

Pennsylvania Department

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Office of the Commander

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Department Order # 14

Series 2014 -2015

March 3rd, 2015

(To be read in camps and retained in camp records)

Brothers,

We have been badly delayed in a very important project this year. As many of you may already know, the Soldiers Monument in the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA is in danger of collapse from age and erosion. Back in October 2014 we had an excellent presentation on the subject at the testimonial luncheon in Gettysburg. Later a PowerPoint on the subject was also presented at the Mid Year meeting.

A fundraising project by the Gettysburg Foundation on behalf of the National Park Service is attempting to raise the \$500,000 expected to be required to stabilize and restore the monument. At the last reporting they are still \$134,000 short of this goal. We have been approached by the NPS to see if there is anything that we can do to assist with the preservation of this important National Monument to the Union Soldiers of all states who fell in the battle of Gettysburg.

Naturally we cannot hope to raise the amount they require, but anything we can do to assist will be helpful. Also, the Commander cannot order any camp to make a donation to any project, nor would I do so if I could. We have been assured that any funds raised by the SUVCW will be placed toward the project in the name of the SUVCW. What I am proposing is making a *request* of every camp in the Department to consider making a donation of whatever they can comfortably afford to give.

The combined donations from the camps will be added to a donation from the Department. Our hope is to raise an average of \$100 from every camp. Donation amounts greater than this will be

gratefully accepted. The Department will be approached to raise \$1000 from the GAR fund and we plan to make a request to National for whatever funding we can secure from them. The SUVCW Charitable Foundation will also be approached. In addition to these steps I am preparing to draft a letter to other Departments asking them to consider contributions as well. I would like to see the SUVCW deliver between \$5000 and \$10,000 to the project. I am told that there is a matching grant program through the NPS that could really help that amount increase. Donations should be forwarded to the PA Dept Secretary with documentation providing the following:

- Amount of donation
- Camp sending the donation
- Instructions that the donated amount is to be used for the SUVCW donation to the Soldiers National Monument in Gettysburg.

The monument in question is one of the most important ones on the Gettysburg Battlefield and is in dire need of repair. Please consider supporting our effort to contribute to the preservation of this centerpiece of the National Soldiers Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA. The flier from the Foundation will be sent out with the communication. Thank you for all you do to preserve the memory of the boys who wore the blue.

Douglas P. McMillin Commanding,

Pennsylvania Department SUVCW

Attest:

Charles Kuhn, PCnC

Dept. Secretary/ Treasurer