



CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
"The 4th Battalion"

Volume ONE Number SIX

May, 1988

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Thank you for electing me to another term. I am sure all of those attending the affair at Ashland were pleased. The dinner meeting and Dennis Loba's slide presentation at the Surry Inn were well received. The banquet room at the Surry Inn has been reserved for next year.

A special thanks to Marshall for the fine work done on the newsletter and also for securing our new membership badge. Also thanks to Howard for his excellent efforts as treasurer.

Please send your suggestions to Marshall and your dues to Howard.

DJK

Proceedings of the annual meeting: There were 20 members and guests present. The following persons were reelected for a one year term:

President

David J. Klinepeter
4740 Count Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17109-3038

Treasurer

Howard Siglag
183 Hazelwood Drive
Westbury, NY 11590

Secretary

Marshall J. Brighenti
R D 2 Box 61
Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012

The term of office is for one year April, 1988 to April, 1989. Member's association number is permanent. If a member leaves the organization the number will not be assigned to another person. Mary Dearing author of "Veterans In Politics" has been assigned association number one.

Roger Heiple suggested that membership badges be available only to members and spouses. This was seconded by Edwin Hibarger and passed by the organization. Membership badges can be purchased by sending \$5.00 to the secretary Marshall J. Brighenti.

Treasurers Report: There was a balance of \$150.19 in the treasury.

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In addition to members wants and areas of interest, published on a rotating basis, once each year members will receive free ad space listing items for sale. This is being done to alleviate the unbalanced situation where there is seldom items for sale in any of the periodicals. Submit a list of items for sale to the secretary.

For those who have not paid there dues for 1988 please send remittance in the amount of \$5.00 to the treasurer. Association membership cards will be issued in the near future.

Comments on the Ashland, Ohio civil war show:
An interesting informal discussion transpired during Dennis Loba's excellent slide presentation at the Surry Inn. Dennis was awarded best of show GAR for his Gettysburg memories display.

A large amount of high quality items were traded and sold. For a change there were U C V items for sale. For the second consecutive year there was an increased demand for Womans Relief Corps and Ladies of the G A R items! And most important, everyone had an enjoyable weekend.

Welcome to the following new members:

Al Fulton
Bob Marcotte
Randy Lane
Michael Albanese
Tom Gordon Jr.
H. A. Hoffman
Larry Hicklen
John Ferry

Civil War Widow Dies:

Mrs. Mattie Brown age 95 of Kansas City, Kansas died January 28, 1988. She was the widow of Francis Monroe Brown 1843-1943 a union naval veteran of the civil war and a member of the G A R. She married Mr. Brown in 1934 and was his attendant at the 75th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg. She was a former member of the Womans Relief Corps and at the time of her death was a member of Auxiliary #72 Ovid, New York. She was buried next to Mr. Brown at the Ft. Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Editorial credits for enclosed articles:

Dennis Loba-----Monuments
Jeff Schrock-----Uhrichsville, Ohio Monument

Members areas of interest published on a rotating basis:

Al Fulton
1415 Chestnut St.
Dover, OH 44622
Civil War Roundtable, Relic Collection-especially edged weapons, Touring battlefields and historic sites

page three

Bob Marcotte
P O Box 3303
Peabody Ma 01960
GAR Ex-Pow 50th and 75th Gettysburg reunion items 12th N.H. Vol. infantry
embossed glass goblets from nationals

Randy Lane
11465 Tazwell Dr.
Louisville, Ky 40222
GAR UCV UCV Camps Magruder, Va. UCV or GAR Louisville, Ky encampments

Michael Albanese
1661 Kendall Rd.
Kendall, NY 14476
GAR UCV First New York Dragoons

Tom Gordon JR.
297-299 East Main St.
Westminster, Md 21157
GAR Sons of Vets

H. A. Hoffman
R D 4 Box 4325
Bangor, Pa. 18013
GAR UCV Ex-POW Naval Vets any item from Easton, Pa. or Bangor, Pa.

There were no questions or answers submitted since the last newsletter.
Again, please submit questions and answers for the benefit of everyone.

COMING EVENTS: GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

June 18-29 An encampment five miles south off Rt. 15- June 24 encampment
opens to the public-also McPherson's, Ridge opening battle 5pm - June 25
Sanitary Fair at site-Cavalry reenactment 10am-Wheatfield-Peach Orchard re-
enactment 5pm- June 26 "Picketts Charge" 2pm.

