

## **July 2012 National Patriotic Instruction**

### **The Gettysburg Campaign: Its Lesson and meaning to our America today. John W. Bates National Patriotic Instructor**

In the Small Pennsylvania Town of Gettysburg, an event which most of us in The SUVCW are aware of, took place some of the most famous days in United States History. July 1st, 2nd, & 3rd 1863 are Days which have left an indelible mark not only on our Nation, but also the world. Those three days, and the events that took place shaped our history and our future that reverberates today, tomorrow and for all time as long as we exist.

The reunions by Soldiers both North and South in 1913 and 1938 have shown us and people everywhere that we truly are a unified country, despite the terrible cost that was paid to achieve that result. The questions of One Nation or a divided country, Freedom for all our people, and Citizenship for all were just some of the major issues that were answered. Today a lot of the issues in our country have as a test of their mettle the actions that took place not only at Gettysburg, but at all the other 10,000 battles and skirmishes that was our American Civil War.

It is our mission to remind all Americans that Freedom is not Free, and that those rights and privileges we today enjoy are paid for by the blood and lives of countless Americans who put their country before themselves. From the unknown Soldiers in all our wars to the very well known, our Patriots have given us all an example to live up to and Honor. We must NEVER FORGET those who gave us what we have today.

Perhaps most Americans (as well as a lot of world citizens) are familiar with Gettysburg and its effect on us all. The tide of The Civil War turned and led to the path of its finish, and perhaps it can be said it was its climax. The hopes and dreams of a Nation began to improve after the Battle. It was put forth even higher when President Abraham Lincoln addressed The Citizens of Gettysburg four months and 16 days later when he gave his unforgettable Address.

The powerful words he uttered have echoed thru time right down to our own day. Its meaning and importance can be seen in our everyday lives. "Government of The People, By The People, and For The People shall not perish from The earth" is Lincolns message to us all. We shall carry the day and do what is best for all of us as well as we can for all of us. The Story Continues, May it always be so.

God Bless The United States of America. Now and for all time.