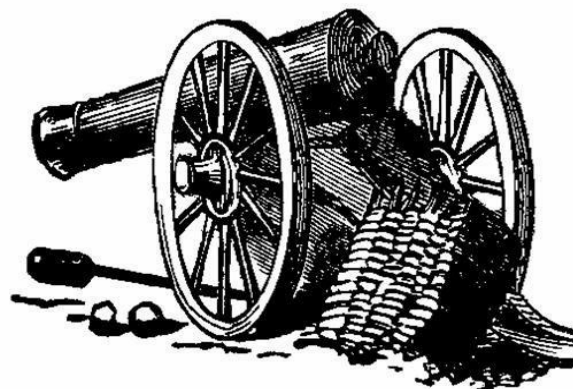


Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc. 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation  
Founded 1978

# The Grapeshot

## Newsletter

May 2021



This month's guest presenter:

**Brian Steel Wills**

Please join us as Mr. Wills discusses his book, "Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the Civil War".



Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Presented through Zoom

May 11th, 2021

6 pm

## ***About Our Speaker***

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 11 AT 6PM Please join us for our next speaker, Brian Steel Wills, presenting on his book, “Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the Civil War”. Many of those who perished during the war, soldier and civilians, did so from effects that occurred beyond the deliberate fire of the opposing forces as disease, accidents, and other mishaps added to the toll. Taken together, the undoubted real cost of the conflict far surpasses the traditional numbers for mortality in the Civil War. Mr. Wills tells their stories. Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA, and is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War. His other works include “The Confederacy’s Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest”, chosen as both a History Book Club and Book of the Month Club selection, and “George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel”, recipient of the Harwell Award.

### **Zoom Meeting Information**

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable May 2021 Meeting

Time: May 11, 2021 06:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85439410690?pwd=NWhvTEt3OUhoVE9vRVVkdMjR0V5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3941 0690

Passcode: 645776

## **SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2021**

All meetings at 6 pm on dates below and via Zoom until further notice.

**May 11th - Brian Wills, “Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths In The Civil War”**

**June 8th- Dan Welch, “Where All So Well Did Their Duty: George Greene’s Brigade at Gettysburg”**

# ***Officers, Staff, and Meetings***

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## **MEETINGS**

Zoom Meetings scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM by email invitation

September thru May

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

## ***EVERYONE WELCOME***

[www.scottsdalecwr.org](http://www.scottsdalecwr.org)

SCWRT #274

7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515

Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: [scottsdalecwr@gmail.com](mailto:scottsdalecwr@gmail.com)

## ***Trivia Questions***

1. What was unusual about the uniforms of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Regiment at the first battle of Bull Run (Manassas)?
2. What New York regiment marched off to war wearing Scottish “trues” (tartan trousers) and kilts?
3. What Union troops wore distinctive green uniforms?
4. Who were the Zouaves?

Answers on page 17.

## ***THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY***

May 24, 1861. Union forces move into the Confederacy. New York Fire Zouaves led by Col. Elmer Ellsworth (who had studied law with Lincoln) go by steamboat to Alexandria, Virginia. The landing is peaceful until Ellsworth spies a large Confederate flag flying from a hotel. He cuts down the flag from the roof, but as he returns downstairs, the hotel's owner fires a shotgun straight into his chest. Ellsworth is the first Union officer killed in the war. A private immediately kills the landlord. The Lincolns are deeply grieved and Ellsworth's body lies in state in the White House. The phrase “Remember Ellsworth” becomes a rallying cry for the Union armies.

# Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

## Membership

### Please Join Us!

Your membership enables SCWRT to help with battlefield preservation and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country as keynote speakers at our meetings, September thru May! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mail to this address:

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Additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*100% of your contribution (minus expenses) goes to battlefield preservation.*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Our monthly newsletter "The Grapeshot" will be emailed to you.

*Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is approved by the IRS as a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible for federal and state income tax returns. Check with your tax consultant.*

[www.scottsdalecwr.org](http://www.scottsdalecwr.org)

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

480/699-5844

## Meet the CWRT Congress

By Mike Movius, Founder and President

With the loss of nearly 70 Civil War Round Tables (CWRTs) in the past decade, it became abundantly clear that the movement that once boasted close to 500 CWRTs worldwide was in jeopardy. In 2016, Mike Movius, the president of the Puget Sound CWRT wanted to understand how that could be prevented. From that humble beginning, the CWRT Congress was born.

Since that time, we have held conferences in Centreville, VA, Harrisburg, PA and St. Louis, MO. Our conferences seek to inform CWRT members about practices that have proven successful in the areas of program development, fundraising, preservation, marketing, recruitment, governance, culture, partnerships and a host of other organization development areas. We also encourage networking with one another to better understand how CWRTs can succeed.

CWRT Congress does not have memberships. We do not charge dues of any kind. We are a registered 501(c)3 and rely on voluntary donations of those who want the CWRT movement to thrive. We are all about CWRT sustainability. Our motto is *Improvement through Education and Networking*. Our website is loaded with proven practices that CWRTs and their leaders should consider. [www.cwrtcongress.org/proven.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/proven.html)

When the pandemic hit in the first quarter of 2020, we knew that CWRTs were going to be unable to meet for some time. Our fear was this was an existential threat as members would lose interest and that CWRTs would fail. So, we began to offer free, online Civil War lectures. The response has been overwhelming. Speakers have donated their time and talents because they believe in the movement. Watch them at [www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html)

Reservations for upcoming events can be made at [www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html) We also have a living historian series called "Fridays with Grant" by Dr. Curt Fields [www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html)

Our 2021 conference will be held in the Philadelphia area September 17-19. We have a great lineup that includes workshops on board organization, member retention, mission statements, the new normal, newsletter improvement, managing organizational change, changing organizational culture, meaningful partnerships, writing press releases, the sister CWRT connection, succession planning and targeted recruitment. Registration opens in July and we hope to meet you there.



# From Around the Campfire...A Message from Our

## President John Bamberl

### Women in the Confederacy

Women in the Confederacy had a great impact on the war. When their sons and husbands went off to war, they were left with taking care of the land and other businesses. Whether they got directly involved in the war effort or kept the home fires burning, women contributed a multitude of skills to the war effort.

It is not known how many women actually participated in battle; however, the numbers seem to be higher than anyone expected. Many women gave up their gender to fight. From the records, the majority appear to have been motivated by shared patriotism and unwillingness to be separated from their loved ones. After all, their South had been invaded.

One such case was Amy Clark. She enlisted as a private in a cavalry regiment with her husband Walter so she wouldn't be separated from him. She used the name Richard Anderson. She fought in the battle of Shiloh where her husband was killed. After burying her husband, she continued on with Bragg's army in Kentucky until she was wounded and taken prisoner. When she was discovered by the Federals to be a female, she was paroled. But she was not allowed to return until she put on a dress. The following August when the people of Cairo heard of her predicament, they donated money to buy the proper clothing.

She was seen wearing Lieutenant's bars at Turner's Station, Tennessee and was recognized as the heroic Amy Clark, causing a bit of sensation among the soldiers.

Another female warrior was Madame Loreta Janeta Velasquez also known as Lieutenant Henry Buford. She was born in Havana, Cuba on June 26, 1842. She was very well educated in New Orleans where she attended Catholic schools and was educated in English, Spanish, and French. At age 15 she eloped with a dashing young Army officer and when the war broke out she convinced him to renounce his commission and join the Confederacy. He refused to let her go with him to fight so when he left for war she proceeded to Arkansas and raised her own cavalry unit called The Arkansas Grays and took them to Florida to present to her husband to command. But he was killed a few days later. After the first Battle of Bull Run, she decided to become a spy and borrowed female attire and went to Washington to gather information. She grew weary of being a spy and fought at the Battle of Fort Donelson where she was wounded. She rejoined the Battalion she had raised in Arkansas and fought at the Battle of Shiloh where she was wounded again and an army doctor discovered she was a woman.



She then traveled to Richmond where she was hired as a spy. After the war she wrote a 600 page book called "The Woman in Battle". Her claims have been verified in 2007 when the History Channel broadcast "Full Metal Corset" and confirmed her story.

Many women helped the Southern cause by becoming "covert operatives" or spies.

One such woman was Rose O'Neal Greenhow. She was an attractive widow with extensive connections on both sides of the conflict. At the age of 26, Rose married a man 17 years her senior. Dr. Robert Greenhow was a physician who belonged to a distinguished Virginia family and was well placed in Washington society. Dr. Greenhow was not wealthy and when he died in 1854 he left his widow and four daughters little more than a small brick house. Mrs. Greenhow used her political friendships to obtain jobs and promotions for those who were willing to contribute to her upkeep.

Her career as a hostess and informal powerbroker reached its zenith during the administration of the bachelor President James Buchanan who was a frequent visitor to her home. The most devoted admirer of all was the abolitionist senator from Massachusetts, Henry Wilson, who was chairman of the powerful senate military affairs committee.

She was recruited as a spy by Captain Thomas Jordon, a graduate of West Point. He was the roommate of a cadet named William Tecumseh Sherman. He had long since made up his mind to join the Confederacy but as Assistant Quartermaster of the War Department staff he could foresee a need for military intelligence. He was one of the last officers to leave.

He was a man about town and learned of an "intimacy" existing between Rose O'Neal Greenhow and Senator Henry Wilson. Beyond that, Captain Jordon and Mrs. Greenhow worked together to recruit and select other members of the spy ring.

General Beauregard knew that a battle was imminent and was pleading with Richmond to be reinforced with 11,000 troops under General Joseph E. Johnston in the Shenandoah Valley. Rose got word to him that McDowell was advancing on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the rest is history.

She was eventually arrested in August of 1861 and placed in house arrest in her own home. In January of 1862 she was transferred to the Old Capital Prison. She was allowed to take her maid and daughter with her. She was released on June 2, 1862 and sent South.

The confederacy sent Rose to England and France on a secret mission and while she was there she wrote her memoirs. The title was "My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition rule at Washington". On the way back her blockade runner was attacked by a union ship and she was asked to be put ashore in a small boat which capsized and she drowned. She was carrying gold back for the Confederate cause and the weight caused her to drown.

Belle Boyd was probably the most notorious Southern spy and she was quite proud of it. She was well educated and learned to speak French and became thoroughly conversant in classical literature.

She is probably most famous for killing a Union soldier who was trying to remove a Confederate flag from the front porch of her mother's home and getting away with it. She was only 17 and pled self defense. She overheard the Union plan for Front Royal and rode through Union lines to report to Stonewall Jackson. She was arrested several times and after the war toured on stage and wrote a book entitled "Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison". While she was in the Old Capitol Prison she was urged to sign a loyalty oath. Her comment to the guard was : "I hope that when I commence that oath, my tongue may cleave to the roof of my mouth . If I ever sign one line to show allegiance, I hope my arm falls paralyzed to my side .....Get out! I'm so disgusted I can't endure your presence any longer."

Until her death she toured the country performing her show in a Confederate uniform and cavalry style hat. Belle Boyd may have been an accomplished spy but could not separate fact from fiction. She was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor. This was originally intended to be on par with the Medal of Honor.

Belle Edmondson smuggled goods to the Confederate soldiers under her petticoat. Her family had a farm which was about 6 miles south of the Memphis city limits. The farm was located between enemy lines. The family were Confederate loyalists and she had two brothers that had enlisted. She kept a diary of her smuggling activities and she was able to smuggle amputation saws and medicine under the hoops of her skirt. So many trips through enemy lines attracted attention and a warrant was issued for her arrest. She fled to Clay County, Mississippi, where she lived out the duration of the war. Her memories live in her book, "Diary of Belle Edmondson".

