



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Office of the Commander-in-Chief
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As we once more approach Memorial Day and prepare to conduct ceremonies of remembrance and reverence in cemeteries, at veteran's monuments, or perhaps within the sanctuary of a local house of worship, the true purpose of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War could never be clearer to us. This weekend we will be engaged in fulfilling our sacred obligation to remember and honor the memory of the men who wore blue in the Civil War but moreover we will be joining with all Americans to dedicate a few moments of our lives to pay respect to all those, throughout our nation's history, who gave up their lives to ensure the liberties we often take for granted.

This year Traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, shall hold an even deeper meaning to us as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. One hundred and fifty years ago the first Memorial Day Program was held in Arlington National Cemetery. The featured speaker that day was future President Garfield who said, "I love to believe that no heroic sacrifice is ever lost; that the characters of men are molded and inspired by what their fathers have done . . . Hither our children's children shall come to pay their tribute of grateful homage. . . assemblies like this are gathering at this hour in every State in the Union. . . They come with garlands to crown their victor fathers."

Whether commemorated on observed Memorial Day, traditional Memorial Day, or both, it should be a time for solemnity and reflection on the cost of our freedom and prosperity. Benjamin Disraeli, a 19th century Prime Minister of the United Kingdom once said, "The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." I would add, a name is only great if it is remembered and an example is only valuable when the people have knowledge of that example. In his General Order #11, John Logan says, "Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic. Brothers, that is our great commission, we are the voice of those long gone, we are the ones who must teach the names and fan the flames of remembrance now and into the future.

I urge each of you to attend a ceremony or if you are unable to participate in that manner to pray for those who gave their lives that our nation was preserved, and our freedoms protected.

Ordered this 24th Day of May 2018.

Mark R. Day

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

Attested:

Jonathan Davis
Secretary, National Order,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War