



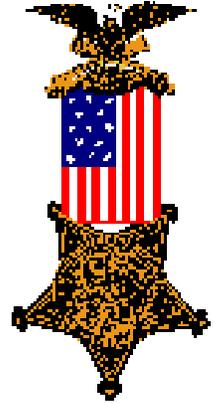
## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Office of the  
Department Commander

[gregsuvcw@yahoo.com](mailto:gregsuvcw@yahoo.com)

717-571-6877



May 22, 2020

Department Order No. 12

Series 2019/2020

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

Greetings Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department,

I hope this communication finds you and your families well.

My Department Order # 10 which was issued on March 24 in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic announced the cancellation of two Department events and unfortunately these were the tip of the iceberg. The Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies that we participate in annually have been canceled as have countless other state and local Memorial Day observances. We are certainly living in difficult times and yet.....we persevere.

The first paragraph of General Logan's Order # 11 includes this language (underlines are mine):  
"In this observance, no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

The underlined passages seem to me as if they are speaking to us from across time and we are rising to the challenge. I've been seeing on Facebook posts the small gatherings being organized by some Camps to safely hold Memorial services. Other Camps are putting on their masks and social distancing.....while they place flags on the graves of thousands of veterans from across the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Department is honoring our ancestor's memories and obeying General Logan's Order "as circumstances may permit".

It may seem today that circumstances don't permit much but this is not true. I encourage all Pennsylvania Department Brothers who are able to safely participate in a small ceremony or place flags on veteran's graves to please do so as your health and circumstances allow. There are two attachments to this Order which may be of assistance. The first is a message from our

National Chaplain which includes prayers that can be spoken over a veteran's grave or to honor them in the privacy of your home. The second is a flyer for the **Silent Sentinel Project provided by Isaac Eaton Camp # 504**. This observance can be done by one person or a small group between 2:00 and 3:00 on Monday, May 25. I plan to stand watch during this time at the grave of my Great-Great-Great-Grandfather, Frederick Kline of the 188<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry, who was killed at Petersburg in 1864.

There are many ways that we can still honor the departed this year and I ask that Camps or individual Brothers who find a way to do so, please submit your photos to the Banner and Battle Cry of Freedom.

May God Bless You and keep you safe as we continue our mission to keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue.

So ordered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2020,

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

*Greg Kline, DC*  
Commander  
Pennsylvania Department  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War