



GENERAL ORDER No. 6
SERIES 2014-2015
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Stephenson Memorial Plaza Project

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: Benjamin F. Stephenson, a medical doctor from Springfield, Illinois who had served as Surgeon in the 14th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, had the idea that an association of Union veterans should exist in order to provide for the mutual benefit of its members and for their widows and orphans. Along with a small group of friends, he devised the concept of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in the spring of 1866.

Section 2: Although Dr. Stephenson served as the provisional Commander-in-Chief of the GAR when it was founded, he was never officially elected Commander-in-Chief. However, his devotion to the organization never ceased, often at the expense of his own personal life. He died in 1871 at the age of just 47 years.

Section 3: Without Dr. Stephenson's vision and efforts the GAR would not have come into being. Likewise, without the GAR, the Allied Orders of the GAR could not exist. The Allied Orders owe their very existence to Dr. Stephenson and it is therefore appropriate that his memory should be fittingly honored by these organizations.

Section 4: The SUVCW's Department of Illinois is spearheading an effort to improve and beautify Dr. Stevenson's final resting place in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois. The enhanced area will be known as the "Stephenson Memorial Plaza" and will provide an area where people can gather, pay respects, and contemplate Dr. Stephenson and his contributions. The goal is to have this project completed by 2016, in time to celebrate the sesquicentennial of GAR's formation.

Section 5: All members of the SUVCW and the other Allied Orders of the GAR are encouraged to contribute toward fundraising efforts to help ensure that this worthy project comes to fruition. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Memorial pavers and benches are being offered for sale for larger donations. The City of Petersburg is completely behind this project and donations are tax deductible.

Section 6: For order forms and other information, please visit the Department of Illinois' website at www.suvcwil.com. Additional questions or comments may be directed to Bro. Terry R. Dyer, PDC at dyeredge@aol.com.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this 20th day of October 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