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National Patriotic Instructor
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December is the month for showing Charity. This is an everyday attribute for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). It is also the celebration of Jesus Christ birth. We know that the Boys in Blue that formed the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) lived the motto Charity throughout their lives. They pushed for the Soldiers Widow Home and pensions for the veterans.

President Abraham Lincoln also appealed to Congress and the Nation in his Inaugural address, "...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." His results resulted in the creation of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in March of 1865. Due to the negative connotations of Asylum it was renamed as the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1873. This was the later to become known as the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

After the war, General Sherman stayed in contact with war veterans. Many times he responded to a knock at his door to greet one of those who had served under him standing on his stoop, wishing to pay homage to "Uncle Billy." Sherman would give the veteran coins from his own pocket and thanked the man for his service to the Union. He showed charity by this act.

Let us keep this tradition in showing charity to our fellow Brothers and Sisters.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.