

## August Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

Another year in our order has come and gone and I want to thank Br. Brian Pierson, PCinC on his term as CinC, your steadfast leadership and guidance was appreciated by all this year. As we look forward to this year, we hope that we can all meet and carry on the work of our order. With the past 18 months, it is always good to look back as to things that worked pre-covid for us to complete our mission statement, to preserve the memory of the brave Unionmen who saved the Union and freed the enslaved. In past articles, I have gone over a few options we have like meeting with other fraternal organizations or pushing events we have done on our social media pages. This month however, I want to talk about a symbol that is at the heart of patriotism, and that is the flag.

We all have a personal connection to the flag and the flag means something different to all of us. Some Brothers have fought for the flag, some Brothers have a deep love for Old Glory that has been taught to them from their family and others love the colors from their own experiences. The flag has been something that we all feel strongly about and take pride in. We can all do some small things to show the pride and love we have for our flag in our every day lives. The obvious everyday thing we can do is fly a flag outside of our homes. This is a simple way we can show pride in our flag and in our country. Almost every retail store has an American flag and the hardware for you to hang it outside your house and it is very easy and inexpensive to do so. By flooding the streets with American Flags, we show the world, and our fellow countrymen, that as flawed as our country maybe and has been in the past, we are still proud to call ourselves Americans. As we were told during the time of our initiation "It was waved over our cradles. Let us make the high resolve that, unchanged and unstained as it came from the hands of our fathers, it shall wave over our graves".

Another way we can ensure that the pride in the Red, White, and Blue is seen is by teaching our children, friends and family why this symbol is so important, not only in words, but in actions. Many times, while on parade I have observed not only citizens, but police officers and members of the military that are not following proper flag etiquette which says they should be saluting or putting their hand on their heart. When we lead by example, and make sure we are standing and putting our hand on our heart or saluting during the anthem, or when the flag is being passed in a formal matter, we show that our anthem and our flag has meaning to us. Those around us, including our children, take notice and will follow our lead.

These two things are simple things that we can do to help lead by example and show our neighbors, friends, family and random passer byer that our flag and our country is important to us. If we rest on our laurels and do not take the time to educate and lead by example, then we get complacent, and complacency can be the downfall of any thought process. I challenge everyone to find a way in which they can show how the flag is important to them, whether it be a flag on your porch, saluting the flag as it passes by or putting the colors on your car, find a way and lead by example.

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

National Patriotic Instructor