

THE HISTORIC *Union Cemetery* REDWOOD CITY, CA

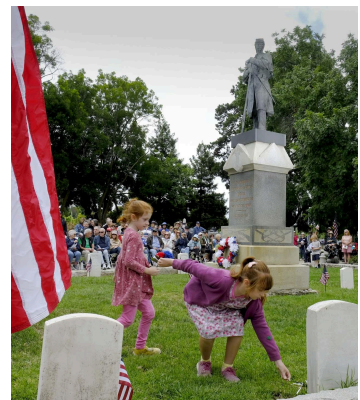


Summer 2026



Memorial Day - May 25th

Our commemorative event was well attended this year. It takes lots of community involvement to host such an event. In addition to the tireless work by HUCA board members, we had our bagpiper Malachi and Boy Scout Troop 149 led by fifer Jack Doyle. Board member Barry Kuhl - MC, James Howard - Veteran Outreach Specialist and decorating of the graves by the children.



Photos courtesy of Tom Jung and Jerel Crawford

The anvil firing! Anvil firing is an explosive frontier tradition where blacksmiths or hobbyists use black powder to launch a heavy top anvil hundreds of feet into the air. It produces a massive, ground-shaking "boom" and was historically used to celebrate holidays, elections, or signal emergencies



Loading the gunpowder



Lighting the fuse



BOOM!

Reverend Steve Williams read this moving poem from the book
Remember Us:

The young dead soldiers do not speak.
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
 who has not heard them?
They have a silence that speaks for them at night
 and when the clock counts.
They say: We were young. We have died.
 Remember us.
They say: We have done what we could
 but until it is finished it is not done.
They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
 no one can know what our lives gave.
They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
 they will mean what you make them.
They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for
peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
 it is you who must say this.
We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
 We were young, they say.
 We have died; remember us.



The HUCA Board thanks all who attended and supported our event,
especially our dedicated Clampers Russ and Dean who drove all the
way from Sonora to fire the anvil.



Please consider becoming a member of the Historic Union Cemetery
Association. You can join at our website:
www.historicunioncemetery.org/membership

In addition to Memorial Day, we've been busy working with the Office of Veterans Affairs to get headstones for our vets who are currently in unmarked graves. We recently had one that had been broken and replaced. This time we're installing a previously unmarked plot.



George Dewey Allain, WWI Veteran

George Dewey Allain was born on November 5, 1896 in Redwood City to French immigrants Toussaint and Mary Victoria Allain. George was employed as a chauffeur when he enlisted in the navy in June of 1918. He was residing at the Bremerton Navy Yard in Washington State when he passed from pneumonia on October 4, 1918. His widow, Hazel McKay Allain, later gave birth to a son on December 2, 1918.

George is one of two Redwood City men who died during service in World War I and are buried in the Union Cemetery in Redwood City. The other, John Henry

Eberle, died just a short time later in November 1918, also in Washington State due to the same illness.

While Eberle's headstone has survived since his burial in 1918, Allain's headstone has been missing for many years. On June 19th, 2026 George will finally get his military headstone provided by the VA department. He is buried in the Redmen plot, next to his parents.



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