Jennie Chew, whose nickname was "Rose of the Valley", tracked Sheridan's moves through the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate women were also of great help to the wounded soldiers.

Lucy Ann Cox was a nurse in the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, traveling with her husband for most of the war. She marched with the soldiers, including the grueling campaigns of Lee's two invasions of the north and cared for wounded soldiers during combat. When she died after the war she was buried with full military honors.

Two female casualties (one dead and one wounded) were discovered after the battle of Gettysburg. The body of an unidentified female Confederate soldier was discovered by a burial detail near the stone wall at the angle of Cemetery Ridge.

At Johnson's Island prison camp on Lake Erie an imprisoned Confederate officer gave birth to a baby boy during the first week of December 1864.

Civil War graves hold a lot of secrets. Considering that the armies of both sides held about 1.5 million soldiers, it would not be surprising to learn that several thousand of them were women.

Southern women picked up nursing quite early. In Richmond, for example, almost every home was opened to the wounded. Sophia Gilmer Bibb headed the Ladies Hospital Association and had her own hospital. In fact, the Surgeon General informed Jefferson Davis that it was the best managed and most comfortable hospital in the South. Ella King Newsom of Arkansas was called the "Florence Nightingale of the Southern Army". Juliet Hopkins was called "Angel of the South" by Joseph Johnston because she helped the wounded on the battlefield and was wounded twice doing so.

The most famous nurse however, was Sally Tompkins. She was the only woman in the Civil War to be given a rank. Mary Chestnut was a volunteer at the Tompkins Hospital.

Captain Sally (as her patients called her) was born at Poplar Grove in Mathews County, Virginia in 1833. Her grandfather had been commissioned by George Washington. This family tradition led her to believe fervently in the Southern cause. After her father's death, her mother sold the family estate and moved to Richmond. Here they joined the James Episcopal Church where they encountered the wealthy and socially prominent of the city including Judge Robertson. When the war broke out in 1861, Robertson moved his family to the country and Hopkins was allowed to use his empty home as a hospital. With contributions from well healed friends and with her own money, she formed "The Ladies of the Robertson Hospital". The hospital was noted for its efficiency and especially its cleanliness. During its four years existence it treated 1,333 patients with only 73 deaths. This was the lowest mortality rate of any military hospital during the Civil War.

The Confederate government had to close all private hospitals because of cost but she appealed to President Davis and pointed out the high percentage of men that were returned to active duty. Davis relented and offered her a commission as Captain and put her hospital under control of the army. She accepted the commission but refused to be paid.

After Lee's surrender she stayed in Richmond devoting her time and gave what was left of her money to charitable and religious causes. She never married and eventually took up residence at the Richmond Home for Confederate Women and died penniless in 1916 at the Age of 83. And was buried with full military honors. She was a true Angel of the Confederacy.

Southern women were extremely patriotic. Women had to play the role of the perpetual optimist. They encouraged their men to enlist. The women of the South knew that if they could

appear to be courageous and take care of their home themselves, then that would enable their men to “emerge victorious”. Standing by their men was one of the most difficult things a woman had to do in the 1860’s. Not only see their husbands go to war but also their father, brothers and sons.

There is a memorial to Women of the Confederacy in Rome, Georgia (next to Nathan Bedford Forrest) . I would like to close by reading the inscription.

“She was obedient to the God she adored and true to every vow she made to man. She was loyal to the country she loved so well. And upon its alter she laid husband, sire and son. The home she loved to serve was graced with sincerity of life and devotion to heart. She reared her sons to unselfish chivalry and their daughters to spotless purity. Her children delight to give her honor and love to speak her praise. Whose purity, whose fidelity, whose courage, whose gentle genius in love and in counsel kept the home secure, the family a school of virtue, the state a court of honor, who made war a season of heroism and peace a time of healing; the guardians of our tranquility and of our strength.”

