A handbook of instruction, thoughts, and ideas
For Camp, Department & National
Patriotic Instructors

Patriotism  Flag Etiquette

The Pledge of Allegiance  History

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
“To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)
and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865”
Introduction

The American Heritage Dictionary defines “patriotism” as feeling, expressing, or inspired by love for one’s country; the dictionary also defines “instructor” as one who instructs; a teacher. In the Ritual of the SUVCW, the color of the Patriotic Instructors station is red – denoting Patriotism, Strength, and Courage. Fulfillment of the duties of the Patriotic Instructor requires dedication to the cause.

This handbook is not the definitive answer to every question but created to serve as a “help” in the duties of the Patriotic Instructor. Some of the ideas presented herein may have already been used, which is commendable and great, but in time, it is hoped that new ideas will result in another printing of this handbook.

As in all things great, effort must be applied for its success. The content of this handbook should not be read as another demand on your time, but simply a guide to what can be done as a Patriotic Instructor of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
Annual Report of Committee on Americanization and Education

To Commander-in-Chief and National Encampment

Dated ___________________ 20 ___

Brothers; I have the honor to make the following report for the National Organization of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

This report should be a summary of the work done by the committee and include any recommendations that may assist Camps and Departments in the work of educating others about our Nation’s history and the Civil War.

1. The Camp Patriotic Instructor
   - The Job Description
   - Activities in the Camp
     - “For the God of the Order”
     - A Speakers Bureau
     - “Adopt” a military unit
     - Setting up public displays
     - Camp Color/Honor Guard
   - Working with area students
   - Adopt-a-School Program
   - Flag presentations
   - Essay contests
   - Civil War Memorial restoration projects
   - Reporting to the Department Patriotic Instructor

2. The Department Patriotic Instructor
   - The Job Description
   - Activities in the Department
     - Communication
     - Setting up public displays
     - Department Color/Honor Guard
     - Articles for the Department newsletter
     - Working with state education associations and state historians
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   - Reporting to the National Patriotic Instructor

3. The National Patriotic Instructor
   - The Job Description
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   - Monitoring the educational page on the National website
   - The Committee on Americanization and Education
   - Reporting to the Commander-in-Chief

4. The Flag of the United States
   - Brief history
   - The Pledge of Allegiance
   - Flag etiquette

5. Holiday’s and other special days
   - National, Federal and Special holidays
6. Ceremonies, Rituals and other miscellaneous items
   - Flag Retirement Ceremony
   - Headstone dedication/rededication
   - Civil War memorial service of dedication/rededication
   - The poem - *Company K*
   - National Day of Memorial
   - Sons of Veterans Creed

7. Surveys (Annual reports)/Forms

12. What was the total number of events that Camps participated in?

13. What was the total number of events Department Patriotic Instructors participated in on behalf of their Department?

14. What were the forms of communication used by the Department Patriotic Instructors with the various Camp Patriotic Instructors?

15. How many ROTC medals were issued to Camps? Departments?

16. Provide the breakdown of ROTC medal distribution:
   - A. ROTC
   - B. JROTC
   - C. Army
   - D. Navy
   - E. Marines
   - F. Air Force

Respectfully submitted,

Signed
Please Print

National Patriotic Instructor
Annual Report of National Patriotic Instructor  
To  
Commander-in-Chief and National Encampment 

Dated ____________________________ 20______

Brothers; I have the honor to make the following report for the National Organization of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Our Order has _______ Departments and _______ Camps.

1. How many Departments responded to the National Patriotic Instructor survey? _______

2. How many Camps responded to the Department Patriotic Instructors survey? _______

3. Was a Patriotic Instructor appointed and installed in each Department? _______

4. If not, state which and reasons ____________________________________________________________

5. Was a Patriotic Instructor appointed and installed in each Camp? _______

6. If not, list number of Camps within each Department that did not ________________________________

7. How many Camps provided patriotic and educational at each meeting? _______

8. How many Camps visited schools to share the history of the Civil War and the men and women who served in it? _______

9. What types of presentations were offered? ______________________________________________________

10. How many Camps participated in Memorial Day services? _______

11. How many Camps participated in Veteran’s Day services? _______

Chapter 1 – The Camp Patriotic Instructor

Job Description:

Purpose -
The purpose of the office of Patriotic Instructor is to educate and provide Brothers and the general public with information that will help to foster patriotism among the membership and the populace in general.

Activities -
The activities of the Camp Patriotic Instructor should include: (1) Presenting at each Camp meeting information on such items as - (a) Civil War military, civilian and other great American leaders, (b) National and state holidays, (c) The United States Flag, (d) Duties of citizenship such as voting, (e) Great Civil War battles and battles of other wars, and (f) Great American artifacts and sites; (2) Providing public displays and orations on patriotism as called upon; (3) Providing awards of recognition to deserving individuals as deemed necessary or ordered by the Camp.

Activities in the Camp

“For the Good of the Order” –

One of the loudest complaints that I’ve heard Camp Commanders give is that meeting attendance is at an all time low. The loudest complaint that I’ve heard Camp membership offer is that the meetings are too boring; very few of us desire to attend a general meeting of the Camp and simply go thru the agenda and only talk “business.” This is where you as the Camp Patriotic Instructor have been instructed to present something each meeting “for the good of the Order.” At each meeting, come prepared to offer something that will break up the monotony of a meeting and even possibly create some interaction, communication and possibly better attendance by the Camp membership.

What you share with the Camp has unlimited possibilities because the presentation could be just the biography of one man, one battle, one thought, and etc. The length of time spent sharing of course depends on the subject, but you could easily spend ten minutes most meetings and then every so often, spend a half-hour; include a few visuals or a handout that the members can take home and read more.

If you’re concerned that you are going to have to do all the work, rest easy; I’m sure that there is a fellow Brother in your Camp or even a neighboring Camp that has something that he would be happy to share. Just think, if you have 20 members in your Camp, you have material for 20 meetings if each Brother shared the biography of his Civil War ancestor and his unit. Encourage a “show and tell” night where members bring in artifacts to talk about. Don’t forget that not every Brother is a reenactor and learning about a soldier’s uniform and equipment just might be of interest. Some Camps are blessed with having active Corps, Tents, Circles, or Auxiliaries in the same community; if possible, schedule a joint opening of your meeting.

And don’t forget to have some fun along the way. While reading the minutes from the previous meeting and listening to the Treasurer’s report is important, I don’t know of any Camp that would be forced to disband if those things are missed once or twice per year. Encourage a “movie and popcorn night” where the Camp membership brings in a few snacks and you watch a movie.
And finally, although we the heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic, we also support and honor the veterans of all wars. Your subject matter doesn’t always have to be just on the Civil War. With the historical treasure the United States has, presenting something “for the good of the order” is actually rather simple; you just need to open a book or look around you.

**A Speakers Bureau –**

As mentioned in the paragraphs above, you do not have to be the sole speaker for the Camp. A way of helping yourself or future Camp Patriotic Instructors is to put together and maintain (keep current) a “speakers bureau,” a list of those willing to offer programs or speak at Camp meetings or other events.

You can help other Camps and/or the Department by sharing this list with the DPI.

**“Adopting” a military unit –**

It’s one of those things that almost everyone wants to do and one where many organizations already have – supporting our military forces by “adopting” a unit. The men and women in our military today are no different from those men and women who served in the Civil War; they like receiving mail or boxes of goodies from home. Your support for these troops shouldn’t hinge on whether they are on the front lines, sitting at a desk or even if we are not at war anywhere; they are volunteers who are daily defending the freedoms we enjoy.

How to get involved is as simple as searching the Internet or calling a local or state military unit; the procedures are all in place, all that is needed is the Camp to get involved.

**Setting up public displays –**

Having set up a reenactor recruiting table at various events, I have long learned that the reenactor will find you when he is ready; this has meant many long weekends with little interest other than talk.

However, since our Order is not just about members, but also about honoring our Civil War ancestors and the GAR as well as educating the public, our displays can be of importance; rarely do you find someone’s family that wasn’t touched by the war.

These displays should be well-designed and informative about who we are, what we do and what the local Camp is doing, where it meets, etc. Pictures tell a story much better than text so be sure you’ve included some photos of the various events your Camp has done. Having informative brochures are important as the visitor can take it home with them to read further.

These displays can be set up at local historical and genealogical society events, local reenactments and more.

**Camp Color/Honor Guard –**

The varied events that a Camp can participate in can, at times, require the use of a Color/Honor Guard; all Camps are encouraged to have such a unit. How well that unit performs will depend on several factors; the most important will be knowledge of how to present the Colors or flag etiquette. With teaching others about flag etiquette an important part of your duties, working with the Brothers of your Camp that make up the Color/Honor Guard should be a given.

