

December 2021 Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

As we head towards the midway point of the holiday season, I wanted to draw our attention to something that I feel as if has been untouched during my previous instructions. Many of us are busy with celebrations with our friends and families at this time that temporarily pulls our focus away from the business of the Order, and rightfully so. However, I would be remiss to mention that there is always more we can do, and others we can include in our festivities.

One of the primary functions of the Grand Army of the Republic, whose torch we carry today, is to care for those Veterans that needed help and assistance. Yes, this mission started with just Union Civil War Veterans, but as we as a nation entered more conflicts, the Comrades of the GAR helped these war weary souls out as well. This is evident with the countless amounts of Soldiers and Sailors Homes that the GAR created after the war and are still in operation today. Although these homes do not provide care for Veterans of the Civil War anymore, they do care for those from our most recent conflicts. It is important for us to remember that our primary focus is "To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865". One way we can perpetuate the memory of the GAR is to do what they would do.

What would they do you ask? To me this is plain and simple, they would make sure that those who have signed the blank check for up to and including their lives are not forgotten this holiday season. Whether it is donating items to their local Soldiers and Sailors home, sending cards, or even visiting and watching everyone's favorite Christmas Movie, that's right Die Hard, you can't open presents until Hans Gruber falls from the top of Nakatomi Plaza bottom line. All these activities might seem small, but in the eyes of our Veterans, something like this could make their holiday season. I want to issue you all another challenge and beg you to follow up with sending me pictures of yourself as a Brother, or your Camp or Department, doing something small for your local Veterans home.

It is this time of year that we must focus on all aspects of our mission and not just remembering the men of the Union. We need to think what would the GAR do? By showing our care and love for our current Veterans we are perpetuating the memory of the GAR. That is not all we are doing however, supporting a Veteran by its very nature is Patriotic for we are saying thank you to them. Thank you for serving our country and putting your life on the line for our liberties and freedom, we are showing them that not only do we appreciate them in words but also in deeds and this is one of the most Patriotic things we can do as Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, or whichever religious or non-religious holiday you celebrate I hope that it is a merry one.

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

National Patriotic Instructor