

NOVEMBER 2012 NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION
JOHN W. BATES NPI

This November marks several different important dates to All brothers in The SUVCW. This past weekend in Gettysburg our order attended The Remembrance Day activities which included Brothers and Sisters from all five of The Allied Orders from all parts of These United States. It was a wonderful and special occasion as we were all focused on our "Boys in Blue" and their honor and Legacy. Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor spoke at The Albert Woolson Monument and reminded us that this Last surviving Union Veteran was someone who represented not only himself, but also all Union Veterans throughout Our American Civil War.

He reminded us all that it is their Story, their courage, their sacrifice and their legacy that we all need to remember and honor as we attended Ceremonies, Memorials and of course the Remembrance Day Parade. National Chaplain Kowalski asked us all an Honest question, "Why are you here?" It was a thought provoking question for us all to reflect upon. The occasion was then completed by James Getty, who as President Abraham Lincoln gave us His "Gettysburg Address". These "Few Appropriate Remarks" have been studied and examined for the past 149 years, and they STILL INSPIRE and move us to this day. These words in mine (and many others) opinion define who we are as a Nation, to all Peoples on Earth. They are the "Perfect Prose" to pass on down to our Children, Grandchildren, and all our Nation and its Descendants for all time to be.

Two Days later, on Monday November 19,2012, The National Park Service in conjunction with The Lincoln Foundation of Pennsylvania hosted Remembrance Day Ceremonies at The Gettysburg National Cemetery. The 149th Anniversary of The Gettysburg Address had a Very Special Guest Speaker. It was acclaimed Film Director Steven Spielberg who has just released his New Film "Lincoln". Mr. Spielberg was truly an amazing person to listen to and learn from. He remarked that he was so humbled by being at Gettysburg, as he has come to understand and admire President Lincoln far more than he could have ever imagined. He declared himself a Lincoln aficionado and has I think, caught the "Fever", so to speak of the Great Man who showed us by his life and example how to solve The Greatest Problems our Nation has faced while being both humble and Genuinely Human to all involved. "Justice and Memory" The Director declared are so intertwined together that they attract us all to study how they create a Passion for the story we follow, "Our History" that we all love and Cherish. Lincoln, he told us always showed us in his remarks that the Great Battle occurred "Here" and was dedicated "here" and The sacrifice occurred "Here". The Directors new passion was very evident and on Display for all to see and admire. It was an Honor and a privilege to attend the Ceremony. I am sure all who were there felt The same. PLEASE, If you have not seen it yet, go, Take all your friends and Family to See "Lincoln" as soon as you can.

Brothers, to conclude. I would highly recommend that All Members of The Allied Orders Make Plans NOW to attend Next Years Remembrance Day Activities In Gettysburg November 2013. Bring your Children and Your Grandchildren. It is something They will remember for The Rest of Their Lives!

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