



Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Department Order No. 2

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(To be read in the Camps and retained in Camp files)

1. It is with great pleasure that I order that Camp #299 is hereby re-instated in good standing by the Pennsylvania Department after having submitted all required and necessary paperwork and indebtedness to the Department Secretary – Treasurer.
2. After celebrating the Independence Day holiday, I have an observation that I wish to bring to the attention of our membership. I have witnessed an appalling lack of respect by the public at large for the American Flag when on parade and conduct during our National Anthem. The Flag Code of the United States says the following: **§9. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag**
“During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”
It also addresses the conduct during the playing of our National Anthem as such: **§301. National anthem**
“Conduct During Playing — During rendition of the national anthem — 1.when the flag is displayed — A. individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;
B. members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and
C. all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; and

when the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.”

As Brothers of the SUVCW, I remind us all that at the time of our initiation we pledged and agreed as part of our Rituals that **“whenever the United States Flag is passing or being passed in a formal matter, as on parade, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, not in military uniform, will salute the Flag.”** We also are obligated by our membership that **”On all occasions when the National Anthem, the —Star Spangled Banner, is played or sung, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War should stand at attention, with hat or cap removed.”** We as members of this honored Order must always remain vigilant of our behavior and set the standard for the public to follow. Do we actually mean what is written in our Rituals or are they just words we hear when we join? Although it is quite easy to “go with the flow” and not wish to stand out in a crowd by saluting the National Colors in a public event, we must do so. Many times, all it takes is one person to salute and soon those surrounding you will follow your lead. I urge all of our Brothers to be that one person, to be the leader and remind others of what the American Flag means to us all.

By order of

Richard R. Essenwein

Commander

Pennsylvania Department