', especially among children and the youth. It is a day meant for making everyone in America feel proud of his or her country.
- May 1, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower made it a day of national observance.

Second Sunday in May - Mother's Day

First observed in 1905

In Chicago, the Mother's Day cause was taken up by Sarah Warrell. On May 4, 1909, the Tribune ran a short interview in which she described the holiday. Warrell called on ministers, teachers, and charitable institutions to get out the word. Wearing the white carnation was the first step.

Men, women and children were seen sporting the white carnation. Some groups, like the YMCA and the Grand Army of the Republic, had enlisted their entire membership.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day a national holiday. The tradition of wearing white carnations on Mother's Day continues in the SUVCW to this day.





Third Saturday in May Armed Forces Day

- First observed in 1947
- Armed Forces Day was established to combine the previous independent holidays of each of the branches of the Armed Forces. Its purpose is to honor Americans serving in the five services including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard.



Sunday preceding Memorial Day - Memorial Sunday

- Memorial Sunday is defined in the "Ritual and Ceremonials" as the Sunday preceding Memorial Day.
- It should be observed by every Camp and every member by attending Divine services, preferably with members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.
- Camp Commanders should issue instructions to members covering memorial Sunday, advising them in full detail time and place of the services and of needed information concerning participation of the Camp in the program.



Lt jg Father Boisvert 3rd Bn 12th Mar
Desert Storm 1991

Memorial Day



First formally observed in 1868
Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers.



Sgt Samuel Schwalm 50th PA Vol Infantry
Great Great Uncle of Brother Ross H. Schwalm

Third Sunday in June - Father's Day

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which fathers are honored by their children. On the third Sunday in June, fathers all across the United States are given presents, treated to dinner or otherwise made to feel special.

The strongest promoter of the holiday was Mrs. Bruce John (Sonora) Dodd of Spokane, Washington. She thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora wanted a special day to honor her father, **William Smart**. Smart, who was a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state.



Medic Ben Schwalm, WW II
& Occupation of Japan (right)
Father of Brother Ross H. Schwalm



June 14 - Flag Day

- First observed June 14, 1777
- In the United States, Flag Day (more formally, National Flag Day), is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.
- In 1916, Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

02/16/2013

July 4 - Independence Day

Johannes Schwalm – foreign Mercenary

3rd Great Grandfather of Brother Ross H. Schwalm

- First observed on July 4, 1777
- July 4, 1776 is the momentous American date when John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. This declaration of sovereignty was a result of many preceding incidences including the Boston Massacre, Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, and Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans.



From Declaration of Independence: “He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.”

September 11 - Patriot Day

- First observed September 11, 2002
- On September 11, 2001, four commercial airlines were hijacked by Islamic terrorists and members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network. Each of these airliners was given specific high profile targets in the United States and each airliner was complimented by five or six Al Qaeda hijackers.
- In memory of the brave firefighters, police officers, office workers, rescue workers, airline employees, and passengers, President George W. Bush signed this holiday into the public record on December 18, 2001. In connection with the signing of this legislation, Americans are encouraged to fly their flags at half-mast and engage in a moment of silence.



September 17 - Citizenship Day



- First observed September 17, 1952
- The purpose of this holiday is to honor both, native born and naturalized foreign-born citizens. In 1939, Randolph Hearst gave the day national prominence through his chain of daily newspapers when a movement to recognize new citizens began.
- In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as "I am an American Day". Many cities continue to observe this holiday.
- On February 29, 1952, President Harry S Truman signed a bill establishing September 17 as Citizenship Day, replacing the May observance and moving the date to the one on which the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.

Third Friday in September National POW/MIA Recognition Day

- In an effort to accommodate all returned POWs and all Americans still missing and unaccounted for from all wars, the National League of Families proposed the third Friday in September, a date not associated with any particular war and not in conjunction with any organization's national convention.
- Ceremonies are now held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, at schools, churches, national veteran and civic organizations, police and fire departments, fire stations, etc.
- The League's POW/MIA flag is flown, and the focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve our nation and do everything possible to account for those who do not return.



November 11 - Veteran's Day



- First observed November 11, 1919
- November 11 is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Campaign by the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict.
- In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation.
- The name was changed to Veterans' Day by Act of Congress on May 24, 1954.
- In October of that year, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. The President referred to the change of name to Veterans' Day in honor of the servicemen of all America's wars.