July 1-2-3- National Park Service. . . . tactical demonstrations-
July 1-2 on grounds- July 3 parade. Original battle flags will be exchanged
by governors of various states. Rededication of the Eternal Light Peace
Memorial.

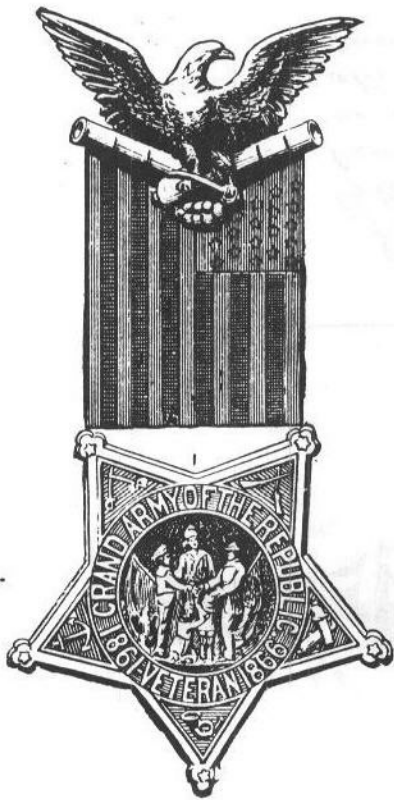
July 1-2-3-4 Eastern Arms Collectors civil war and antique gun show
Holiday Inn and Shearton Inn

July 1-2 Civil War Book Show Gettysburg Junior High Friday 6pm Saturday 9am.

July 8-9-10 14th Annual Civil War Collector Show-Shearton Inn sponsored
by the Mason Dixon Relic Association (This is the established show that was
previously held over the July 4th weekend)

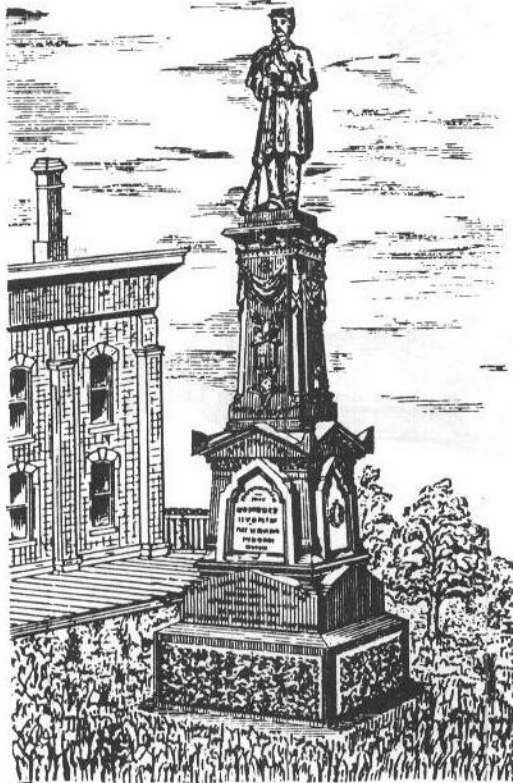
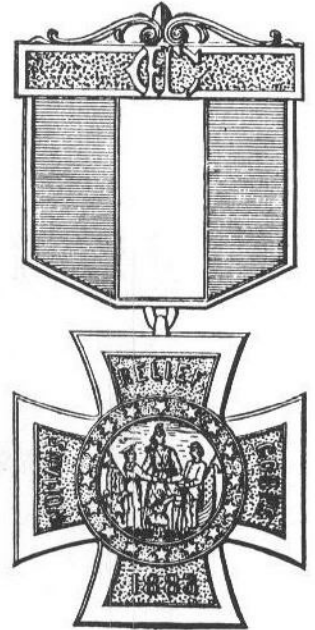
CWHA Secretary,

Marshall J. Bright



Badges & Emblems.

Badges of the Grand Army of the Republic, Woman's Relief Corps, and Military Emblems, such as Crossed Cannons, Stacked Arms, Flags and Drums, Equestrian Soldier and others, can be furnished, handsomely mounted and framed, for Post Rooms, or when desired they will be cast on tablets with any lettering that may be required and arranged to fasten to marble or granite monuments.



