



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Office of the Commander-in-Chief
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Commander-in-Chief's message to the membership #2/2017-18

Brothers,

I have several purposes in mind as I begin this message to you this evening. One is to provide information as to the affects the recent wildfires and hurricanes have had on our SUVCW family, a second item is to make you aware of a opportunity to support a very worthwhile project, which reflects the core values of our organization, and lastly to make several announcements.

For the past two weeks, I like many of you have sat transfixed by the images coming from our nations Gulf Coast and Northwest. The events which have unfolded before our eyes, via the twenty-four hours news cycle, have been challenging for our nation and more especially for our SUVCW brothers in Oregon, Texas and Florida. Hurricane Harvey has brought disruption and havoc to the lives of at least two of our Brothers living in Houston, who lost their homes, and Hurricane Irma saw the need for our National Historian Robert Waltz, who lives in Key West, to evacuate his home and workplace. Regrettably we must assume that many additional Brothers have had their lives disrupted and need our prayers and support. In the hope of identifying our Brothers in need, I have contacted the department leadership in both Texas and Florida and asked them to provide the names of Brothers who need assistance to either myself or Chaplain Jerry. This will allow us to communicate the needs of our Brothers and Sisters to those of you who want to assist in their effort to recover from this most assuredly life changing experience. As information becomes available, we will disseminate it through our National Website and National Facebook page. I would ask that you periodically look at those sites for updates on our Brothers and Sisters who have been impacted by these natural disasters. I would also encourage you to consider contributing to the relief of the people in Oregon, Texas, and Florida through the charity of your choice to the extent you can do so without harming yourselves.

Now on to my second purpose. Many of you are aware of the Department of Illinois efforts to establish a memorial plaza at the grave of Dr. Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic in Petersburg, Ill. This past June my wife and I stopped by the grave site and had the chance to see the improvements that have been made. To say that the improvements were impressive would be an understatement. The beautiful Italian marble benches, each reflecting the emblems of one of the Allied Orders, are spectacular and the newly installed paving stones that will ultimately surround the obelisk, marking Dr. Stephenson's grave, give evidence to the beautiful setting that will be created; making the plaza a lasting and powerful testimony to the Allied Orders fulfillment of their joint goal to preserve and honor the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and those who sacrificed so much to preserve our nation.

It is my heartfelt desire to see the memorial plaza completed and available for all to see and to provide a tangible symbol for educating the public about the Grand Army. To that end, I am asking that each camp and department consider donating to this project so that the memorial plaza can be completed in the coming year. The Department of Illinois has a plan to continue the work of installing the paving stones and two flag poles, but funding is necessary for its completion. Information on the project can be found on the Department of Illinois Website www.suvwil.com and I encourage you to look it over. As an incentive, I will provide an appropriate certificate to any camp that donates at least \$100 and an appropriate streamer to any department that has at least 75% of its camps donate at least \$100.00.

Now to the last of my purposes; announcements.

1. Brother Eric Richhart has been elected by the Council of Administration to fill the role of National Expansion Officer.
2. I have reappointed PCinC Grim and PCinC Darby for a term of two years on the Constitution and Regulations Committee said terms to expire in 2019.
3. The Listing of National Officers and Committee Assignments has been updated and I would ask that you review and familiarize yourself with it. These are the folks you will need to know if you have questions.
4. With the end of the year approaching we will soon be electing Camp Officers and preparing reports. I would ask that you be diligent in completing your reports and remind the Camp and Department Secretaries that we now have an official membership card, which contains proprietary information, and is available from the Quartermaster. Instructions for printing the cards can be found on the National Website under Forms on the Governance page.
5. Once again, the Sons Veterans Reserve is planning a fabulous weekend of events for Remembrance Day November 17-19. I hope that many of you will be able to make it to this very special event and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting and speaking with you.
6. I would like to make you aware of the efforts of the Brothers of the Department of Tennessee to preserve historic Fort Negley in Nashville from commercial development. If you would like more information, I am sure the Brothers in Tennessee would be happy to answer your questions.
7. I would encourage those departments or individuals who would like me to attend their encampments or events; to contact the Chief of Staff, Brother Faron Taylor, theoverlandgroup11c@gmail.com so they can be placed on the schedule and advised of my availability.

8. Recruiting new members in everyone's job. Those of you who were at the National Encampment in Lansing will remember that, I asked for each member to always carry an application form #3 in their pocket. You never know where the opportunity will arise to make a new Brother. Take advantage of the moment and let (Carpe Diem) be our by-word in recruiting. I would also ask that you be diligent with new members and process their applications expeditiously. Nothing is more damaging to our efforts than holding up the processing and initiation of new members, and once you have new members get them and yourselves involved in activities that promote our motto of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

It is my hope that these CinC messages help in keeping the membership aware of the activities of your national officers and the important events / projects that are being conducted by our Camps and Departments. I encourage each Camp and Department to keep me informed on their activities and needs by emailing me at CinC@suvvw.org or if it is something needing immediate attention calling me at the number listed on the National Website.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark R. Day', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mark R. Day

Commander-in-Chief Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War