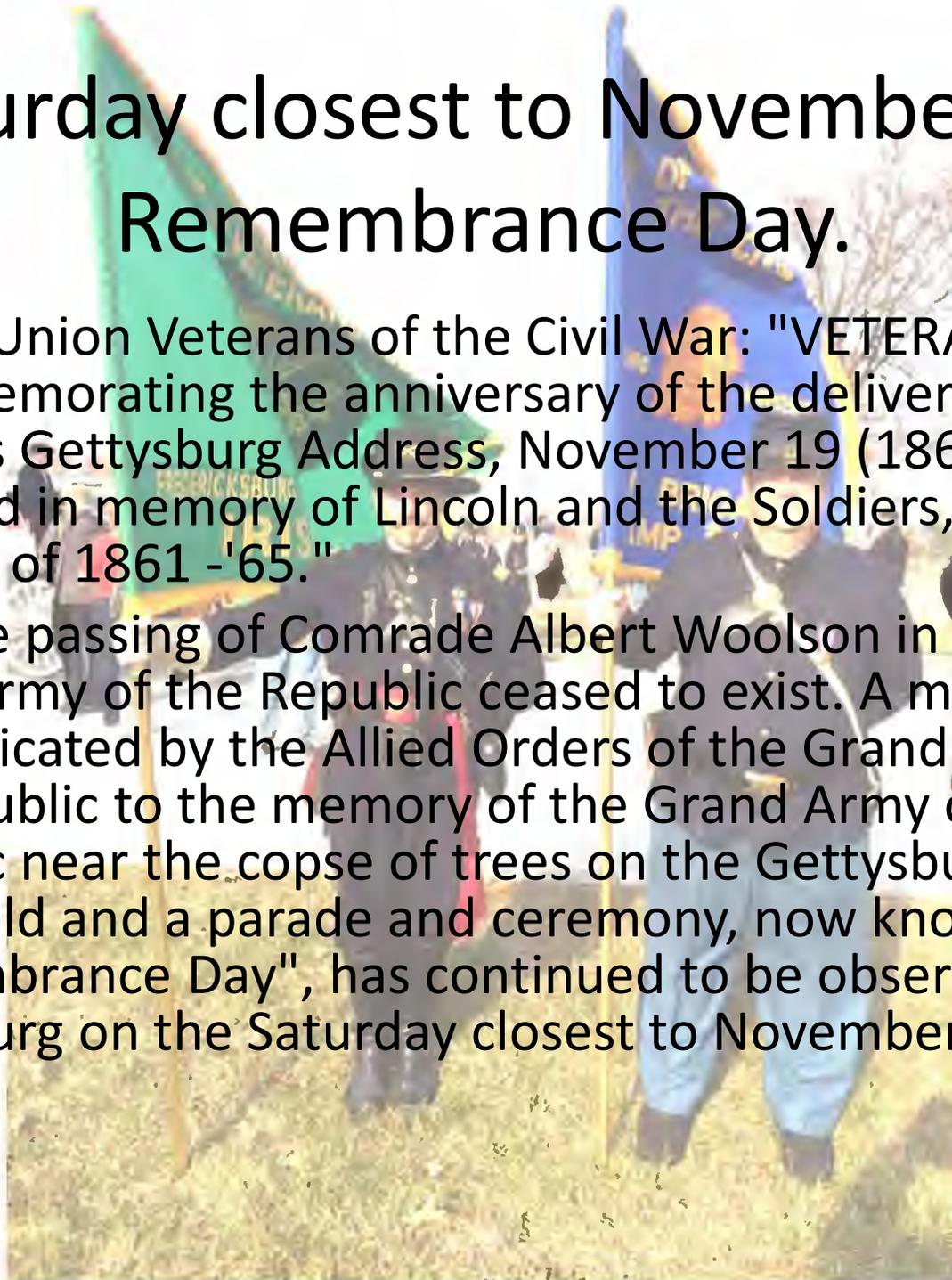


Top – Maj John M. Schwalm – 6th Armored Div Artillery
Bot – Sgt Ross A. Thompson – 278th FA Battalion (WIA)

Uncles of Brother Ross H. Schwalm who were in Patton's Third Army

Saturday closest to November 19 Remembrance Day.

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War: "VETERAN'S NIGHT - Commemorating the anniversary of the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19 (1863), to be observed in memory of Lincoln and the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of 1861 -'65."
- With the passing of Comrade Albert Woolson in 1956, the Grand Army of the Republic ceased to exist. A monument was dedicated by the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic to the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic near the copse of trees on the Gettysburg Battlefield and a parade and ceremony, now known as "Remembrance Day", has continued to be observed in Gettysburg on the Saturday closest to November 19th ever since.



Fourth Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day



- First observed in 1621
- The Pilgrims set apart a day for thanksgiving at Plymouth Colony immediately after their first harvest, in 1621
- In the middle of the Civil War, prompted by a series of editorials written by Sarah Josepha Hale, the last of which appeared in the September 1863 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863

December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

- (1) the people of the United States to observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and
- (2) all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States Government, and interested organizations, groups, and individuals, to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff each December 7 in honor of the individuals who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

