

October 2013 SUVCW National Patriotic Instructors Page The Message of our Civil War Story and Why it Matters Today.

As we are approaching (and have past) some very important days in our Civil War History, I think it is important to reflect and remember the meaning and the generational results of what took place 1861-1865. Many people I know (not members of the allied orders) have asked about what we do as an organization and why we do it. The simplest and in my opinion the best answer is because if we do not, then no one will. The vast majority of Americans today are not aware of even some of our recent History, never mind The Great Conflict of Americas Civil War.

I believe that there are many reasons for this lack of interest and or Knowledge. I have noticed at Local school curriculum's U.S. History is not given the proper place in our schools. As I have over the years, especially when my sons were young, given presentations on The Civil War I was somewhat surprised even then (some 20 years ago) that a lot of students had a vague idea of who Abraham Lincoln was, They really did not have many facts about his life, accomplishments, or his lasting legacy. While it is easy to blame our educational system for this lack of knowledge I think we have to look at the home and what goes on. I want to specify that there are some families and homes that do teach their children the true legacy, but it has not been enough.

Therefore it becomes all of our collective responsibility to pass on to all we know not only the true history of our country and its meaning to all generations of Americans, but also the sacrifice of all our Veterans and the service they have rendered to our nation. We all must always tell these stories so that all these men and women are honored and remembered.

These people are the True Heroes of our nation. That is the message of our "Boys in Blue" and all Veterans of all our struggles: "All Gave, some gave all",

That is the story we need to pass on: We have our "Sacred Lives" and our Freedom, but it is not "Free", and it has and continues to be paid with American Lives. **LEST WE FORGET.**

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

John W. Bates- National Patriotic Instructor