13. Did you set up or participate in any educational, genealogical or historical events on behalf of the Department?_______

Please list below the events you participated in on behalf of the Department for this year (July – June).

Respectfully submitted,

Signed________________________

Please Print__________________________________

Department Patriotic Instructor

Event participation list:

a.____________________________________

b.____________________________________

c.____________________________________

d.____________________________________

Remarks:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Suggestions for me and future (Patriotic Instructors):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Annual Report of Department Patriotic Instructor
To
National Patriotic Instructor

Dated ___________________________ 20

To, ____________________________
National Patriotic Instructor, SUVCW

Brother; I have the honor to make the following report for the Department of
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Our Department has __________ number of Camps.

1. How many Camps responded to your Patriotic Instructor survey?
2. Was a Patriotic Instructor appointed and installed in each Camp?
3. If not, state how many and reasons.
4. How many of your Camps provided patriotic and educational at each meeting?
5. How many of your Camps visited schools to share the history of the Civil War and the men and women
   who served in it?

6. What types of presentations were offered?

7. How many of your Camps participated in Memorial Day services?
8. How many of your Camps participated in Veteran’s Day services?
9. What was the total number of events that Camps within your Department participated in?
10. What was your form of communication with the various Camp Patriotic Instructors?

11. How often did you communicate with your Camps?
12. Did you send out reminders about special holidays or days of remembrance?

As we are all volunteers in the Order, having or maintaining the same Color/Honor Guard unit is often a
factor in the performance of that unit as some will be more practiced in the proper use of the flag than
others. This should not be looked upon as “problem” but an “opportunity” to help other Brothers learn.

Periodically, discuss the simple rules for the position of the flag during a parade or when and which flags are
dipped in respect when passing the reviewing stand on a parade and location on the speakers stand.
Knowing what “Parade, rest” means during a ceremony is as important as knowing what “Present, arms”
means. When working with reenactors or other veteran group, it will be important to understand how
to “Post the Colors” or “Retire the Colors.”

Here are a few helpful tips on proper use of the flag:

Position of the U.S. flag when on parade: On the right.

Position of the U.S. flag if with numerous (more than two) other unit flags: In the front and middle of the
other flags.

Dipping the colors during a parade: To lower (but not touching the ground) in a show of respect.

Which flags to dip: All flags BUT the U.S. flag which stays in the upright position.

When to dip: Just before the reviewing stand and immediately after passing.

Position of U.S. flag when on a speakers stand: To the speakers right; the audiences left.

“Parade, rest” during a ceremony: To lower flag and place staff on ground near right foot and to place flag
in the crook of the right arm with right hand folded over left hand in front of body.

“Present, arms” during a ceremony: To raise flag to carrying position in front of body.

“Posting the colors”: To place flags in proper position during a ceremony or event.

How to post the colors: Always keep the U.S. flag to the right as if on parade. Upon approaching the
speakers stand (or headstone or memorial) stop, the U.S. flag will cross over to the left in FRONT of the
other unit flag(s) while the other flags turn to the right. At the command of the Officer of the Day or at the
same time by looking at each other to the right and left, place the flags in their bases or holders. Each
member placing a flag will step back from their flag and offer a hand salute to the flag for 2 seconds. After
saluting, each member will return to the spot where the flags were crossed and then retire from the room or
area.

“Retiring the colors: To remove flags from a ceremony or event

How to retire the colors: Upon approaching the speakers stand stop, the member who will carry the U.S.
flag will cross over to the left in FRONT of the member carrying the other unit flag(s). When facing the
flags, offer a hand salute and hold for 2 seconds. At the command of the Officer of the Day or at the same
time by looking at each other, pick up flags from their bases or holders and return to the spot where the
members crossed and retire from the room with the U.S. flag on the
Right as if on parade.

For more, please review the U.S. Flag Code.
Working with area students

Adopt-a-School Program –

I have shared living history programs with area schools for over 30 years; in most cases, I have to turn schools away because my schedule gets too full. While there is an occasional school or teacher who doesn’t quite understand the importance of teaching our youth history, at least in its original context, for the most part teachers are more than open to outside assistance in the classroom.

Your Camp can “adopt” a school simply by meeting with the District Superintendent or school principal and offering to work with the school annually on various Civil War-related projects. These projects could include a Civil War Day or a presentation on the soldier or how the community was affected by the Civil War.

A flyer has been created to offer more ideas on how your Camp can adopt a school as well as one designed to distribute to local schools/teachers explaining what the program is and is available on the National website on the Educational page.

Flag presentations –

Every school flies the Stars and Stripes. In most cases, the responsibility of raising and lowering the flag as well as folding it, is given to certain students. Have you ever had the opportunity to watch these students carry out their mission? I’ve seen the flag dropped, stepped on, rolled up in a bunch, raised slowly and lowered quickly, and more. This is where we can help!

You can again approach a district or school and offer to spend some time (about a half-hour) with the students who have the responsibility of raising and lowering the flag; if the students take turns, offer to conduct a school assembly on flag etiquette. Should you notice a school that has a torn and weathered flag that needs retiring, offer to purchase the school a flag in exchange for sharing with the students.

If the school is unwilling to allow you to help educate the students in proper flag etiquette, at least share with them some printed material that the students could at least read. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has a great educational tool for teaching our youth about the flag with our Flag Facts flyer (available for download off the Educational page on the National website in .pdf form). If you have the opportunity to share with the students of a school on the flag, be sure to include the Pledge of Allegiance and the proper way to salute the flag.

Essay contests –

Students have to write stories and essays as part of their curriculum; why not make that writing more fun and exciting for the students by offering to sponsor a writing contest each year? Again, by establishing working relationships with area schools, you will have better success at accomplishing such goals.

The contest can be conducted in a variety of ways (decided by the Camp and approved by the teacher) and based upon such things as penmanship, depth of writing, grasp of the topic, or simply the most heartfelt writing. Topic can be varied as well with subjects such as, “What Freedom Means to Me” or “What the Flag Means to Me” and such.

Event participation list:

a.________________________________________
b.________________________________________
c.________________________________________
d.________________________________________
e.________________________________________
f.________________________________________
g.________________________________________
h.________________________________________

Remarks:________________________________________

Suggestions on ways I or future (Department Patriotic Instructor) can improve:________________________________________
Annual Report of Camp Patriotic Instructor
To
Department Patriotic Instructor

Dated

To

Department Patriotic Instructor, SUVCW

Brother; I have the honor to make the following report for Camp No.______.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

1. Was a Patriotic Instructor appointed and installed?________

2. If not, state reasons__________________________________________

3. Are patriotic and educational programs provided at each meeting of your Camp?____

4. If yes, how often and what type of programs____________________________________

5. Does your Camp visit schools to share the history of the Civil War and the men and women who served in it?____

6. If yes, how often and what type of presentation________________________________

7. Does your Camp participate in your community’s Memorial Day services?____Veteran’s Day?____

8. In your local community, does your Camp participate in living history events or other venues where opportunities exist to educate the public about the boys who wore the Blue, our Order, patriotism and flag etiquette?________

Please list the events your Camp participated in for this year (July – June) on the back of this form.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed

Please Print__________________________

Camp Patriotic Instructor

The rewards for the winners could be monetary ($25 for 1st place, $15 for 2nd, and $5 for 3rd) or specially created color certificates or if conducted between schools, the winning school receives a new United States flag. The choices are left up to the Camp and what your budgets allow.

Civil War Memorial restoration projects –

Almost every community has a Civil War memorial of some type; almost every one of them needs restoration to some degree and ALL need to be preserved. Civil War memorial restoration and preservation is one of the purposes of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, but we don’t have to do it alone. “Together…we CAN do it!” is a service-learning project that has been a proven success in the classroom. The program, “Together…we CAN do it!” is simple in concept, accepted by teachers, and not only an excellent way of teaching our students about local Civil War history but to restore and preserve our memorials as well.

Once your Camp has located and assessed (SUVCW Form No. 61 and available for download off the National website Forms page) the Civil War memorials in your area, the next step should be to seek professional advice on how to restore the memorials and what the cost would be. Given this information, your next goal should be to form a committee (civic leaders, historical societies, and others) to oversee the fundraising effort. Once these things are in place, you are ready to approach schools for their help.

