

July Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

We are coming across another crucial holiday in our great country's history and that is the 4th of July or Independence Day. This, simply put, is the holiday that exemplifies American Patriotism, the holiday that we as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War must come together and show the rest of the country, not only what it means to be American, but why it is so great that we are proud to be citizens of the Land of the Free. We all know the importance of this day, and how the Declaration of Independence was signed 4 July 1776 and announced this country's intention to split from the British Crown. It called for the original Patriots to take up arms, and fight for the Freedom that many take for granted today.

This month, it is all more important for us to show why Patriotism is not dead, and that it is right to show love for this great country. By doing so we pay tribute to not only those original Patriots, but to all those that followed in their footsteps, whether they were at Belleau Woods, Guadalcanal, Fallujah or Bull Run. When we come together as a country and show that we are one, we are United, there is no one that can stop us and the 4th of July is just the day to come forward and do that again. Many have tried, both internally and externally, to rip this country apart at the seams, but it is these brave Patriots that have kept it together.

We must also remember that showing Patriotism takes many forms, as it is not just those that pick up the rifle that are Patriots. Those who help their fellow American in a time of need, those who take a stand for what is right even when it is hard. Those who proudly support those that defend our freedom, even when it isn't the cool thing to do. It is for us to celebrate and promote these activities, if we do that then this great country will not flounder. To quote the late great PCinC. Charlie Kuhn, *"We might not agree with each other and we might argue with each other from time to time, but I'll gladly put that behind me and grab a beer with you at the bar afterwards and that is what makes this country great."* We will not always agree, we will not always be best of friends, but we are standing up for what we believe is right and afterwards, when the dust settles, we need to remember to come together as one United country, for together we are stronger.

I want to take this time to thank all members of this order that have signed the blank check up to and including their lives. If not for your bravery and service to this great country, it would not be what we know it today. I especially want to thank one serviceman in particular, that is the man that instilled Patriotism and honor in me, my father Br. Bruce Frail. Poppa, as we call him, served in the United States Marine Corps, if you couldn't tell from his blunt no bull attitude, from 1979-1983. During this time he hardened a sense of patriotism that was passed on to him by his father, CWO4 Thomas V. Frail Jr. US Army (Ret), he also picked up a few things that quite frankly as his son I wish he never learned from either of them, I still cringe at the thought of him inspecting my bedroom...where was I, oh that's right...Thank you for teaching me what it means to not only be a man but to be an American and in other words, you all have him to thank for these wordy, borderline preachy, instructions. In closing, I want to thank all for your continuing Patriotism and urge you all to keep up the amazing work.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor