

March Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

It is that time of the month that I grace you with another Patriotic Instruction. This month I want to focus on a different way we can act in a Patriotic way in our community. In order to do that, we must look at what the definition of Patriotism is. According to Miriam Webster's Dictionary, or as I like to call it, my Dad's favorite way to tell us to spell something, patriotism is "love for or devotion to one's country". There are many ways that one can show this love or devotion to one's country, but we need to remember this also extends to our countrymen, in other words our neighbors.

There have been many times in recent years I have seen or read about neighbors not only ignoring a neighbor in need but going out of their way to make their neighbors life difficult. If we only practice what we preach when it is convenient for us, how can we call ourselves Patriotic? It is simple, we can't. Being Patriotic isn't about doing so one or two times in your life time or doing so when it is easy, it is about being Patriotic at all times, even the hard times. If you see a neighbor who hasn't always been kind to you, extend an olive branch, why? Because it will better your community and in doing so this country.

Some ways to ensure you have a strong community can be by doing the things we do every day as Brothers of the SUVCW like cleaning cemeteries, going into schools to educate or using social media to spread the word about the sacrifice of the local boys. You can also do so by reaching out to someone in your community during a snowstorm or volunteering your time in other ways that are not traditional to the SUVCW like at a soup kitchen, food pantry, or a local youth center. These are all ways to help improve our community and better our country.

This may seem simple to some and a logical way to achieve our goal, but it is something that can be very quickly over looked in todays society. While we do these different, out side of the box activities, we can also find ways to talk to those around us about the boys in blue and the sacrifices they made to preserve our great country. Being Patriotic in our organization is not only about educating the public about the past with our words but being there for our community in as many ways as possible with our actions. In doing this, we may inspire the youth of our country to give back to their communities, but to also take steps to be patriotic in their own ways. All of us have great love for our country, let us show our neighbors with our actions that our actions do in fact speak louder than our words.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor