



GENERAL ORDER NO. 2
SERIES 2014-2015
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Mission Statement

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Because of the extraordinary amount of work that was accomplished during the 133rd Annual National Encampment in Marietta, Georgia, the Saturday business session ran late and I was unable to deliver my acceptance speech as anticipated. This speech largely serves as a mission statement and sets the expected tone and goals for this administration. It is therefore presented here.

Section 2:

It is a great honor, and indeed quite humbling, that I stand before you for the very first time as your duly elected and installed Commander-in-Chief. I thank each and every one of you for the unwavering confidence you have shown in my abilities, and I am keenly aware and appreciate the solemn responsibilities that are now placed upon my shoulders. I am ready to face the challenges ahead, always guided by our core principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

During this administration we shall endeavor to bring us closer to a concept that was once common throughout the Allied Orders; a concept that is sometimes lost today amid petty offenses and differing opinions. I am speaking about the notion of the “G.A.R. Family.”

One definition of family is “all the descendants of a common ancestor.” Among the Allied Orders, we are ALL descendants of a common ancestor — the Grand Army of the Republic. We ARE the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic and therefore we ARE the Grand Army Family. We shall rekindle our ties of kinship through improved communication, cooperation, and respect.

Many of you are aware that something historic has happened today; something that will go a long way toward achieving the goal of a more *allied* Allied Orders. Today the Auxiliary elected my wife, Rachelle Campbell, as their National President — the first time in nearly thirty years that the Commander-in-Chief and the National President have simultaneously been from the same household. Rachelle is also a member of two of the other Allied Orders. Together, we shall strive to improve the relationships between the Allied Orders so that our organizations can better work together to achieve our common goals.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, our main purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union from 1861 to 1865. With this in mind, I would like to recognize my seven direct ancestors who fought for the Union:

John Henderson Appleton (3 x great-grandfather)
17th Indiana Infantry, Wilder's Lightning Brigade

George W. Duryee (4 x great-grandfather)
4th Michigan Infantry

Alexander Oakes (3 x great-grandfather)
1st Arkansas Cavalry (US)

William Oakes (4 x great-grandfather)
60th Enrolled Missouri Militia and
5th Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia

Bennett Tiner (3 x great-grandfather)
Benton County Arkansas Home Guards (US)

Jonathan Edward Wolf (3 x great-grandfather)
18th Iowa Infantry

And the soldier under whose service I originally joined the Sons, and who I believe has the best name:

Ira Erastus Angus (3 x great-grandfather)
10th Michigan Cavalry

At the first two National Encampments that I attended I had the honor to meet Real Son Edward Blakely of the Department of Michigan. Brother Blakely's father also served in the 10th Michigan Cavalry alongside my great-great-great-grandfather!

It is because of these seven ancestors, among the more than two million who served under the Union banner, that I am here. I wear an image of Ira Angus to remind myself — and others — that we are not here to honor ourselves. It is not about us — it is about them. We must never lose that focus.

In the words of G.A.R. Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan: "If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us."

As we enter the final year of the Civil War sesquicentennial, we can look forward to a challenging, yet productive year; one in which we can accomplish great things, and bring public attention to the service and sacrifices of the "Boys in Blue."

May God bless each and every one of you, each of the Allied Orders, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank You.

Section 3: All members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are hereby directed to keep these principals in mind and act accordingly during their interactions with the public and the other Allied Orders, always keeping the memory of the Union Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Revenue Cutter Servicemen as their primary focus.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth, in the City of Gilroy, County of Santa Clara, State of California.

/s/ Tad D. Campbell, PDC
Commander-in-Chief

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Alan L. Russ, PDC
National Secretary