How the program works:

1. The program can be given to a class or entire school and takes about 1 hour.
2. The main topic could be on the soldier in the Civil War, the ladies back home (most of us know a willing assistant with period clothing), or both.
3. After sharing the living history, the presentation should then focus on the Civil War memorial your Camp is looking to restore – pictures of both past and present are a big help (many students will not know of what you are talking about until they see it) as well as some local history to bring the memorial to life.
4. Share with the students the costs involved and why it is important to restore the memorial
5. In conclusion, extend to them the opportunity to not only study history, but to preserve it as well. Over the next week, they bring in a can of food with a paper bill of any denomination wrapped around it. After picking up the collection, you deliver the food to a local food bank in the name of the school and you deposit the money into the fundraising account and the school gets the credit.
6. Why this is a success - students learn about history, the teachers are getting outside support, the students are learning to give something back to the community and help those less fortunate, and when the project is complete, they will have the pride in knowing they helped.

Other methods of getting students involved include having a "penny war," or a "rock-a-thon following a living history presentation.

Reporting to the Department Patriotic Instructor –

The Ritual states that the Camp Patriotic Instructor is required to submit a report to the Department Patriotic Instructor on forms he provides (see chapter on Forms at end of this handbook).

This is an important duty as it helps the Department leadership determine what Camps are succeeding and what Camps may need further encouragement and support. It also helps the Camp examine itself to see what could be done better or left the same.
Please note: At the time of your installation as the Camp Patriotic Instructor, you agree to forward any and all records and files relating to your office to your successor. By doing so, you insure that your Camp is timely in reporting to the Department Patriotic Instructor and that it receives the recognition it deserves.

I recommend submitting your Camp report to the Department Patriotic Instructor no later than one (1) month before your Department Encampment in order to be included or recognized.

Chapter 7 – Surveys (Annual Reports)/Forms

Survey for Camps to report to Department Patriotic Instructor – this is in addition to the annual report given to the Camp Commander

Survey for Departments to report to National Patriotic Instructor – this is in addition to the annual report given to the Department Commander at the Department Encampment

Survey for National Patriotic Instructor to report to Commander-in-Chief – this is in addition to the annual report on the Committee of Americanization and Education

ROTC application request form
The Sons of Union Veterans Creed -
This creed was adopted and promulgated by the thirty-eighth National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, USA, at Columbus, Ohio, September 11, 1919. Although no longer a formal part of the Ritual and Ceremonials, it is offered here for its historic interest and continuing sentiments.

SONS OF VETERANS CREED
To be a true American and a good citizen. To discountenance disloyalty in any form.
To revere the name of my ancestor who gave his service and made his sacrifices for the maintenance of the Republic.
To assist the Grand Army of the Republic and to perpetuate the patriotic teachings of that organization.
To be loyal to my Camp and the Order and faithful to my fellow members that we may work in brotherhood for these ends.
"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

Chapter 2 – The Department Patriotic Instructor

Job Description:

Purpose -
The purpose of the office of Patriotic Instructor is to educate and provide Brothers and the general public with information that will help to foster patriotism among the membership and the populace in general.

Activities -
In addition to the duties of Camp Patriotic Instructor, the activities of the Department Patriotic Instructor should also include: (1) Sending information to each Camp Patriotic Instructor on topics which should be stressed at Camp meetings; (2) Writing items for the Department newsletter as desired by the Department Commander.

Activities in the Department

Communication -
It has always been my vision that the Patriotic Instructor serves as the SUVCW “cheerleader;” the one who encourages participation in the goals of the Order as well as attendance at the various events sponsored by the Camp or Department. As a cheerleader, the Department Patriotic Instructor assists the Department Commander in communicating with the Camps and encouraging them to actively pursue the goals of the Order and the Department; this can usually be accomplished by submitting timely articles to the Department newsletter.

Setting up public displays -
Just as a Camp can set up a public display at a local historical or genealogical society event or reenactment, the Department Patriotic Instructor can set up a display on behalf of the Department and encourage Camps to participate and help share with the public. Having a list of Camps and contacts is helpful since for larger events the public can travel from other areas within the state to attend an event.

Department Color/Honor Guard -
While it would be great if the Department could maintain a Color/Honor Guard which was served by the same Brothers who were knowledgeable in proper flag etiquette and well-drilled, the fact that we are all volunteers makes this a difficult challenge. The best a Department can do for events or ceremonies is to encourage Camps to drill accordingly and to try to put together a “best of the best” unit as necessary. Should there be a Camp whose Color/Honor Guard is outstanding, they might be chosen to represent the Department and serve as an incentive for other Camps to get involved as well.

Submitting articles to the Department newsletter -
The content of the Patriotic Instructor’s articles should include upcoming important dates, short items on historical events, reflections of the past and what the Grand Army was doing, and more. These articles should also encourage each Camp within the Department to share what they’ve been doing by submitting articles to the Department newsletter as well. It has been proven that by sharing the work one Camp is
doing, it can inspire another Camp to do something. Open communication between the Camps and the Department open up more opportunities for joint ceremonies and greater attendance.

**Working with the state education association and state historians**

Each state has an education association which oversees some of the curriculum taught in schools; every state has a historical society or government-operated History Department. As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it should be our goal to form relationships with these organizations so that we can insure that the Civil War is one of the topics still covered in U.S. History classes.

The level of success will vary from state to state, and some will not embrace history without trying to rewrite it to make it politically correct, but it still remains our responsibility to try. You are encouraged to contact both organizations and inquire as to what is available in the classroom or on the state website in relation to the Civil War. You can also go to your state government website and enter “educator’s resources” to see what is available.

**Creating and monitoring an educator’s resource page for the Department website**

There are a variety of websites that offer tremendous support for teachers, students and scholars; they literally number in the hundreds.

You are encouraged to create a page on your Department website that can be linked to the National Educational webpage, but at the same time offering links to websites that are more related to your individual state. For instance, on the Michigan government website, they have extensive links and information relating to the Civil War in Michigan for students and teachers alike.

Because each Department should be aware of the same type of resources available within their state, it is recommended that these links be added to your website. Additional information on Brothers who are reenactor and/or living historians and who are available for speaking engagements should be listed as well.

It is important to monitor these links every so often so as to not keep a “dead” link on your site.

**Reporting to the National Patriotic Instructor**

Just as it is important for the Camp Patriotic Instructor to submit a report to his Department counterpart, the same holds true for the Department Patriotic Instructor to the National officer.

The information gathered in these Department reports (see chapter on Forms at the end of this handbook) will help the National officer present a report to the Commander-in-Chief and the membership on the overall participation in patriotic events, school programs, and more.

**Please note:** At the time of your installation as the Department Patriotic Instructor, you agree to forward any and all records and files relating to your office to your successor. By doing so, you insure that your Department is timely in reporting to the National Patriotic Instructor and that it receives the recognition it deserves.

I recommend submitting your Department report to the National Patriotic Instructor no later than July 15 of each year in order to be included or recognized.

**Chaplain:** Brothers, by this service, without distinction of race or creed, we renew our pledge to exercise a spirit of fraternity among ourselves, of charity to the destitute wards of the Grand Army, and of loyalty to the authority and union of the United States of America, and to our glorious flag under whose folds every Union soldier or sailor’s grave is the altar of patriotism.

*(All)*: Amen!
National Day of Memorial –

The following address is from the "Special Services at Cemetery" as given by the Post Commander from the 1917 "Services for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic." It would make a fitting address during that portion of the Sons of Union Veterans Memorial Day ceremony that designates an address:

NATIONAL DAY OF MEMORIAL

This is the national day of memorial - the time when in mind and thought our glorious past is made to live again, and the noble men who molded and shaped its destiny, though dead, are to memory once more instinct with life and being.

It is the hour when a nation awakes to the remembrance of deeds of heroism performed in its defense; the day when a loyal people grateful for service rendered their country, unite to honor their patriot dead, to enshrine and ennoble their own lives by recalling a public valor and a private worth that are immortal, and to encourage, by their solemn services, a more zealous and abiding patriotism in the heart and life of every American citizen.

The differences of party, creed and sect are today forgotten, while north and south, east and west, all over our broad land, our people, with reverent hearts, circle the sacred mounds where sleep our country's dead. The cares of business, the pursuits of pleasure, the usual and common concerns of secular life are put aside, while we bring flowers and wreaths of evergreen with which to decorate the graves of the men who have sacrificed on the altar of patriotic devotion everything that men hold dear, in order to preserve the integrity and unity, and to perpetuate the power and glory of our American republic.

