

OPINIONS

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OUR VIEW

Recognition of Civil War veterans a sober reminder

Thumbs up to local historians, volunteers and others who held a respectful and solemn memorial service for Civil War soldiers buried in Glenwood Cemetery last Saturday.

The Col. William Colvill Camp 56 Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Friends of the Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial honored the last Civil War veteran and 14 others buried in Mankato's Glenwood Cemetery.



The group conducted a Civil War Union Veteran Headstone Dedication Ceremony for Cpl. Alvarez Bicknell Coggeshall, the last Civil War veteran buried in Blue Earth County.

The 16-year-old ran away from home and joined the Union Army in 1864 as part of the Indiana infantry, not revealing his age. He later fought in battles from Georgia to Tennessee as part

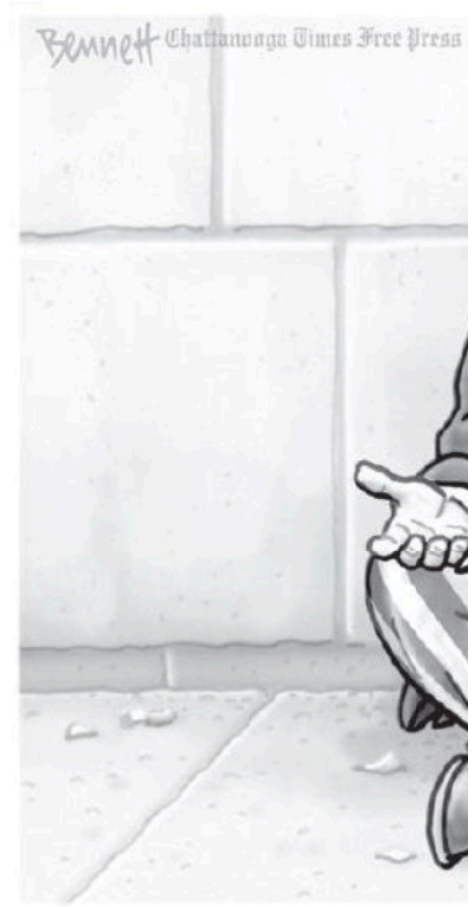
of General William Tecumseh Sherman's Army. He later moved to Mankato as his son worked a Mapleton farm while he and his wife took up residence at 520 Byron in Mankato.

Local Lincoln re-enactor Bryce Stenzel gave a long overdue sendoff and James "Jimmy" Johnson with the SUVCW also participated. Another 14 veterans were also honored with a salute by American Legion Post 11, VFW Post 950 Veterans Honor Guard and bugler Joe Hoffman. Susan Hynes represented widows of the lost men.

Local historian Julie A. Schrader conducted research to bring the veterans' stories to life.

There may be no war more important to U.S. history than the war between the states and the war against slavery. While World War I was the war to stop all wars and World War II defeated world fascism, there would be no strong united America to fight those wars had President Abraham Lincoln and the Union army not won the Civil War.

So it was fitting for the tribute to once again bring light to the importance of the Civil War. Minnesota soldiers have a storied history in the Civil War with the First Minnesota's role in the Battle of Gettysburg. There, First Minnesota soldiers were far outnumbered by confederates 5-1 but stood the ground to eventually win the battle incurring 80% casualties.



Mass deportations are self-destructive.

A new working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research should give every democracy-minded American pause. The study, conducted by University of Colorado Boulder economists, examined the effects of the Trump administration's intensified immigration enforcement in 2025. Its findings are clear, data driven and deeply relevant to this moment.

The researchers found no evidence that mass deportation improves job prospects for American-born workers. In fact, the opposite is true. When immigrant

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