White Bronze Monument at New Cumberland, W. Va.

→ G. * A. * R. ←

→ HEADQUARTERS * POST * NO. 18 ←

Department of West Virginia.

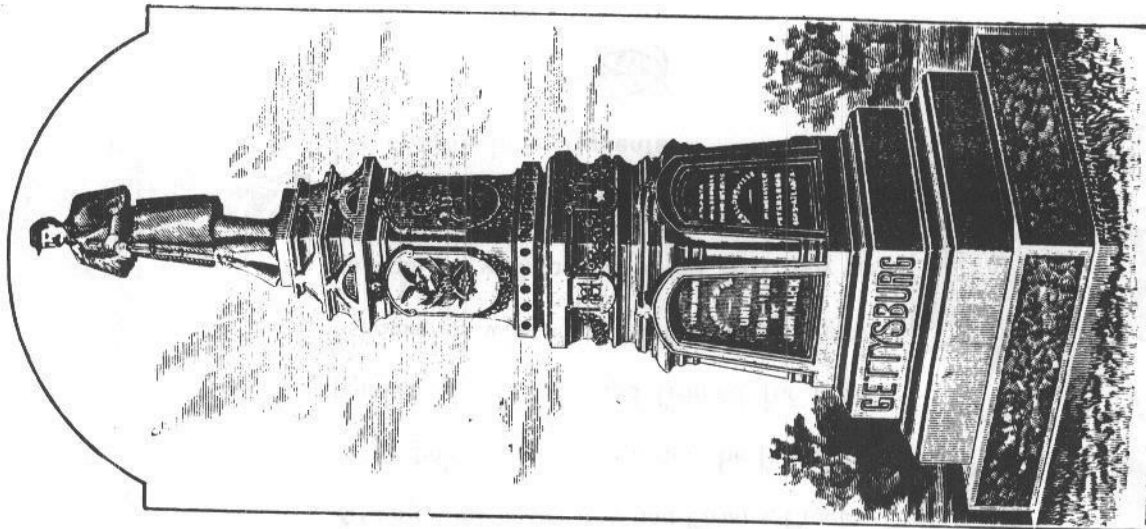
New Cumberland, W. Va. Dec 11 1886

American White Bronze Co.
Chicago, Ill.,
Gentlemen.

Yours of 24th ult received. Please excuse delay in answering. The White Bronze Monument erected for us at this place, not only gives entire satisfaction, but exceeds our most sanguine expectations. From the expressions of visitors to our town, who have had the opportunity of viewing other Soldier Monuments, we have arrived at the conclusion, that we have one of the finest appearing monuments that could be erected, and its equal could not be produced from any other material for three times the cost of ours.

