

“Tent 58 Wraps Up 2025”

Hello Sisters,

Tent 58 was busy for the second half of 2025 with attendance at conventions, special events, battlefields, cemeteries and Wreaths Across America.

CONVENTIONS

Debbie Scheisser, Ellen Higgins and Sharon Collopy Cossaboon attended the **DUVCW National Convention** in Herndon, VA, where **Ellen** was elected as the **National Junior Vice President**.

Ellen Higgins and Michele Wallenta were present for the **MOLLUS Convention** at the Union League in Philadelphia where they also had a business meeting for DOLLUS.

EVENTS



The **Union Library of Hatborough** found **Jane Douglass and Mary Wible** at their “Keeping History Alive: Civil War Encampment” held on their grounds.

Major Octavius Catto was once again honored in a ceremony that took place at his statue outside Philadelphia City Hall. **Mary Wible, Michele Wallenta, Ellen Higgins and Deb Grady** attended that and the PA **National Guard Medal Ceremony** at the Union League.

L-R. Mary Wible, Walt Lafty (SUVCW) and Jane Douglass.

Remembrance Day in Gettysburg is always a highlight when the Allied Orders come together to honor our Civil War ancestors with wreath laying ceremonies, speeches and a parade.

Ellen Higgins, Michele Wallenta and Mary Wible started the day at the General Meade Equestrian Monument for services where they met **Sister Ann Beer** from the Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1 in VA.



L - R. Mary Wible, Ellen Higgins, Ann Beer, Michele Wallenta

From there they joined our DUVCW sisters from other PA Tents at the Memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic featuring Albert Woolson, the last survivor of the GAR.

That was followed by the parade. Both **Ellen** and **Michele** participated in it, while **Mary** took photos to share.

This memorable day ended at the Gettysburg National Cemetery which was lit with luminaries in the evening as the names of those buried there were read aloud. **Michele Wallenta** was one of the volunteer readers who read those names for a fifteen minute span.

BATTLEFIELDS

Sharon Collopy Cossaboon took the tour of the **Manassas** Battlefield while at the DUVCW National Convention this summer.

Michele Wallenta and **Mary Wible** enjoyed their October trip with the Meade Society which included visiting the **South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg** Battlefields with excellent tour guides.

CEMETERIES

In August, **Mary Wible** visited **Laurel Hill Cemetery** for a tour of Civil War veterans' graves.

Mary also attended the honor ceremony for Brevet Major-General Thomas Kilby Smith who is buried in the **St. Dominic Church Cemetery** in the Holmesburg section of Northeast Philadelphia. In fact, the church is a few blocks away from the GAR Civil War Museum and Archive.

On the Meade trip, **Michele Wallenta** and **Mary Wible** visited the **Lancaster Cemetery** to honor General John F. Reynolds in a wreath laying ceremony.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Tent 58 purchased five wreaths again this year for Wreaths Across America. Sisters **Michele Wallenta, Deb Grady, Mary Wible** and **Barbara Boston** were at **Beverly National Cemetery** in New Jersey. **Barbara** placed wreaths at the graves of her WW1 grandfather/grandmother and WW2 uncle/aunt.

Tent president **Debbie Schiesser** participated at **Doylestown Cemetery**, while **Ellen Higgins** attended **Marco Island Cemetery** in Florida. The only Civil War Veteran is William Collier and his grave is marked with a Confederate marker.

Kathy Edinger was unable to attend this year at **Ft. Indiantown Gap**, but her dad (Korea) and WW1 uncle had wreaths placed on their graves.



Michele, Deb G., Mary, Barb



Debbie S.



Ellen

GENERAL GEORGE GORDON MEADE

Finally, Civil War enthusiasts gathered at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia on Dec. 31st to celebrate the **210th birthday of "The Victor of Gettysburg"** aka General George G. Meade.

Michele Wallenta, Kerry Bryan and Mary Wible were there for the champagne toast and reception sponsored by the Meade Society.



L-R Michele, Kerry, Mary

As we begin 2026 to celebrate the 250th birthday of our country, let us **KEEP GREEN THE MEMORY** of all of our United States of America veterans for their sacrifices and patriotism.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Mary Wible

Tent 58 Historian and Patriotic Instructor