

## **August 2012 National Patriotic Instructors Page**

### **John W. Bates National Patriotic Instructor**

Brothers, Once again our Civil War Heritage has been Vandalized. While I had intended to talk about a different subject this month, the vadalazation of one Of America's Most Famous Civil War monuments has been brought to the forefront for us to look at and ponder "Why?" In Boston, Massachusetts on Monday afternoon July 31,2012, a local woman threw Yellow paint at The 54th Massachusetts Civil War Memorial located across from The Massachusetts State House. This monument was dedicated on 30 May 1897 by surviving members of the 54th, 44 years after they marched out of Boston South to The War in South Carolina.

The woman,38 year old Rosemine Occean claimed it did not"portray History accurately" It was later revealed thru various news media that she has a 20 year history of "mental Illness". Obviously, this individual is not familiar with The American Civil War, for if she was she would know that this famous sculpture was given the approval and blessing of The Surviving Members of The Regiment in 1897. Regardless of her state of mind , we must condemn this malicious attack on our Civil war Heritage. It is particularly sensitive to those of us in The SUVCW for we are charged in our mission to not only proclaim The Memory and deeds of our "Boys in Blue" but to protect that heritage whether it is in written form, in Pictures or paintings, art or in Memorials such as this. This type of action needs to be condemned and I urge Brothers attending The National Encampment August 9,10,&11 in Los Angeles to Issue a resolution to this effect.

This Sculpture was the handwork of Augustus Saint Gaudens (1848-1907) and took 14 years to complete. Not only is it a superb Civil War Memorial, but it is also recognized internationally as a Classic example of American sculpture. It is always our duty as members of The Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War to "rattle our Sabre's" if you will against anyone and everyone who would attempt to alter the truth that is our Civil War Heritage. If you attended The National Convention held outside Boston in 2008, you probably received a medal hat depicts this Memorial. I urge you to look at it again and see the heritage it represents. We must always remember to do that, Honor THEIR BRAVERY,THEIR SACRIFICE AND THEIR HONOR. Only by doing that, can we be starting to fulfill our mission as members of The SUVCW. "Lest we Forget".

As an after note, The Shaw Memorial will be restored by Conservators who specialize in Monument restoration in Boston. God Bless Them.