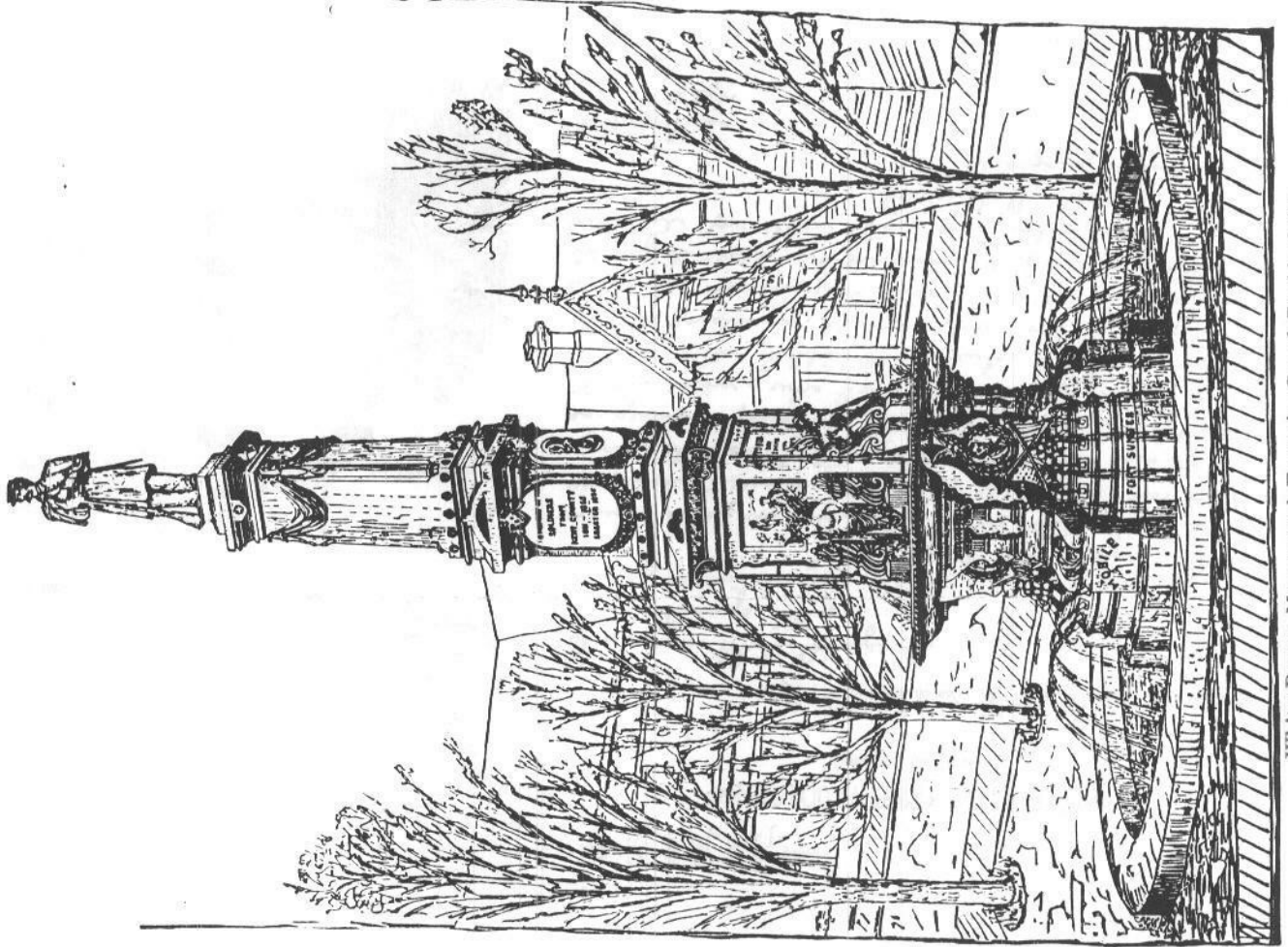
Respectfully Yours
George Lambert
Comd'r

G. A. R.
adph



White Bronze Soldiers' Monument, erected by Col. J. H. Lick, Fredericksburg, Pa.

Fredericksburg Pa. Dec. 18. 1886.
 J. J. Owen of Lewisburg Pa has put up for
 me a Soldiers Monument on Cedar Hill
 Cemetery Fredericksburg Pa, which has been done
 in a workmanlike manner and is quite an
 attraction to visitors. It is in as good condition
 now as when put up. John H. Lick



White Bronze Monumental Fountain, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Monument stands tall once again

By STEVE LONG
T-R Staff Writer TR 11-12-86

UHRICHSVILLE — Once again, the wounded artilleryman reaches up to his infantryman comrade for a drink from his canteen. Behind them rest a shattered cannon and wheel, while towering above is a 20-foot tree trunk with a cannon ball wedged in a limb.

For more than 90 years, that statue commemorating Civil War veterans greeted visitors to Union Cemetery here, but over the years, weather and vandalism took its toll on the unique sculptures.

The most telling destruction came at the hands of humans, as vandals decapitated the two soldier figures on separate occasions.

This year, both became whole again through a \$19,690 restoration project organized by the Claymont Jaycees and headed by Robert Michels, a Uhrichsville police sergeant and Jaycee member. The figures were restored to their original form by two professional conservators. In addition, a new decorative fence was installed and the entire scene is now illuminated from dusk to dawn.

The new monument got an appropriate unveiling on Veterans' Day, but the official dedication will be held next Memorial Day. That will enable the Jaycees to continue fund-raising efforts to pay off the final \$4,500 balance on the project.

Guest speaker for the Tuesday morning ceremony was Jeff Schrock of Sugar Creek, a Civil War historian and immediate past commander of the Tuscarawas County Council of the American Legion. Schrock said he had viewed many war monuments, "but this is one of the most outstanding I have ever seen."

The sculpted battlefield scene is surrounded by a circle of 44 graves, all of veterans of the Civil War. Schrock gave a history of the ground, saying the monument was dedicated May 30, 1891, and built with funds raised by public subscription. The last soldier was buried at the G.A.R. Circle in 1924, he said.

Also on the program were Glenn Arnold, county Legion commander; Glenn Mills of the Disabled American Veterans; Rev. Jim Huston of Dennison United Methodist Church; and Carrie Rooks and Helen Clouse of the Daughters of Union Veterans.

See MONUMENT ... A-3



CARRIE ROOKS (L) AND HELEN CLOUSE IN FRONT OF STATUE
The two are members of the Daughters of Union Veterans

Monument

Michels served as master of ceremonies, thanking those who worked toward the project.

Not present, but recognized, were the conservators, Steven J. Wisenbaugh of Harrison (near Cincinnati) and Fred Glover of Athens. The two were paid \$7,300 for cleaning and repairing the statue and sealing the entire piece to stop weathering. The two used old photographs to duplicate the original style.

In addition to soliciting donations, the Jaycees also held several fund-raising projects of their own to pay for the project.

The Jaycees started the restoration fund in June 1984. Several parts, including hands of the statues, a rifle, canteen and a squirrel had already been vandalized and

stolen. During the fund-raising process, even more severe vandalism was inflicted as the head and right arm of the reclining figure was knocked off and the head of the standing figure severely damaged. Later, the standing soldier's head also was removed.

Other area Veterans Day observances included one by the New Philadelphia VFW, which featured a short parade to the courthouse followed by talk by Uhrichsville attorney John Wheeler, a member of Tuscarawas County Chapter 67 of Disabled American Veterans. The program, sponsored by the Veterans Coordinating Committee, also included an awards luncheon for veterans and guests at the VFW post home.

Honored for long-time service to veterans were Donald Thomas of New Philadelphia, past commander and 40-year member of DAV Chapter 67; Margaret Dunbar of New Philadelphia, secretary in the county Veterans Administration office; and William C. Avon of Strasburg, veterans employment representative with the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

Cited by the VFW were Harold Meese of New Philadelphia, a veteran of World War II and survivor of the Bataan death march, and the late Edward Brenda, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars and longtime teacher at Sacred Heart Elementary at New Philadelphia.

Restoration a reason for pride

Some people may find it hard to get enthused about some pieces of stone on a circle of grass at a cemetery.

But Uhrichsville Police Sgt. Bob Michels has cause to be proud about the restoration of the Civil War monument at Union Cemetery. After decades of erosion, punctuated by acts of vandalism, had nearly destroyed the monument, Michels and the Claymont Jaycees engaged in a project to raise funds to bring the sculptures back to their original glory. It was not an easy task, because the price tag kept going up.

Nonetheless, the restored monument had its unveiling last Tuesday, as several dozen area residents braved the first really nasty morning of the winter season for ceremonies. The official dedication will not come until next May for Memorial Day.

War monuments are not really "in" anymore, except for veterans' groups. In fact, the military itself has been downplayed in American society since the Vietnam War. History teachers seem to concentrate on political and social forces, looking upon the results of armed conflict as a flip-of-the-coin, not taking skills, preparedness or sacrifice into account.

But for those who do erect monuments, the purpose is not to glorify, but to commemorate. The Tuscarawas County Courthouse square is filled with monuments to past wars.

However, the cemetery display at Uhrichsville is rather unique. Unlike most, it does not display a solitary figure, but presents a full tableau. And the scene is not one of active combat, with a soldier shooting or cavalryman charging, but rather an after-the-battle episode. A wounded soldier reaches for a canteen from an upright figure, and in the background is a shattered tree trunk, complete with cannonball in a branch, a dismantled cannon, caisson wheel, banners, etc.

An unlikely participant, a squirrel, was once a part of this battlefield scene, but was removed by vandals sometime in the past. Michels said a replacement will be installed by May.

The scene's detail is amazing, and one can find a new aspect on each visit. In fact, the



Comment

Steve Long

monument, plus some highly unusual tombstones, have made the cemetery something of a tourism attraction.

