

## January 2022 National Patriotic Instructor

Brothers,

As we wrap up the first month of the year 2022, we will start planning activities and fundraisers to help our Camps and Departments. We will begin to start planning our Memorial Day ceremonies and parades to remember the men of the Union and the GAR. As this is going on we must keep in mind that we are continuing the mission of the men of the Grand Army of the Republic. In doing so we must also teach and educate those we are working with about who the GAR was and what they did.

We know that the comrades of the GAR would care for their fellow Civil War veterans and the families of those who did not come home or had since passed. As the United States entered and exited more conflicts, the GAR would also take those veterans coming home under their wings and make sure that not only were they taken care of, but that they were taking care of their own. It is important to educate the public on the things that the GAR did as it shows that this is part of our legacy as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

There are a few ways that we can go about educating the public and ourselves regarding what the GAR did. To start with ourselves, we will soon be having a module on our new and improved Memorial University that will be dedicated to the history of the GAR. This module will help to show our Brothers, young and old, of all the Grand Army did to better the lives of their fellow veteran. Understanding what they did will help us to continue and honor their legacy.

Some of the ways we can go about keeping their memory alive in the public is by doing presentations at local historic societies, Boy Scout Troops or VFW Hall. By reaching out to these organizations we will find people who are interested in what the GAR was and how they impacted their society. You might be asking, why is it so important for the rest of the world to know and understand their legacy? We must keep their legacy alive and well because we can learn a lot as a society by looking at what the GAR did. Taking time out of their lives to ensure that those who they were charged with caring for were never forgotten and that is a lesson that everyone can learn from.

I cannot wait to see all the work that Brothers, Camps and Departments will do this coming year from cemetery clean ups to presentations on the GAR. Good luck, be safe and remember to have fun with it all!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

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