But on this Memorial Day let us not forget that many eyes are clouded with tears, that many hearts are heavy with regret, that many lives are desolate because of the father or brother, the husband or lover, who did not come back, and that many graves are the shrines of a sorrow whose influence is still potent though time has mercifully robbed it of its first keen anguish.

Therefore, with our regard for the dead, let us mingle a tender sympathy for the living who mourn for the loved ones they have lost. And now, Brothers, as in this silent camping ground of our Nation's dead, with solitary reverence and love we garland these passionless mounds, let us recall their toils on the soldierly reverence and love we garland these passionless mounds, let us recall to memory the men who, in the sublime heroism in the days of battle, and their ultimate fidelity to home and country and native land at all earthly things - life - may have the fervent and enthusiastic devotion of every citizen, and that as today we stand at every grave as before an altar, we may pledge our manhood that so help us God, the memory of our country's dead shall strengthen and encourage in us all a deeper and more abiding patriotism.

The following could also be used as part of the wreath laying or flower laying ceremony as spoken by a designated Brother and the Chaplain:

Designated Brother: In the name of the Grand Army of the Republic, I scatter (or deposit) these memorial flowers upon this grave (or monument) which represents the graves of all who died in the sacred cause of our country. Our floral tribute shall wither. Let the tender fraternal love for which it stands endure until the touch of death shall chill the warm pulse-beat of our hearts.
The ROTC Program –

The ROTC Program is designed for Camps and Departments to acknowledge deserving cadets in the ROTC and/or JROTC; these young men and women will be our Nation’s military leaders of the future.

Your requirements in the Program are:

1. Submit articles or reminders about the program to the BANNER
2. Send a certificate and badge in answer to any request submitted on the proper form (Form 7)
3. Maintain the inventory of the certificates and ROTC badges. Re-orders must be sent to the National Quartermaster when the supply has reached a minimum of 25.
4. Forward all checks (payment) received to the National Treasurer
5. Provide an annual report to the Commander-in-Chief

Reporting to the Commander-in-Chief –

The final report to the Commander-in-Chief and the National Encampment should include a tabulation of the reports received from the Department Patriotic Instructors. This report should also include a report on the ROTC program. The report from the Committee on Americanization and Education should be submitted under separate cover.

The poem – *Company K*

This poem can be substituted for the *Unknown Dead* in any dedication/rerededication ceremony; it creates much emotion.

This poem was found in a book entitled *Lyrics, Incidents, and Sketches of the Rebellion*, compiled by Ledyard Bill, sold by subscription only, and published in 1864 by Smith and McDougal, New York.

There is no authorship attributed, but the following note prefaces it: "Are there not many hearts that will feel the pangs of keenest pain on reading this? Alas! That so many brave soldiers', noble companions', affectionate brothers', and dearest friends' history, death, and memory, are all told in this sad, yet heroic verse." While the author chose "K" as the company designation, any company letter would have been appropriate.

*Company K*

- by anonymous

There is a cap in the closet, old, tattered, and blue –
Of very slight value, it may be, to you:
But a crown, jewel studded, could not buy it today,
With its letters of honor, brave “Co. K.”

The head that it sheltered, needs shelter no more:
Dead heroes make holy, the trifles they wore;
So, like chaplet of honor, of laurel and bay,
Seems the cap of the soldier, marked "Co. K."

Bright eyes have looked calmly, its visor beneath,
O’er the work of the Reaper, Grim Harvester Death!
Let the muster roll meager, so mournfully say,
How foremost in danger, went "Co. K."

Whose footsteps unbroken, came up to town,
Where rampart and bastion, looked threateningly down!
Till, guns downward pointed, faced “Co. K.”

Who faltered or shivered? Who shunned battle stroke?
Whose fire was uncertain? Whose battle line broke?
Go, ask it of History, years from today.
And the record shall tell you, not "Co. K."

Though my darling is sleeping, today with the dead,
And daisies and clover, bloom over his head,
I smile through my tears, as I lay it away –
That battle-worn cap, lettered “Co. K.”
(Each Brother will present arms.)
(The Rifle Detail will then fire three volleys.)
(Taps are played)

COMMANDER:
"Attention! In Place, Rest"

"Our service of rededication is ended. In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders), I thank you, and those you represent, for your courtesy in permitting us, who are bound by special ties to them, to honor our dead."

COMMANDER:

"Attention! Brothers (and Sisters), as we close these services, the Guard of Honor is withdrawn, the symbols removed, the flags retired; but the memorial we have dedicated remains; guarded by our dead. So long as it shall endure, it shall speak to us and to all of the loyalty and heroism in the army and navy, and of the significant national authority of which our flag is the symbol to every true American heart."

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, Remove the symbols! (pause) Retire the Colors! (pause) Dismiss the Guard!"

COMMANDER:

"Chaplain, pronounce the Benediction."

CHAPLAIN:

The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen."

(AI) - Amen!

(The Commander will then, if necessary, escort the city of town officials and invited guests to the Camp Hall or other suitable place, and then dismiss the parade, or dismiss the parade immediately at the close of the exercises. The special circumstances of the occasion will suggest what is best to be done, preserving in as far as possible a soldierly method.)

COMMANDER:

"Parade Dismissed."

**Chapter 4 - The Flag of the United States**

**Brief History –**

The thirteen colonies became the United States on July 4, 1776. The American flag was officially created on June 14, 1777, when the Second Continental Congress passed the following resolution: "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Why the colors of red, white and blue? As for the first flag in 1777, the colors had no meaning. But the colors of red, white and blue did mean something for the Great Seal of the United States of America which was created in 1782 - "The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardness & valor, and Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

The original flag went through many different changes over the years until an Executive Order of President William Howard Taft in 1912 established proportions for the flag and regulated the ordering of the stars into rows. Before that, the stars could be in a circle, in a square, or in an oval-shaped design.

From 1777 until 1861, the United States had just one flag as a symbol of our country. Then in 1861, the Civil War, the War Between the States began. Soon, there were two flags in the United States, because all of the States weren’t united. It was a war between the States in the North such as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York, and Michigan fighting against states in the South such as Georgia, South Carolina and Texas.

The soldiers in the North fought to keep the United States together, or to preserve or save the Union and carried the United States flag with them. The soldiers in the Southern army fought under a different flag, which was also red, white and blue and for the Confederate States who wanted to become their own country. To this day, the reasons for the war can bring about strong debate.

This Civil War went on for four long and very bloody years. Millions of men fought on both sides and thousands and thousands died or were wounded. At the end of the four years, the North, the men who wore the blue uniforms, won the war and all the States were put back together. We then had one flag again, the United States flag.

Today, we still have one flag. Oh it’s been called a banner, a standard, a flag, “Old Glory,” the “Star-Spangled Banner,” and more, but its meaning has never changed and that’s why we celebrate Flag Day every June 14.

**For more information –**

http://www.usa-flag-site.org/kids-resources.shtml

http://www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/

http://www.usflag.org/toc.html
Two men interested in both education and planning Columbus Day celebrations around our Nation's 44 states were Francis Bellamy and James Upham. To this day it is still unknown which of the two men actually authored the words that were to become the Pledge of Allegiance. It was published anonymously and not copyrighted. James Upham was an employee of the Boston publishing firm that produced "The Youth's Companion" in which it first appeared. Francis Bellamy was an educator who served as chairman of the National Committee of educators and civic leaders who were planning the Columbus Day activities. What we do know for certain is that the words first appeared in the September 8, 1892 issue of "The Youth's Companion", and a month later more than 12 million school children recited the words for the first time in schools across the nation. Our Pledge of Allegiance was born, but like anything new, it took many years to 'reach maturity', and underwent several changes along the way.

At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 14, 1923, a change was made. For clarity, the words 'the Flag of the United States' replaced 'my flag'. In the following years various other changes were suggested but were never formally adopted.

It was not until 1942 that Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. One year later, in June 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In fact, today only half of our fifty states have laws that encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom! It was not until 1942 that Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. One year later, in June 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In fact, today only half of our fifty states have laws that encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom!

In June of 1954 an amendment was made to add the words 'under God'. Then President Dwight D. Eisenhower said 'In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war.'

The Pledge of Allegiance

'I pledge allegiance'...
...I promise to be true
 'to the flag'...
...to the symbol of our country
 'of the United States of America'
...each state that has joined to make our country

COMMANDER:

'Officer of the Guard, what proclamation from the Holy Scripture can you make?'

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

'A proclamation of peace - Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us for Thou also hast wrought all our works in us. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.'

COMMANDER:

The Chaplain will now offer the prayer of rededication. Uncover.'