The display, located in what is known locally as the Soldiers Circle or G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) plot, is surrounded by the graves of 44 Civil War veterans. It also is the site of Twin City Memorial Day services and undoubtedly many a speaker has waved his arms over the graves and referred to "these men who gave their lives for their country."

The phrase is a bit misplaced. The monument was dedicated in 1891, some 26 years after the Civil War was over. Most of those who had died in combat (or more likely in that time, from disease) were either buried on the battlefield or interred in their family plots. Those who are buried in the G.A.R. Circle are not casualties, but survivors of the Civil War who died later. The last burial there was made in 1924. This is not to detract from the honor of those who are there, because they served and endured the same risks.

Just about every community has a Civil War monument, from a conflict that was probably the most emotional and far-reaching in U.S. history, touching nearly every family. But as stated before, Uhrichsville's is nearly unique.

When the monument was damaged, no one rushed forward to repair it, particularly when cost estimates were received. For a while it looked like the shattered figures would eventually deteriorate into nothing.

Thankfully, Michels and the Jaycees stepped into the gap for a serious fund-raising effort. The figures had been defaced before,

but after the project started, vandals came back and really did a number, including decapitation of the figures.

There is a suspicion that this action was a personal vendetta against Michels, who like every law officer will have some enemies in the performance of duty. The vandalism was a most cowardly and senseless way to exact revenge.

The new attacks practically doubled the restoration costs. It is to the credit of Michels and the Jaycees that they did not give up. In fact, they increased the scope of the project even more to protect the work once it was completed. The G.A.R. has a stronger fence, the area is lighted from dusk to dawn and the cemetery is regularly patrolled. Even with these precautions, somebody could cause further destruction, but it would be a bit more difficult. I will say that there are suspects in the previous incidents and if any proof is obtained, they will not be treated gingerly in the local justice system.

It is interesting to note that the original monument was built in 1891 by public subscription and that the restoration, costing almost \$20,000 also was primarily from contributions, not governmental funding.

The process is not quite complete. To finish off the project, the Jaycees borrowed \$5,000. Their indebtedness is now at \$4,500, so contributions are still being solicited. Checks, payable to the Claymont Jaycee Statue Fund, may be sent to Robert Michels, 1014 N. Water St., Uhrichsville.

Support is encouraged. This is truly a work of art, and not just for Uhrichsville and Dennison. The significance is not in the stonework, but in what it represents.

A footnote: Guest speaker at Tuesday's ceremony was Jeff Schrock, who noted that the sponsoring agent was Welch Post of the G.A.R. He would like information on the Welch for whom the post was named. Schrock may be contacted at 940 W. Main St., Sugar-creek, (216) 852-2629.

Steve Long is a staff writer and manager of the Uhrichsville office of The Times-Reporter.



CIVIL WAR VETERANS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
"The 4th Battalion"

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS TO PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN VETERAN MATERIALS AND TO PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT THEY ESTABLISHED. THE FIRST MEETING OF THIS ORGANIZATION TOOK PLACE IN APRIL OF 1986, AND THE ASSOCIATION WAS FORMALLY STARTED ON APRIL 27, 1987. OFFICERS ARE ELECTED ANNUALLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE CIVIL WAR SHOW IN ASHLAND, OHIO WHICH USUALLY FALLS ON THE LAST WEEKEND IN APRIL. MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$5.00 PER YEAR, WHICH COVERS THE ASSOCIATION'S NEWSLETTER (PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR). PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DUES TO: DR. HOWARD SIGLAG, 183 HAZELWOOD DR. WESTBURY, N.Y. 11590 (ASSOCIATION TREASURER)

IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP & RETURN IT WITH YOUR DUES.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

AREAS OF INTEREST

_____ GAR _____ UCV _____ UVL _____ UVU _____ EX-POW _____ NAVAL VETS
_____ ARMY NURSES _____ WRC _____ LADIES OF THE GAR _____ SONS OF VETS
_____ LOYAL LEGION _____ OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS (SPECIFIC ENCAMPMENTS, TESTIMONIALS, GLASS, SOUVENIRS, CALLING CARDS, ETC) _____

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FOR OFFICE USE

SUBSCRIPTION RECEIVED _____ ASSOCIATION NUMBER ASSIGNED _____
CARD ISSUED _____ MEMBERSHIP BADGE ISSUED _____