Dr. John Bamberl

President Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

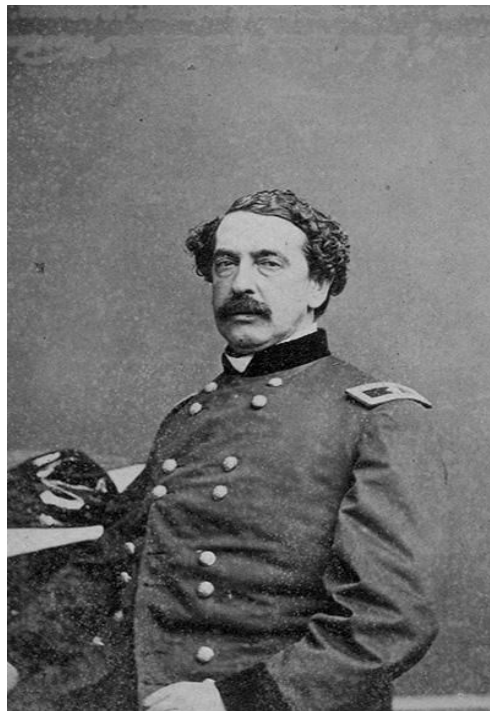
Society of Civil War Surgeons

## HOW THE CIVIL WAR HELPED MAKE BASEBALL THE NATIONAL PASTIME

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About a block behind the imposing edifice of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York lies a modest baseball field. The ball ground lies on the site of Elihu Phinney's cow pasture, where it is said Abner Doubleday "invented" baseball in 1839. The ballpark is Abner Doubleday Field (shown in the film "A League of Their Own") and it's where major leaguers play the Hall of Fame baseball game every summer.

Although Doubleday is known to students of the Civil War as a competent if not brilliant general, the average person who might recognize his name associates him with the creation of the National Pastime. But baseball historians are almost unanimous in saying the Doubleday invention story is pure myth.



*General Abner Doubleday*

Doubleday's only known association with Cooperstown was having attended a prep school there before entering West Point. He was a cadet at West Point in 1839 and nowhere near Cooperstown. He never claimed he invented the game and his extensive papers make no reference to baseball.

However, the 1905 Mills Commission, convened to determine the origin of baseball, confirmed the Doubleday myth. The primary testimony connecting Doubleday with baseball came from one Abner Graves, who remembered seeing Doubleday playing baseball (with whom was never made clear) in Phinney's cow pasture. Graves' testimony was, however, questionable because he was only five years old in 1839 and a few years later he was committed to an institution for the criminally insane. The fact that there was another Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown in 1839 further confused matters.

The goal of the Mills Commission was to establish baseball as a "native" American game. The Doubleday story was at least plausible, and therefore sellable, to the public. But baseball wasn't so "native;" it clearly had ancestors in the ball-and-bat games that had been played in Britain and continental Europe for centuries.

Early antecedents of baseball were cricket and a game called rounders. In fact, many early baseball players in the 1830s and beyond played both baseball and cricket. There are references to a game called "base ball" or "baste ball" in the U.S. as early as the 1780s. "Round-ball" (New England) "base-ball" (New York) and town ball" (Philadelphia) are all well-documented proto forms of the game. They all had features that resemble modern baseball, but the rules were loose and local; games played between towns often had to be agreed upon beforehand and sometimes had to be renegotiated during the game.

The earliest known published rules of baseball in the United States were written in 1845 for a New York City club known as the Knickerbockers. Two other New York clubs, the Gothams and the Eagles, drew up their own rules, but by 1855 the three clubs set up uniform rules. In 1857 sixteen clubs from New York formed the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP). They agreed to standardized play as laid out in the Knickerbocker-Gothams-Eagles rules.

The "New York Rules" style of baseball begun to spread West and South in the late 1850s, but the Civil War is what really took it nationwide. Approximately 2.8 million men fought on the Union side during the war.

About 400,000 of them were New Yorkers in their 20s, an age group that included most contemporary baseball players. Many who signed up came from voluntary firefighting units and militias, where baseball was widely played. New York regiments were interspersed with units from other states as brigades and divisions were formed. “New York Rules” baseball caught on with the soldiers from other states.

Countless letters home, diaries and newspaper accounts attest to how baseball helped Union soldiers deal with the boredom of camp life. Baseball was played in parole and prison camps. A baseball team was even organized in Richmond in 1862.

Soldiers returning from the war were eager to set up baseball clubs in their home states. A good way to look at how the war affected the spread of baseball is to look at the numbers. Club attendance figures from NABBP conventions from 1857 through 1867 show baseball’s trajectory toward becoming a national sport. The total number of clubs rose steadily from 14 in 1857 to 23 in 1858; the number of states represented rose from one in 1857, New York, to six plus Washington, D.C. in 1860. The war years, of course, showed a drop in attendance. But a record 91 clubs attended the convention of 1865, just a few months after the war ended. By 1866 so many new clubs applied to join the NABBP that subsidiary state baseball associations had to be set up.



*Union Officer POWS Playing Baseball in Salisbury, North Carolina Prison Camp, July 4, 1862*

A new record 202 clubs sent delegates to the convention and 200 more were represented by delegates from their state associations. Most of the new members came from states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois that had also sent large numbers of soldiers to the Union armies.

No more than ten years after the Civil War, the great era of amateur baseball was nearly over. The national association, formed by the players, would soon give way to leagues of teams, formed and dominated by team owners as baseball became more and more popular and a lucrative business. The spread of canals, railroads and New York City's extensive commercial power probably would have made New York Rules baseball the dominant form of the sport. But the Civil War, which threw young men together from every corner of the North and West, accelerated the pace.

*Dick Cox is a SCWRT board member and chairman of the Roundtable's History Committee.*



## Trivia Answers

1. They wore red flannel “lumberjack” shirts, black trousers and black felt hats. Like many volunteer regiments on both sides of the conflict, they came dressed as their native states had sent them. This led to a good deal of confusion on the battlefield. It would take months before the volunteer units were fitted out with regulation Union blue or Confederate gray or butternut.
2. The 79<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers. They took their name from the 79<sup>th</sup> (Cameron) Highlanders of the British army. The regiment was made up mostly of Scottish, Irish and English New Yorkers.
3. Hiram Berdan’s Sharpshooters. Their forest green uniforms had non-reflecting black buttons, as close to camouflage as any Civil War uniform got. They were used mainly as skirmishers and snipers and their near-camouflage uniforms allowed them to get quite close to the enemy.
4. The term “Zouave” refers to a tribe of Berbers living in the Algerian mountains. The Zouaves became regular members of the French army in the 1830s. They developed a reputation for their strict discipline and fighting ability, but more famously for their unusual uniforms, consisting of red, flared-out pantaloons, short blue jackets, crimson fezzes and white gaiters. The Zouave uniform was very popular in the United States before the Civil War. Many voluntary militia units (e.g., the New York Fire Zouaves) fitted themselves out with the distinctive dress. The Union army had several Zouave units throughout the war, whereas the Confederacy fielded only a few.

## **Other Opportunities via Zoom**

A series of free lectures on **Wednesdays hosted by the Civil War Round Table Congress (CWRTC)**. Check out their website for topics and to register.

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html>

**CWRT Congress Fridays With U.S. Grant** for a special series with Dr. Curt Fields.

To register (free)

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html>

**YouTube Channel for CWRT Congress** includes 40+ recorded past talks: [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=cwrt+congress](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cwrt+congress)

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