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Civil War veteran honored at Clarksville Cemetery in El Dorado Hills

By: Eyragon Eidam, Telegraph Correspondent



EL DORADO HILLS, CA – The community gathered to celebrate the life and contributions of one local veteran nearly 100 years after his passing Saturday at the historic Clarksville Cemetery in El Dorado Hills.

Corporal Samuel E. Kyburz, a veteran of the Civil War and prominent figure in California's history, was laid to rest in 1917 in the small cemetery that now sits above a bustling shopping center and movie theater.

Descendants and history-buffs alike joined the Clarksville Regional Historical Society and shared the opportunity to memorialize Samuel Elliot Kyburz with military honors and a rifle salute at the modest grave site.

For Kyburz's family descendant, Jennifer Lacey, the memorial service was not only about honoring the past, but publicly recognizing the significance of her family's prominent heritage.

"I've often wondered why should someone in history be remembered, and of course, Sam was a participant in the discovery of gold...." said Lacey.

Though the event was an important part of highlighting the life of Kyburz, Lacey said she wished more extended family could have been a part of the memorial.

"I'm very honored. I wish that there could have been more family, more direct descendants of Sam Elliot here," said an emotional Lacey. "I'm very touched that I was asked to represent the Kyburz family."

Betty January, vice president of the Clarksville Regional Historical Society, said the Corporal in Company D of the 2nd California Cavalry had made significant contributions to the area.

Kyburz is the only Civil War veteran buried in the small, hill-top cemetery, but shares the grounds with a Korean War veteran and a Vietnam War veteran.

"He's important because he is our Civil War veteran buried here," said January.

During the service, six members from Company F of the 2nd California Cavalry Civil War reenactment group stood by on horseback to honor the veteran. A seventh horse also stood saddled with a pair of boots tucked backward in the stirrups.

The significance of the seventh horse and empty, backward-facing boots, was to show respect for fallen soldiers throughout the Civil War, explained January.

Company F rounded out the intimate memorial service with a three-gun rifle salute as the members of the 31st Regiment of the United States Volunteer Honor Guard presented Lacey with a folded American flag.

Keywords:

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