



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

Series 2013-2014

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

1. In a theme I tried to emphasize at our recent Encampment, I stressed that the Pennsylvania Department is a family. As in any family, we share in the joys as well as the difficulties encountered during our journey together. At this time, there are several Brothers, as well as Sisters, across this Department, from the Camp level to the Department level, facing serious health related challenges. Many we know about, others carry their burdens without our knowledge. We do take comfort knowing that our Heavenly Father knows the identity of all those struggling and who are most in need of his healing touch.

As PC-in-C Charlie Kuhn recently reminded us “the Civil War was a hard fought war with many battles and even though our forefathers lost some of the time they ultimately were successful in their struggles and prevailed in the end.” This is a noble outlook that may be applied to any and all of our struggles. Our different health issues can be looked at as merely battles being fought during this war we call life.

Throughout our Department’s history, our Brothers have prayed and come together before God to offer Him gratitude, reflect on His will, seek His aid, and respond to His grace. Our motto is “Preserved by the Grace of God” and our meetings are opened and closed by Prayer. Prayer has the power to bring organizations and families together and can be a wellspring of strength and support. When a person’s body grows weak, the prayers of countless Brothers and Sisters signal to those suffering that they are not alone in their struggle. Their pain is a shared pain, and their hope a shared hope. Regardless of religion or creed, members of the Pennsylvania Department reflect on the sacredness of life and express their sympathy for the suffering

offering comfort and holding up a light in an hour of darkness. Through prayer, our faith is strengthened, our hearts are humbled, and our lives are transformed.

For those who are struggling, may God's love overshadow you at this time you do not feel well. Please know the members of your Department are thinking of you and praying for your good health.

As Commander of the Pennsylvania Department, I request the Brothers of this Department to join in prayer, each according to his own faith, on Sunday September 22, 2013, for those members of our Allied Order Family that are facing health related struggles. In this solemn observance, no formal ceremony or procedure is prescribed. The time, place and type of prayer are left to each Brother's own discretion as circumstances so dictate.

By order of
Richard R. Essenwein
Commander, Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War