

## Memorial Day Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

It is that time of year where we normally spend the vast majority of our free time in cemeteries flagging the Boys in Blues final resting spot, or planning ceremonies at local town squares. Many of our Memorial Day ceremonies have been interrupted or altered due to the current health situation, but we must not let this deter us from doing something, in some way, no matter how small, in celebrating these brave souls. I have been touched by seeing so many of my Brothers from across the Order going out and continuing their efforts to keep their memory alive. Some of you maybe asking how you can go about doing this in this trying time and to answer that we don't need to be too creative or think that far outside of the box.

Many Camp's are still doing their normal flagging details just wearing masks and ensuring that they are maintaining social distancing standards. This is a very common activity during this time, but we just need to take a few extra precautions to ensure that we are protecting those of us that are the most vulnerable. We have also seen Camp's and Department's still holding Memorial Day Ceremonies, they are just scaling back the number of attendees to adhere to State or County gathering orders. Both are examples of ways we can alter our normal practices, but ensure we are staying safe as well. I have been asked by multiple people when going to flag or to a local Camp's ceremony, why is it still important to honor these men? Wouldn't they understand if you missed one year due to everything that is going on? My answer is simple, they were not afraid to put their lives on the line to preserve our freedoms, the least we can do is ensure they have a flag on their grave, even if we have to wear a mask while doing it and wash our hands afterwards.

We, as Brothers of the SUVCW, hold this day sacred in our hearts, as did the Comrades of the GAR that came before us. We owe it to them to ensure that this observance is continued. Good luck in carrying out your mission and Stay Safe.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor