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National Patriotic Instructor
Monthly Patriotic Instruction
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For the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, showing Patriotism is not just a duty but a passion for our Country. The Month of May provides us two opportunities to display our Patriotism and to educate the public at the same time. The two opportunities are Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

The Grand Army of the Republic supported citizens serving our Country to protect freedom, liberty, and our Constitution. This demonstrated by training our youth in the Cadet Corps. They also demonstrated taking care of the disabled by age and disease as shown in the 18th GAR Encampment, July 23, 1884. The Chairman on National Homes submitted Section 5 of the bill to establish a Soldiers Home, "That all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who served in the war of the rebellion, and the volunteer soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen and twelve, and the Mexican War, who are disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, and by reason of such disability are incapable of earning a living, shall be admitted into the home for disabled volunteer soldiers, provided such disability not incurred in service against the United States." This legacy still lives today with the Soldiers Home. Let's show our gratitude for our Military on Armed Forces Day by being a part of that days recognition for them.

Our second opportunity is Memorial Day. This is our obligated duty that we do with solemn eagerness. The 13th GAR Encampment Chaplain-in-Chief Joseph F. Lovering stated "...Such work concerns the sacred memory of our dead, that the precious inheritance of valor, sacrifice, good faith and loyalty they left may be guarded by us and enshrined in the life of our country. Such work concerns our children, that they may learn that great lesson of patriotism, that the security of the State must depend upon the fidelity of the citizen; such work concerns our country, that treason, with its baneful smile and deceitful tongue, may not steal, by political audacity, what it could not conquer by the mailed arm of rebellion-that the nation may not suffer the shame of surrendering in peace what it paid blood and treasure for in war..." Let us exemplify this belief on Memorial Day when we decorate the graves of our brave Men and Women.

As we show our patriotism on Memorial Day; let us remember CinC John S. Kountz statement at the nineteenth GAR Encampment; "Memorial Day is the choicest in the calendar of the Grand Army-a day of sweet remembrance, dear to every loyal heart, and any violation of its sacredness by making it the occasion for frivolity and amusement, such as characterize the Fourth of July, should be treated as an indignity to the Comrades who died that this country might live." It is our duty to educate the public the importance and the meaning of Memorial Day, and to exemplify this great duty handed down to us by the GAR.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.