

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Office of the Commander

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April 21st , 2016

Department Order # 12

Series 2015-2016

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

Brothers,

As the last days of April are falling away, we must take a good look forward to the work of the Order in May. Of all the dates and all the events that we, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, take part in commemorating, there is no date held in higher regard than that of Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day. It is the sworn duty of every brother of this Order to assist in the observance of this holiday.

If we are to keep green the memory of the boys who wore the blue;

If we are to carry on the work of the Grand Army of the Republic;

If we are to inculcate the next generations of this nation with the true history and understanding of how such grievous sacrifice by hundreds of thousands over the past two hundred and forty years has been in the name of an idea and ideal that have such high value that American patriots would willingly risk sacrificing both their lives and fortunes to preserve;

Then we **MUST** remain firm. We **MUST** remain constant. We **MUST** reach out in the most public way possible to demonstrate our leadership in providing honorable and grateful recognition of not only our brave fallen, but our understanding and respect for those principles and the nation for which they fought.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that every camp of the Pennsylvania Department prepare and perform impressive and appropriate Memorial Day services to be held at an appropriate location of local significance to publicly honor those who have paid the highest of prices so that we might live in liberty and exercise the free choices of a Representative Republican Government dedicated to protecting those natural rights espoused by the founding fathers.

We are the front line, brothers. It is upon our shoulders to carry this load so that there will be generations yet unborn who will see the value and feel the pride and the commitment to shoulder that load

themselves. So I challenge you to step up and find new ways to reach out and find new ways to breathe new life into the events of Memorial Day. We, as an organization, need to find new ways to draw the interest of a generation whose hallmark is total apathy.

Take time in your camp meetings to answer the hard questions of what can be done, and how can it be done. Do not allow the membership to shy away from the subject. Is what we are doing good enough? Do the boys in blue deserve better? What can we do locally or department wide that can get people looking up from their phones and tablets long enough to realize there is something important going on here?

Thank you all for all you do and I look forward to hearing about your successes at Department Encampment in June.

So ordered this 21st day of April, 2016.

Douglas P. McMillin, PDC, commanding,
Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Rob Koenigsberg
Pennsylvania Department
Secretary/ Treasurer