

JANUARY 2014

When will it End?

By the winter of 1863-1864, The American Civil War was not ready to cease. Even though The Union Armies had achieved Great Victories (Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863) The war had a long way to go in most citizens eyes and hearts. The year ahead, 1864 was uncertain and far from certain victory for the North. The atmosphere was so uncertain that by Feb of 1864, there was a proposal from a US Senator from Kansas (Samuel c. Pomeroy) calling on Republicans to name Secretary of The Treasury Salmon Chase instead of President Lincoln as their Presidential Candidate. There was dissention among many in

The North as to where the War was going and When it would end. In March, President Lincoln asked The Congress to promote General U.S. Grant of Illinois to the Rank of lieutenant general. Only two Men had ever held this Rank, George Washington and Winfield Scott. This important promotion was the real beginning of The end of the war, even though it was not apparent at the time. The fact was that no

Union General had been able to subdue Robert E. Lee and his army of Northern Virginia. Now, that would all eventually change. There were of course some horrific encounters, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor but to name a few. The loss of life was so large, that Grant was accused of being "Grant the Butcher" where he was "Grant The Savior" just a few months before. The mood of the Union was so unsure that even Lincoln himself believed he would not be nominated for President in 1864. This was indeed a dark time for The President as well as the people in the North. It was at this time that Lincoln,

Grant, Sherman and all the Union Army showed us that determination, courage and an unswerving will were necessary to persevere. When it was over, it was these qualities which we all value so highly, that led them to Victory. We, as The heir to the Grand Army of The Republic must always keep these thoughts and actions alive for All Americans to know and remember. Those who forget History are doomed to repeat it, a wise man once wrote, and that is something we all need to pass on to others: **OUR HISTORY AND ITS PEOPLE ARE OUR HERITAGE.** Lest we forget.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty

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