

April Patriotic Instruction

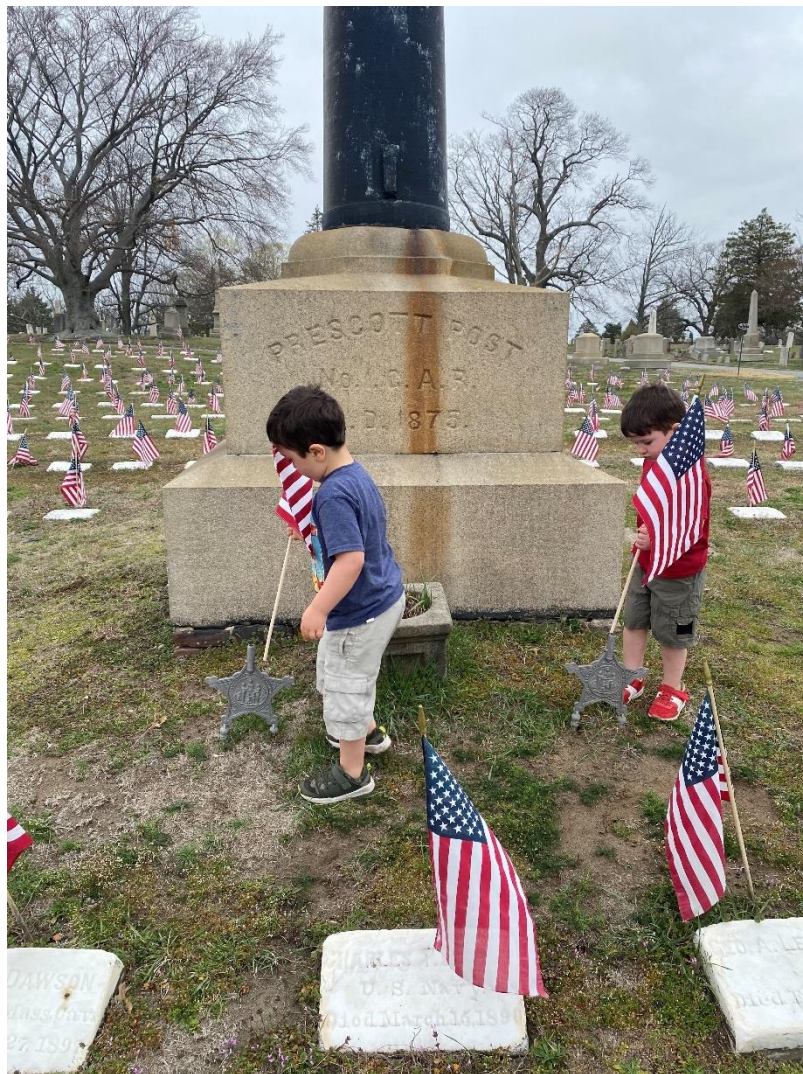
Brothers,

As winter has now officially turned to spring, we will be starting to see more outdoor activities happening around us. One thing that I have tried to focus on in my instructions is how community is the building block of Patriotism. Well that begs the question, what is the building block of community? The answer maybe different for some, but for me the answer is simple, family is the building block of community. By teaching Patriotism to the foundation of our community, it will trickle up and grow as our family grows and gets more active in the community.

With that being said, how can we grow Patriotism in the family and thus the community? There are many tactics that we can use to foster and strengthen our Patriotic ways, some could be as simple as making sure your family stands for the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. Others could be more complex like having the hard conversations, in a civil way, on how we could better our society. Some of us may disagree with how we do it, but the fact that we are having these conversations and trying to reach a common ground or better understanding of each other's viewpoints, is indeed Patriotic. We must start teaching these lessons at the family level, if our sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, brothers, sisters, or parents approach disagreements with the "I'm gonna take my ball and go home" then we will never get anything accomplished and we will only further our divide.

Teaching things like flag etiquette to our children, so that they know why the flag is such an important symbol of our freedom, will help grow Patriotism in our community. How to properly display the American Flag, or fold it, or what the colors, the stripes and the stars represent all will have a profound impact on why Old Glory represents all citizens of the United States. It can show everyone listening that we truly do come together under one Banner and that we strive to be the best version of ourselves to better our family, our community, and our country. We are all far from perfect, we all have made mistakes, and so has this country there is no doubting that at all. The one thing we can do, as citizens of this country, is work on doing better in all aspects of our lives, and that starts at our foundation, that starts at by doing better with our family.

If we instill in our families at a young age the love of country and sense of Patriotism that drew all of us to become Brothers, then we ensure that our country will prosper for future generations. If we teach our young ones that giving back to the community is important, and that it benefits ourselves as much as it benefits our neighbors, it will build pride in one's community and that pride of community will foster into pride of their town, state, and country. They will want to share that newfound pride with their friends, classmates or colleagues and it will spread from one to another, and before we know it, we have spread our own love of country to others that we may have never thought we could have reached but did because we passed that Patriotism along to the youngest members of our family. As always, I look forward to seeing what each Brother, Camp, and Department is doing this spring and summer to further our mission.



In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor