

December 2012 Patriotic Instructors page  
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Greetings to all Brothers in our Order:

As we draw to the end of an important year not only in our order, but also in our nation, we look back on our second year of the Sesquicentennial of Our Civil War, and look forward to 2013.

We Recall The Battle of Fredericksburg, which took place 150 years ago in December of 1862, took its toll on The armies of both North and South, and established that the War was going to go on much longer than either side knew. The Battle really did not accomplish anything for The Union, and it cost over 12,000 casualties. It was not the fault of The Army itself, but rather most Historians lay it at the feet of Incompetent Leadership, particularly to General Ambrose E. Burnside. He did not develop a good plan, but rather was vague and sketchy in direction.

While it was a disaster for the assault on Marye's Heights, The Men of The Army of The Potomac were Brave and Dedicated. This is what we must all remember and Honor. Despite the lack of leadership, The Sacrifice of The Common Soldier is Valor at its Best. It also gave way to other Union Officers, who while were at the Time of This Battle not in command, would later rise in 1863 and after to the end of The War Officers including Winfield Scott Hancock, William B Franklin, William Farrar "Baldy" Smith And Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain would all get a lesson on what not to do, so to speak and remember that for future engagements.

The coming year and its campaigns would turn the Tide of The War and finally let our Boys in Blue determine the path to Victory. In December 1862, that seemed a long way to go. Thank the Good Lord for Valor and perseverance in these Brave Souls. They did not give in, They did not give up and they did not Surrender! THEY are the reason we are here today, One NATION United together. Let us all see and keep their sacrifice in our minds and hearts as we live our daily lives. LEST WE FORGET!

God Bless Them and our Nation Always.

In F,C,&L John W. Bates National Patriotic Instructor