



**Brian C. Pierson**  
**Commander in Chief**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

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**General Order #17**  
**Series 2020-2021**  
**10 May 2021**

### **Observance of Memorial Day**

1. Greater love than this no man has, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)
2. Whenever our gaze alights upon the Stars and Stripes flying proudly in the breeze, we should never fail to recall with solemn pride how many of our countrymen have made the ultimate sacrifice for their flag and for their fellow citizens. Since the War for Independence, it is estimated that approximately 1,065,000 Americans have died in wartime service to the United States. Over 40,000 remain missing in action to this day.
3. No generation of Americans has been spared the responsibility of defending freedom. Today, in these troubled times of pandemic and unrest, we too must be ever more resolved to preserving the ideals for which our veteran forefathers fought and died.
4. General John Logan's famed General Order #11 established a day to commemorate those who died serving the United States in its greatest trial. General Logan knew that the living must never forget the sacrifices of the dead who had given their all so that America itself could live. To this day, Memorial Day is the most sacred of our country's secular holidays.
5. Forty years ago, at the height of the Cold War, in his Presidential Proclamation of 24 April 1981, President Ronald Reagan built upon General Logan's foundation, stating, "Their sacrifice demands that we, the living, continue to promote the cause of peace and the ideals for which they so valiantly gave of themselves." President Reagan challenged us to not only remember our war dead, but to actively uphold the American ideals for which they fought.
6. Both General Logan's and President Reagan's messages remain as important today as when they were written. General Logan foresaw the bitter day when our fellow citizens might slide into indifference. President Reagan foresaw the grim time when our fellow citizens might fall into bland apathy or hateful ideology. Both of them exhorted us to keep that from happening.
7. As the heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic, we in the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War have a unique connection to Memorial Day unlike any other organization in the country. It is a connection that we generously and proudly share with our friends in other patriotic and veterans' organizations. It is our cherished duty to continue to actively exercise our stewardship of this most venerable day.
8. Where others may treat Memorial Day merely as a day off for recreation, we will continue to observe it faithfully. We will continue to honor our American veterans who have answered the final muster. We will remain unswerving in promoting loyalty to our country. We will continue to resolutely uphold our rights and freedoms. We do this out of love of our country, out of love of our friends and brothers, and out of love of our God-given rights. Can we do no less?

9. All Departments and Camps are requested to observe Memorial Day with an appropriate public ceremony in a suitable location, and all Brothers are requested to display the flag of our nation at half-staff from their homes until noon, then raise them to full height, as is tradition. For flags that cannot be lowered, a black streamer may be flown directly beneath the finial.

Ordered this 10th Day of May 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian C. Pierson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Brian C. Pierson  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

*Jonathan C. Davis*  
Jonathan C. Davis  
National Secretary  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War