CHAPLAIN:

'Almighty God, we thank Thee for Thy sovereign care and protection, in that Thou did lead us in the days that were shadowed with trouble, and gavest us strength when the burden was heavy upon us, and gavest us courage and guidance, so that after the conflict we have come to these days of peace. We thank Thee that the wrath of war has been stilled, the brother no longer strives against brother, that once again we have one country and one flag.'

'May Thy blessing be upon us as a people that we may be Thy people, true and righteous, in all our ways, tender and patient in our charity, though resolute for the right; careful more for the downtrodden than ourselves, eager to forward the interest of every citizen throughout the land, so that our country may indeed be one country from the rivers to the sea, from the mountains to the plains. We pray Thee to make our memories steadfast, that we may never forget the generous sacrifices made for our country. May our dead be enshrined in our hearts. May their graves be the altars of our grateful and reverential patriotism.'

'And now, Oh God, bless Thou this memorial. Bless it. Oh God, in honor of the mothers who bade their sons do brave deeds; in honor of wives who wept for husbands who shall never come back again; in honor of children whose heritage is their fallen father's heroic name; in honor of men and women who ministered to the hurt and dying.'

'But chiefly, oh God, in honor of men who counted not their lives dear when their country needed them; of those alike who sleep beside the dust of their kindred or under the sea salt, or in the nameless graves where only Thine angels stand sentinels till the reveille of the resurrection morning. Protect it and let it endure, and unto the latest generation may its influence be for education of the citizen, for the honor of civil life, for the advancement of the nation, for the blessing of humanity, and for the furtherance of Thy Holy Kingdom.'

'Hear us, oh Our God, we ask it in the name of Him who made proof of the dignity and who consecrated the power of sacrifice in His blessed life and death, even in the name of Jesus Christ, the great Captain of our salvation. Amen!'

COMMANDER:

'Attention! In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders), I now rededicate this memorial. I dedicate it to the memory of the individuals it represents. Brothers (and Sisters if so present), salute the dead!'
COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, you will direct the Camp Guard to station the Rifle Detail near the Memorial."

(The Rifle Detail will take their positions)

COMMANDER:

"Holy Scripture saith: The Lord gave the word; great was the Army of those that published it. Declare ye among nations, and publish, and set up a standard. In the name of God we will set up our banners."

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, you will order the Guard of Honor to post their colors."

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

"Colors - post!"

(Music - Band or choir, "Star Spangled Banner", if available)

***OPTIONAL***

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard. Do you have the records of these honored veterans service in the cause of our Country?" (note - or use GAR Post information as circumstances dictate).

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

"Commander, I have."

COMMANDER:

"Will you read them?"

Officer of the Guard reads the report(s) of the honored Veteran(s)

***END OF OPTIONAL SECTION***

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard let the Honor Guard set up the symbols of the soldier, and let a soldier be detailed to guard it"

[A musket with fixed bayonet, canteen and haversack hanging from it, knapsack leaning against the stock, is setup. A Brother in full uniform, armed with a musket with fixed bayonet, stands guard.]

"and to the Republic"

...a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people

"for which it stands,"

...the flag means the country

"one Nation"

...a single country

"under God,"

...the people believe in a supreme being

"indivisible,"

...the country cannot be split into parts

"with liberty and justice"

...with freedom and fairness

"for all,"

...for each person in the country...you and me!

The idea of the annual PAUSE FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE originated in 1980 at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore, Maryland. The National Flag Day Foundation, Inc. was created in 1982 "to conduct educational programs throughout the United States in promotion of National Flag Day and to encourage national patriotism by promotion of the PAUSE FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE."

On June 20, 1985, the Ninety-Ninth Congress passed and President Reagan signed Public Law 99-54 recognizing the PAUSE FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE as part of National Flag Day activities. It is an invitation urging all Americans to participate on Flag Day, June 14, 7:00 p.m. (EDT) in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag Etiquette –

How we are to respect, fly, raise and lower, salute and position the flag can be found in the United States Code, Title 36, Chapter 10 or it is sometimes referred to as the United States Flag Code. Since this is not taught in schools, it is imperative we teach our youth the proper way to treat the flag. We adults and Brothers in the SUVCW could occasionally use some pointers and need to read up on how to carry the flag and where to place it in a parade or inside the meeting room.

Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures and some 60 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U. S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.

A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference. It was not until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public
Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections (36 U.S.C. 171) Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem, (36 U.S.C. 172) the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery were included.

This code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. It does not impose penalties for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states and to the federal government for the District of Columbia. Each state has its own flag law.

Criminal penalties for certain acts of desecration to the flag were contained in Title 18 of the United States Code prior to 1989. The Supreme Court decision in Texas v. Johnson; June 21, 1989, held the statute unconstitutional. This statute was amended when the Flag Protection Act of 1989 (Oct. 28, 1989) imposed a fine and/or up to i year in prison for knowingly mutilating, defacing, physically defiling, maintaining on the floor or trampling upon any flag of the United States. The Flag Protection Act of 1989 was struck down by the Supreme Court decision, United States vs. Eichman, decided on June 11, 1990.

While the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe additional rules regarding the Flag, no federal agency has the authority to issue 'official' rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code may be fairly tested: 'No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.' Therefore, actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.

For more information:
http://suvcw.org/flag.htm

Service of dedication and/or rededication for a Civil War Memorial -

Please note: This ceremony is available in a Microsoft Word format to allow for adding specific names and amending as necessary. Please see the SUVCW Forms and Documents page on the National website.

Taken from the 1917 GAR Service of Dedication, this ceremony has been modified to be used as a service of rededication by the SUVCW. Of course, if your Camp or Department is dedicating a new memorial, this service would need to be adapted for such a ceremony. The ceremony can also easily be modified to include Sister members of the Allied Orders.

Although these ceremonies are solemn and emotional in their own right, it is even more so when you can include groups who participated in the original dedication ceremony, in your rededication service; it is a way of connecting the past to the present.

SERVICE OF REDEDICATION

(The Camp will escort the city or town officials and invited guests from some designated place of assembly to where the exercises will be held. The Camp is drawn up in front of the place of dedication as near the site as possible.)

Music - By choir or band.

(The mayor, chairman of the selectmen, or the president of the day, in a few words, surrenders the memorial to the Camp for rededication.)

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROGRAM:

"Commander, I have been authorized to invite you at this time to accept from (name), at the hands of its accredited representatives this Memorial, and to request that it be rededicated by you to the noble purpose for which it has been set up."

COMMANDER:

"(name of the representative), in the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders if Sisters are present), representing as they do all the soldiers and sailors who defended the integrity and authority of the nation, I thank you and those whom you represent, for this Memorial."

"This Memorial assures us that our dead are held in remembrance - those dead who gave their lives for the security of the citizen and the union of the states. It is significant of brave and loyal obedience to the command of the nation always and everywhere, since the obligations of citizenship are not restricted to time or place, or to the conflict of arms. It gives encouragement for the future, since the recognition and approval it gives of patriotic fidelity and heroism will be an incentive for the display of public valor and virtue in all coming time."

"There can be no doubt that the honor you pay to the patriotic dead, and to their memorable deeds will serve not only to make American citizenship in these days more reputable, but also to maintain and perpetuate, through all future generations, the union and authority of the United States of America."

For more information:
http://suvcw.org/flag.htm
SALUTE  (Three volleys by firing squad.)

(All Brothers (and Sisters) should go to ‘Present Arms’, either rendering honors through a hand salute or by placing the right hand over the heart. Remain at ‘Present Arms’ until ‘Taps’ has finished.)

TAPS  By bugler.

CHAPLAIN:

‘May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost and the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, rest upon and abide with us forever. Amen.’

COMMANDER:

‘Our service of dedication is ended. In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders) I thank you, for your courtesy in permitting us, who are bound by special ties to them, to honor our dead.’

‘Taps are sounded - Lights are out - the Soldier sleeps.’

Dismiss the Camp.

Chapter 5 – Holidays and other special days

National, Federal and Special holidays – Days the Flag should be Flown

January 1 - New Year’s Day

February 1 - National Freedom Day
First observed on February 1, 1949

The purpose of this holiday is to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, fought to have a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. When Wright got his freedom, he went on to become a successful businessman and community leader in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Major Wright chose February 1 as National Freedom Day because it was the day in 1865 that President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

This amendment, an important change to our written law, outlawed slavery in the United States. Wright gathered national and local leaders together to write a bill declaring February 1 “National Freedom Day” and President Harry Truman signed the bill on June 30, 1948 making it official.

February 12 – Union Defender’s Day or Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday
First observed 1866

Abraham Lincoln, perhaps our greatest President, gives us insight into the qualities desired in leadership. Clearly Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the greatest U.S. Presidents of all time. From his humble log cabin beginnings to his martyrdom, his intellect, determination, humility, wit, and savvy is recognized. His determination to keep the nation together during the Civil War, his prowess in stopping the bloodshed, and most importantly his Emancipation Proclamation are hallmarks of his shortened presidency.

His birthday was first recognized in 1866, less than a year after his death. At a ceremony in the Capital building, President Andrew Johnson, his cabinet, and many other dignitaries were present. It wasn’t until 1892, however, that it was officially recognized and that was in the state of Illinois only. Other states soon followed suit, but it wasn’t until Lincoln’s one-hundred birthday that Congress officially sanctioned the holiday.

The report of the Commander-in-Chief, George B. Abbott,
8th National Encampment, Patterson, NJ, Sept. 10 - 13, 1889:

In General Order No. 17, the request was made that the Camps throughout the Order generally hold appropriate services for the celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, on 12th day of February. We believed it proper that the Sons of Veterans, an organization originating and resting upon principles so closely allied and based upon the important events which characterized the greatest achievements of our martyrved President, should take cognize of his natal day. It is pleasing to report that the occasion was largely observed, and many of the Camps were aroused and were deeply impressed with the necessity of ever keeping in mind before the American people the great principles of undying faith which, entertained by our fathers preserved the country in unity in her hour of greatest peril and it is recommended that the celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln be made one of the features of our organization, and provision made for its observance in the Constitution and that it may hereafter be known as ‘Sons of Veterans’ Day.” There is no day in all the year, excepting the birth of our Savior and the birth of our nation, which should so
arouse the enthusiasm and patriotism, and meet with the universal observance of the American people, as the 12th day of February.

The Report of the Committee on Officers' Reports:

Your Committee on Officers' Reports would respectfully submit the following:

1. That they approve the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief in reference to a proper observance of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, but would recommend that instead of denoting it is "Sons of Veterans' Day", that the same shall be known as "Union Defenders' Day", and that the Commander-in-Chief issue proper orders providing for its observance by the Order.

The Third Monday in February - President's Day

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had taken firm root in the American experience as a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birthnight Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and fellow February baby (born on the 12th of the month). The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1905, legislation (H.R. 1462) was enacted that affected several federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observation of which was shifted to the third Monday in February each year, whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays and give federal employees some standard three-day weekends in the process.

Apparently, while the holiday in February is still officially known as Washington's Birthday (at least according to the Office of Personnel Management), it has become popularly (and, perhaps in some cases at the state level, legally) known as "President's Day." This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.

George Washington’s Birthday - February 22

First observed on February 11, 1782

While there are a number of lingering questions about Washington, he was known as a man of integrity, possessing great leadership skills, and a true patriot. His role as commander of the Continental Army is legendary. He was later the presiding officer at the Continental Convention of 1787 and was unanimously selected to inaugurate a new country's democracy as its first President. He also established the Constitution of the United States as a true guiding light for the new nation.

As early as 1775, his birthday was celebrated by some. Initial birthday celebrations were on February 11 because the Gregorian calendar wasn't adopted by the colonies in 1732, the year of his birth. It wasn't until 1796 that February 22 was officially adopted as the celebratory day.

"Last token of affection from the Sons of Comrades in arms; we crown these remains with the symbol of victory!"

(The Brother should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.)

COMMANDER: (stepping forward and laying a small American flag upon the grave)

"In behalf of the Grand Republic for whose integrity and unity our late Comrade (veteran's name here) offered his services during the War of the Rebellion, I deposit this flag."

(The Commander should take one step back and render a salute before returning to his position.)

CHAPLAIN: (Chaplain may read this or another Brother or Sister)

The Unknown Dead

Above their rest there is no sound of weeping,
Only the voice of song-birds thrills the air;
Unknown their graves, yet they are in God's keeping,
Fanned by soft winds which 'round them gently sigh.

Bravely they laid their all upon the altar,
Counting as naught the sacrifice and pain,
Theirs but to do and die without a falter —
Ours to enjoy the victory and the gain.

They are not lost; that only which was mortal
Lies 'neath the turf o'er arched by Southern skies;
Deathless they wait beyond the heavenly portal,
In that fair land where valor never dies.

He knows each hallowed mound, and at His pleasure
Marshals the sentinels of earth and sky;
Over their repose kind Nature heaps her treasure,
Father. Let us also remember those honored dead who did not return to hearth and home, but lie in resting places known but to God.

(Chaplain may read this or another Brother or Sister)

The Unknown Dead

Above their rest there is no sound of weeping,
Only the voice of song-birds thrills the air;
Unknown their graves, yet they are in God's keeping,
Fanned by soft winds which 'round them gently sigh.

Bravely they laid their all upon the altar,
Counting as naught the sacrifice and pain,
Their's but to do and die without a falter —
Ours to enjoy the victory and the gain.

They are not lost; that only which was mortal
Lies 'neath the turf o'er arched by Southern skies;
Deathless they wait beyond the heavenly portal,
In that fair land where valor never dies.

In the great heart of coming generations
Their fame shall live, their glory never cease;
Whenever comes to all earth's troubled nations
God's perfect gift of universal peace.

'He that loses his life for My sake shall find it.'
"May we not forget as the years roll on that we too shall have battles to fight, that in time we too shall be
carried to the silent city of the dead and that our lives here should but fit us for the great bivouac of
Eternity."

"The Chaplain will invoke the Divine Blessing."

"Uncover."

CHAPLAIN:

"God of battles and peace. Ruler of the destinies of countries and of men. In this silent camping ground of
the dead we come before Thee asking Thy blessing as we honor the memory of this defender of our
country's honor, [veteran's full name here]. Wilt Thou in Thy infinite tenderness comfort those who
mourn him. Wilt Thou speak words of comfort and consolation to their sorrowing hearts. Look in mercy
we pray Thee, upon the widows and orphans of deceased veterans everywhere. Bless and save from every
evil the country for which this soldier and our fathers fought. Preserve it in purity and integrity. Bless the
members of this Order as they have gathered here in response to the call of love and duty, to perform these
rites of remembrance over one of our Nation's preservers, and at last grant that we may all meet before Thy
throne and to Thy name shall we ascribe praise both now and forever. Amen."

(A B) Amen.

COMMANDER:

"As we remember [veteran's name here], let us cherish his example as a patriot and defender of those
principles he believed to be right. Let us forget his failings, for he was human, remembering only his
virtues. Let us so live that when that time shall come those we may leave behind may say above our graves,
"Here lies the body of a true hearted, brave and earnest defender of the Republic!"

"Officer of the Day, let the guard of honor set up the symbol of the army, and let a soldier be detailed to
guard it."

(A musket with fixed bayonet, canteen and haversack hanging from it, knapsack leaning against the
stock, is set up against the monument. A soldier in full uniform, armed with a musket with fixed
bayonet, stands guard.)

FIRST BROTHER: (Sister) (laying a wreath of evergreen upon the grave)

"In behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders), I give this tribute, a symbol of an
unyielding love for the comrades of the war."

(The Brother (or Sister) should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.)

SECOND BROTHER: (Sister) (laying a single rose upon the grave)

"Symbol of purity, we offer at this lowly grave a rose. May future generations emulate the unselfish devotion
of even the lowliest of our heroes."

(The Brother (or Sister) should take one step back and render a salute before returning to the line.)

THIRD BROTHER: (laying a wreath of grapevine upon the grave)
Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May
First observed in 1947

Armed Forces Day was established to combine the previous independent holidays of each of the branches of the Armed Forces. Its purpose is to honor Americans serving in the five services including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

On this holiday, there are parades and other festive activities sponsored by the military. In addition, many military bases are open to the public for tours of the facilities, ships, planes, and other military assets. Sometimes there are also public demonstrations like parachute jumps, aircraft fly-bys and other events.

Memorial Sunday – The Sunday preceding Memorial Day

Memorial Sunday is defined in the "Ritual and Ceremonials" as the Sunday preceding Memorial Day. It should be observed by every Camp and every member by attending Divine services, preferably with members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. Camp Commanders should issue instructions to members covering memorial Sunday, advising them in full detail time and place of the services and of needed information concerning participation of the Camp in the program.

Memorial Day – May 30
First observed in 1868

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 3, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

General Order No. 11
Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic
Washington, D.C., May 3, 1868

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewn with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foe? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and found mourners. Let no vandalism of of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foe? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and found mourners. Let no vandalism of such hallowed spots of rest, rudely deface or profane. Let no act of desecration, how trivial, seem unimportant. While men may cease to be as the light and warmth of life remain in us.

Service of dedication and/or rededication for a Civil War headstone -

Please note: This ceremony is available in a Microsoft Word format to allow for adding specific names and amending as necessary. Please see the SUVCW Forms and Documents page on the National website.

HEADSTONE REDEDICATION SERVICE

The following service is adapted from the 1917 Service for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic; it was used to dedicate a headstone for a Civil War veteran. It is offered here as a basis for similar ceremonies in which a Camp may be involved. The ceremony involves the following: Camp Commander, Camp Chaplain, 3 additional Brothers to place items at the grave, an Officer of the Day (could be the Camp Guard Commanding Officer), an honor guard to fire a salute (could be the members of the Camp Guard or a reenacting unit) and a Bugler to play "Taps." Items laid on the grave are: a small American flag, a wreath of evergreen, a single rose, and a wreath of laurel (see note below). The service takes about 20 minutes to conduct.

Note: Since laurel is not readily available and/or costly if so, substituting a wreath of grapevine will serve the same purpose. Grapevine symbolizes honor, victory and eternal life. It is also fitting at this ceremony to place a live evergreen wreath rather than an artificial one.

The ceremony can also easily be modified to include Sister members of the Allied Orders.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Arriving at the grave the Camp will be arranged in such manner as may be most appropriate to the occasion and nature of the ground (see diagram below). The Commander will take his position at the head of the grave, Chaplain at the foot, music in rear of Chaplain, Colors in the line, Firing Squad to right or left of the grave as directed; friends opposite or in rear of the Commander. The Commander will give the command,

COMMANDER:

"Camp, attention."

"Parade, rest!"

The Commander will then say:

COMMANDER:

"Brothers, we have met here as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders) to consign to that house prepared for all the living, the memory of a soldier of this country, (name of veteran here). The march of this soldier is over. Let us remember Comrade (last name here) here at rest under the blue skies of Heaven, guarded by the silent stars that in life watched over him when he bivouacked on the battlefields or lay down weary and foot-sore on the soil of the Southland. May we, as we stand here by this grave remember that it is our duty, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Allied Orders) to honor the memory of the men who stood shoulder to shoulder on the bloody fields of battle, who guarded so faithfully, so honestly and so well the sacred bonds of Statehood and who fought for liberty and the dear old Flag. They have passed away to their final review and upon us has devolved by sacred right of heritage the duty of perpetuating the principles for which they fought."
The positions of the Camp and Officers:

- **Chaplain**
- **Commander**
- **National Colors**
- **Camp Colors**
- **Members of Camp**
- **SVC**
- **JVC**
- **Members of Camp**
- **Color Guard with Unserviceable Flags**
- **Bugler**
- **Fire Pit**
- **Firing Squad**

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation’s gratitude—the soldier’s and sailor’s widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By command of:

JOHN A. LOGAN,
Commander-in-Chief.

N. P. CHIPMAN,
Adjutant-General.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Mississippi; Macon, Georgia; Richmond, Virginia; Boalsburg, Pennsylvania; and Carbondale, Illinois.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America’s wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

**Flag Day – June 14**

*First observed, June 14, 1777*

In the United States, Flag Day (more formally, National Flag Day), is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Several men are claimed to have played early instrumental roles in the establishment of a National Flag Day:

Perhaps the most fervent claim dates to 1885, when a schoolteacher, Bernard J. Cigrand, reportedly urged the students at the public school in Fredonia, Wisconsin, to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." He moved to Chicago to attend dental school, and in June 1886, wrote an article titled "The Fourteenth of June" which
President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon
move towards independence. Other colonies followed suit helped by the strong encouragement of patriots
independence movement. On April 12, North Carolina became the first state to instruct its delegates to
In the beginning of 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet entitled Common Sense encouraging the
Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans.

Independence Day – July 4
First observed on July 4, 1777
July 4, 1776 is the momentous American date when John Hancock, the President of the Continental
Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. This declaration of sovereignty was a result of many
preceding incidences including the Boston Massacre, Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, and Battles of
Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans.

In the beginning of 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet entitled Common Sense encouraging the
independence movement. On April 12, North Carolina became the first state to instruct its delegates to
move towards independence. Other colonies followed suit helped by the strong encouragement of patriots
like James Madison and Patrick Henry. In June, Richard Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to dissolve the
political connection with Great Britain but it faced opposition still. Nevertheless, the Continental Congress
selected a committee to draft a declaration of independence to support Lee's resolution. The committee

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in
various towns and cities across American other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924
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President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon
Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a 'father's day' in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a
special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his
wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn
and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington State. It was after Mrs. Dodd
became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children
as a single parent.

The flag was adopted by the United States Congress on June 14, 1777. The city of Hartford observed the day in 1861, carrying
out a program of a patriotic order, praying for the success of the Federal arms and the preservation of the Union.

Father's Day – the third Sunday in June
Father's Day, contrary to popular misconception, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting
card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact when a 'father's day' was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!

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Amen.

OFFICER OF THE GUARD: "Present, Arms!"
All render hand salute as the Camp Guard comes to 'Present Arms.' The Camp Standard is dipped.

Please note: At this point in the ceremony, if no bugler or firing squad is available, the Commander may
order a moment of silence.

OFFICER OF THE GUARD: "Bugler, Sound Off!" Bugler sounds 'To the Colors!' All remain at 'Present Arms.'

OFFICER OF THE GUARD: At the conclusion of 'To the Colors', gives the command: "Shoulder, Arms"

COMMANDER: "Thank you for your assistance in conducting this most solemn ritual. As the old soldier, sailor and airman
day one go beyond our world to a better place, so too must the dear old flag under which they so nobly
served be retired. And like the old soldier or sailor or airman, the flag too, shall be followed by that which is
new, bright of stripe and shining of star amid a field of Union Blue. May the flag ever fly aloft over this great
land to comfort the dispossessed, defend the weak and warn the tyrant. May it ever flutter in peace, shouting
the message of liberty and freedom."

"The Color Guard shall resume its station! The Detail is dismissed."

The Officer of the Guard will command: "Attention, Detail! Forward, March!" The Color Guard advances down the center to within two paces of the Commander where the Officer of the Guard will command: "Detail, Halt!" "Post!" The Color Guard reposes the National Colors and Camp Standard. The Color Bearer will command: "Attention, Detail! Break Ranks, March!" The Color Bearer and his Detail resume their places among the Camp members. The Commander will then command:

COMMANDER: "Camp, Dismissed!"
COLOR BEARER:
"Commander, they have."

COMMANDER:
"Junior Vice-Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER:
"Commander, since these flags have become unserviceable in a worthy cause, I recommend that they be honorably retired from further service."

COMMANDER:
"Senior Vice-Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER:
"Commander, since these flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and love, I also recommend that they be fittingly destroyed."

COMMANDER:
"Brothers, we have presented here these flags of our country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love."

"A flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that our dear country stands for; a free nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, and devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. It represents all that our fathers, the Grand Army of the Republic and our nation’s defenders in all conflicts lived for, sacrificed for and died for."

"Let these faded flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places taken by bright new flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier, sailor or airmen dead be unhonored and unmarked."

"Color Bearer, you will destroy these flags with solemn dignity by burning. Officer of the Guard, assemble the Color Guard, escort this detail bearing flags to the vessel of disposal. Attention, Camp!"

The Color Guard will form up immediately behind the Color Bearer’s detail. The Officer of the Guard will command: ‘Attention, Detail About, Face Forward, March!’ Preceeded by the Color Guard; the detail marches down the center to the fire. The Officer of the Guard will command: ‘Detail, Halte’ The National Colors will cross over and take position on the right of the fire facing the Commander; the Camp Colors will take up position on the left. Once in place the Commander will command:

COMMANDER:
"The Chaplain will invoke the divine blessing.” “Uncover!”

consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Jefferson was appointed as author.

When the Continental Congress resumed sessions on July 1st, the Declaration of Independence was complete and a test vote was taken. Nine colonies were in favor of the resolution. On July 2, the official Independence vote was taken and twelve colonies supported the motion with New York abstaining. The Declaration of Independence, as written by Jefferson, was approved by Congress on July 4th, 1777. On that same day, it was printed and signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, secretary. A few days later, New York cast it’s vote in favor of the resolution thus making the independence movement unanimous among the thirteen colonies.

On August 2, the Declaration of Independence was signed by Congress with all but seven delegates signing the document. The remaining seven delegates did eventually sign the document as well.

