



# The Coffee Cooler

Vol. 4 No. 3 William T. Sherman Camp 93 Dayton, Ohio November 2009



## Camp visits Dayton Soldiers Home, learns history

Sherman Camp members learned history and honored heritage associated with Dayton's Veterans Administration Center and Soldiers Home Historic District as guests and supporters of the American Veterans Heritage Center (AVHC) Nov. 7. Brothers Michael Farnsley, Brad Miter, Brent Davidson, Mark Conrad, Fred Lynch, and Mark Alex represented the SUV and our War Between the States forefathers and kin during presentations and tours. As a member noted, "Educating people concerning the Soldiers Home Historic District is an important part of our Sherman Camp purpose and objectives, in my opinion."

The AVHC makes Dayton residents, and people nationwide, aware that the Veterans Center Historic District is a national treasure. The "National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" as it was first named was and remains one of the "nation's first and best veterans' centers," according to Judge Walter Rice, the keynote speaker.



What later was known as the National Soldiers Home - Central Branch was authorized by President Lincoln in March 1865 and opened in 1867. For decades, the NSH was a self-contained haven providing a home and healing environment for Civil War veterans afflicted with disabilities ranging from amputations to what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder. The facility provided vocational therapy ranging from making uniforms to maintaining a conservatory containing specimen flowers, plus an animal park and campus gardens.

Camp #93 Commander Mark Conrad conducted historic district tours for historians, writers, schoolteachers, and others attending the event. He noted, "once, one year, 600,000 people visited the soldiers home." His walking tour started in the Putnam Library where the Sherman Camp meets and location of the Miami Valley Military History Museum. Treasures on the NSH grounds include a monument incorporating metal recovered from the wreckage of the Spanish-American War-era battleship USS Maine. A follow-on driving tour conducted by AVHC President Emeritus Margaret Kruckemeyer included the Dayton National Cemetery and the recreation hall and meeting facility once used by members of the home's Grand Army of the Republic post.

## Camp Chase mural dedicated

Brother Michael Farnsley represented Sherman Camp #93 at the dedication of the new Camp Chase mural Oct. 17 in Columbus. The mural, created by Curtis Goldstein and commissioned by Friends of Westgate Park,



honors Union soldiers who trained and served at Camp Chase, as well as Confederate prisoners of war incarcerated there. Approximately 75 people attended including about 10 SUV members, according to Brother Farnsley. A band performed Civil War-era music and a living historian representing President Lincoln rendered the Gettysburg Address and honored Generals Grant and Sherman.

## Veterans Day salute

November 11 is Veterans Day, a sacred day, set aside to remember service, honor bravery, and to respect sacrifice rendered by all who served in our nation's Armed Forces. It is also a day to remember those who are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. We Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Sherman Camp #93 Dayton Ohio proudly proclaim, "Thank you veterans for the freedom we have!"

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**NEXT MEETING: Saturday Dec. 12 at 1 P.M. in the Putnam Library**

**- - Meeting will include election of camp officers for 2010**