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President Lincoln gave his last public speech on 11 April 1865. In his speech he stated the following:

"We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper relation with the Union; and that the sole object of the government, civil and military, in regard to those States is to again get them into that proper practical relation. I believe it is not only possible, but in fact, easier to do this, without deciding, or even considering, whether these States have ever been out of the Union, than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us all join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper practical relations between these States and the Union; and each forever after, innocently indulge his own opinion whether, in doing the acts, he brought the States from without, into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it."

This excerpt clearly demonstrate President Lincoln's intent to bringing the Union together. When doing education in the schools or at living history events; let us include this as part of preserving the history of the War of Rebellion alias the Civil War. The Grand Army of the Republic was about keeping the United States together and is what they shed their blood for. Keep the memory of the Boys in Blue alive by what we do in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.