

December Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

I know that you all are in mid swing of your holiday season, and I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving. I want to keep with the tradition and ideology that I have been speaking of in the past few Patriotic Instructions and that is giving back to our community in ways that might not seem normal to us in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Traditionally, December calls for us to celebrate in our Camps or Departments the successful year by having an end of the year gathering of some sort. Some Camps will participate in the Wreaths Across America initiative, which if you are unfamiliar with it is an organization that teams up with Veterans Organizations and Fraternal Organizations to lay wreaths on the graves of Veterans during the holiday season. These traditions are great ones and want to urge you all to keep going with them. For those Camps and Departments that do not have these traditions or want to do a little bit more this holiday season, there are other ways you can give back to your community.

One of these “outside the box” ways if you will is the Adopt a Family Programs. Many local churches, Elks Lodges, VFW, and American Legion chapters offer these programs, and if they don’t the magical Google machine can help you find a local program. If you are unfamiliar with the Adopt a Family Program, this is when a local group adopts a family in need for the holidays. Some programs provide a whole list of presents for the family; some provide a singular gift. Others will provide the family with the holiday meal and presents; it really depends on how involved you want your Camp or Department to be. Having participated in these events in the past through both my work and when my father was a firefighter, I can tell you firsthand how much these programs mean to those families in need and the joy it brings to those lending a helping hand.

I know that I have beaten this idea into you all by now, but it is something I truly 100% believe and that making a Patriotic Individual starts at the community level. If we want to spread Patriotic values to our neighbors, we need to be there for them in their time of need and lead by example. Show our towns and states that we are doing this for our community because we take pride in our Country. That Patriotism isn’t just being willing to lay down ones life to protect freedom, yes that is a massive part of Patriotism, but it is also showing that you are willing to do the little things to help take care of your fellow American. Whether it is volunteering your time to clean up a Cemetery or teach in a school, or if it is donating money and food to help those in need during the holidays. Patriotism starts in our communities, and it grows from there. So, for this holiday season, show those who are less fortunate in your community that you have their back. That the SUVCW is an organization that not only cares about those who came before us, but also cares about those who are around us as well.

From my family to yours I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyful Kwanza and any other holiday your family may celebrate this season.

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

National Patriotic Instructor