Patriot Day — September 11
First observed September 11, 2002

On September 11, 2001, four commercial airlines were hijacked by Islamic terrorists and members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network. Each of these airliners was given specific high profile targets in the United States and each airliner was complimented by five or six Al Qaeda hijackers.

Rather than fill the airplanes with explosives, each flight was selected because of its large fuel tanks and long, transcontinental flight plans departing from the east coast and heading west. The first two airliners hit New York City’s World Trade Center towers just as the workday began. As the world watched the first tower burn, the second airliner hit the second tower. Debris and flames were everywhere as civilians raced to escape the disaster and firefighters and police raced towards the towers to try to save more lives. Unbelievably, within a couple of hours, both towers and surrounding structures collapsed like deadly accordin to the ground creating a seven story tall pile of rubble.

The third hijacked aircraft collided into the Pentagon in northern Virginia killing many more civilians and military personnel. Unlike the three others, the fourth aircraft wasn’t hijacked until sometime later when the flight was over eastern Ohio. This critical delay in hijacking allowed passengers to gather information (mainly via cellular phone calls) and formulate a plan. With the horrific news of the other three suicide missions, the passengers apparently seized the hijackers ultimately bringing down the plane in a fireball in rural western Pennsylvania. Although we don’t really know what happened, one passenger was overheard saying “Let’s Roll!” just before the plane crashed. These brave passengers possibly saved thousands more of American lives through their selfless, courageous retaliation.

All told, almost 3,000 innocent people, from over sixty different nations, of all colors, creeds, and religions, were killed. This unexpected attack by a clandestine enemy is the worst “wartime” attack on American soil in history, even more so than Pearl Harbor. In memory of the brave firefighters, police officers, office workers, rescue workers, airline employees, and passengers, President George W. Bush signed this holiday into the public record on December 18, 2001.

In connection with the signing of this legislation, Americans are encouraged to fly their flags at half-mast and engage in a moment of silence. We should also remember the survivors of this attack, not only those who were present but also the family and friends of those lost.
Citizenship Day – September 17
First observed September 17, 1952

The purpose of this holiday is to honor both, native-born and naturalized foreign-born citizens. In 1909, Randolph Hearst gave the day national prominence through his chain of daily newspapers when a movement to recognize new citizens began.

In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as 'I am an American Day'. Many cities continue to observe this holiday. On February 29, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill establishing September 17 as Citizenship Day, replacing the May observance and moving the date to the one on which the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. The intent of the bill was to give recognition to those who had become American Citizens during the preceding year. The celebrations include pageantry and speeches to impress Americans with the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

Citizenship Day focuses on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, both native-born and naturalized. The choice of September 17 for this observance commemorates the events of September 17, 1787 when the United States Constitution was signed by delegates from 12 states at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This day celebrates the Supreme Law of the Land as the oldest working Constitution in the world.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September

Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor America’s POW/MIA’s, those returned and those still missing and unaccounted for from our nation’s wars. That first year, resolutions were passed in the Congress and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. The Missing Man formation was flown by the 1st Tactical Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia. The Veterans Administration published a poster including only the letters 'POW/MIA' and that format was continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in harsh captivity was used to convey the urgency of the situation and the priority that President Ronald Reagan assigned to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced yearly, until 1995 when it was deemed by Congress that legislation designating special commemorative days would no longer be considered by the President. The President now signs a proclamation each year. In the early years, the date was routinely set in close proximity to the League’s annual meetings. In the mid-1980’s, the American Ex-POWs decided that the date should be April 9th, the date during World War II when the largest number of Americans were captured. As a result, legislation urged by the American Ex-POWs was passed covering two years, July 20, 1984 and April 9, 1985, as the commemoration dates.

The 1984 National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony was held at the White House, hosted by President Ronald Reagan. At that most impressive ceremony, the Reagan Administration balanced the focus to honor all returned POWs and renew national commitment to accounting as fully as possible for those still missing. Perhaps the most impressive Missing Man formation ever flown was that year, up the Ellipse behind the detail and over the White House. Unfortunately, the 1985 ceremony was canceled due to inclement weather, a concern that had been expressed when the April 9th date was proposed.

Subsequently, in an effort to accommodate all returned POWs and all Americans still missing and unaccounted for from all wars, the National League of Families proposed the third Friday in September, a date not associated with any particular war and not in conjunction with any organization’s national convention. Most National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies have been held at the Pentagon. On
Chapter 6 – Ceremonies, Rituals and other miscellaneous items

The items presented in this chapter are not necessarily for the Patriotic Instructor but can be used by the Camp or Patriotic Instructor as a means of working together and/or offering assistance in the conduct of a ceremony.

The Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony -

"United States Federal Law provides that 'The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.' (36 U.S.C. 176d(k))

While this ceremony is carried out by many local Posts of the American Legion and VFW, and Boy Scout Troops, this ceremony can also be conducted by Camps of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. In many cases, such events are (or can or possibly should be) conducted with a combination of members from all groups.

Please note: Be sure to contact your local fire department before conducting such a ceremony and be sure that all proper safety precautions are undertaken before beginning a ceremony.

The Camp assembles in regular or special meeting, out of doors. Camp Members are aligned in parallel rows about twenty feet apart, facing each other. Officers are at their stations as shown in the diagram (see below).

The ceremony begins:

COMMANDER:

"Attention, Camp! Parade, rest!"

COLOR BEARER:

"Commander, I wish to present a number of unserviceable flags of our country for inspection and disposal."

COMMANDER:

"Advance with your detail and present the flags for inspection and disposal."

The Color Bearer commands: "Attention, Detail! Forward, March!"

Guiding on the Color Bearer, the detail marches two abreast carrying the flags to be inspected down the center of the formation unit opposite the Junior Vice-Commander's station. Turning right, the Color Bearer commands: "Detail, halt! Right Face!" The detail halts two paces in front of the Junior Vice-Commander.

The Color Bearer steps one pace forward, salutes and says:

COLOR BEARER:

"Junior Vice-Commander, I present these unserviceable flags for your inspection."

September 19, 1986, however, the national ceremony was held on the steps on the U.S. Capitol facing the Mall, again concluding with a flight in Missing Man formation.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremonies are now held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, at schools, churches, national veteran and civic organizations, police and fire departments, fire stations, etc. The League's POW/MIA flag is flown, and the focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve our nation and do everything possible to account for those who do not return.

Veteran’s Day – November 11

First observed November 11, 1919

November 11, is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Compiegne by the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict.

At 5 A.M. on Monday, November 11, 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an order was issued for all firing to cease; so the hostilities of the First World War ended. This day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations; no doubt the world has never before witnessed such rejoicing.

In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

In 1927 Congress issued a resolution requesting President Calvin Coolidge to issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11, and inviting the people to observe the day in schools and churches. But it was not until 1958 that Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

That same year President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the Chief Executive or his representative placed a wreath. In many other communities, the American Legion was in charge of the observance, which included parades and religious services. At 11 A.M. all traffic stopped, in tribute to the dead, then volleys were fired and taps sounded.

After World War II, there were many new veterans who had little or no association with World War I. The word, "armistice," means simply a truce; therefore as years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. Leaders of Veterans' groups decided to try to correct this and make November 11 the time to honor all who had fought in various American wars, not just in World War I.

In Emporia, Kansas, on November 11, 1953, instead of an Armistice Day program, there was a Veterans' Day observance. Ed Rees, of Emporia, was so impressed that he introduced a bill into the House to change the name to Veterans' Day. After this passed, Mr. Rees wrote to all state governors and asked for their approval and cooperation in observing the changed holiday. The name was changed to Veterans' Day by
In the middle of the Civil War, prompted by a series of editorials written by Sarah Josepha Hale, the last of which appeared in the September 1863 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863:

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship: the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, 3 October 1863.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually in the United States. In 1939, President Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be the next to last Thursday of November rather than the last. With the country still in the midst of The Great Depression, Roosevelt thought this would give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas. Increasing profits and spending during this period, Roosevelt hoped, would aid bringing the country out of the Depression. At the time, it was considered inappropriate to advertise goods for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. However, Roosevelt’s declaration was not mandatory; twenty-three states went along with this recommendation, and 22 did not. Other states, like Texas, could not decide and took both weeks as government holidays. Roosevelt persisted in 1940 to celebrate “Franksgiving,” as it was termed. The U.S. Congress in 1941 split the difference and established that the Thanksgiving would occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday and sometimes the next to last. On November 26 that year President Roosevelt signed this bill into law.