

**General Orders No. 18**  
**SERIES 2003-2004**  
**Kent L. Armstrong, Commander-in-Chief**  
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1. I have the honor to announce the following gesture of gratitude toward our Brothers who are serving our country, in *Harm's Way*. There are several Brothers currently on active duty with United States military forces in active combat zones and thereby unable to respond to traditional membership renewal requests. Therefore, our National Council of Administration has voted unanimously that any Brother serving in an active combat zone as of March 31, 2004 shall be exempt from paying the 2004 National per capita dues. Our Order has a history of waiving the national per capita payment in such instances and we are proud to do so again, under the present circumstances.

To request the waiver of national per capita, a Camp must indicate on a sheet of paper the names, rank and unit of each Brother being exempted. Please note that the Brother **must** be in an active combat area/zone to qualify for the exemption. For purposes of implementation, any Brother deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan shall be deemed to be in an active combat zone.

All Departments and Camps therein are respectfully and patriotically encouraged to likewise waive Department and Camp dues for these Brothers for the year 2004.

2. To honor another special group of Brothers within our membership, I want to recognize all of our current Members and Associates who served in any branch of the armed forces during World War II. Delegates to our National Encampment in 2001 approved a donation of \$5,000 toward construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. and I was directed by then C-in-C George L. Powell to present the check on behalf of our Order. In keeping with our organization's tradition of honoring American veterans of all wars, I plan to be in Washington, D.C. when the "National WWII Memorial" is dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004. It will therefore be my pleasure and privilege on that date, to issue *Certificates of Recognition* to our Brothers who served during WWII.

I respectfully request that our Departments ask their respective Camps to inform me of those Brothers within their membership who served our country in uniform during WWII. Please include name, rank, branch of service, unit therein, and service dates. Camps-at-Large and the National Membership-at-Large Coordinator are hereby asked to also furnish this information. Thank you.

3. Monitoring and promoting the proper care and upkeep of Civil War veterans' graves as well as the monuments and memorials that honor them, is a primary purpose of our organization. We are all volunteers in this great Order but there are some who go 'above & beyond' in service to the memory of those who honorably served to *Save the Union*. In appreciation of these efforts, it has been my pleasure to issue Meritorious Service Awards to Brothers who have been instrumental in the restoration or conservation of existing G.A.R. Monuments and other Civil War related Memorials that honor Union soldiers, sailors, and marines.

I would also like to issue *Certificates of Merit* to Brothers who have excelled in the work related to our

Graves Registration Program as well as the Civil War Memorials assessment project. Commanders of Camps as well as the Camps-at-Large are encouraged to channel nominations through our National Graves Registration and Civil War Memorials Officers. Thank you.

4. This year marks the 138th anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) having been organized at Decatur, IL on April 6, 1866. The Department of Illinois, SUVCW, is to be commended for its annual ceremony that honors Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson (founder of the G.A.R.) at his gravesite in Rose Hill Cemetery near Petersburg, IL. This year's "GAR Founder's Day" program takes place at 2:00 p.m. on April 17.
  
5. The National Council of Administration (CoA) will conduct its Spring meeting, starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2004 in the "G.A.R. Room" on the second floor of the Huntington County Courthouse in Huntington, IN. Our thanks to the Brothers of Champion Hill Camp 17, Department of Indiana for their assistance with arrangements for us to meet at this special, restored meeting room of the G.A.R. in their locale.

Ordered this 11th day of March, 2004.

By Order of:  
Kent L. Armstrong  
Commander-in-Chief

Attest:  
Edward Krieser, PCinC  
National Secretary

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