

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

In the name of Patriotism, July 4<sup>th</sup> is the most Patriotic day of the year. It is the anniversary of the birth of our Nation and the opportunities given to so many of us that would not have been afforded had we lived elsewhere in the world. Our country, although far from perfect, is one that has given us all countless opportunities to live a life that our ancestors could have only dreamed of. As this Fourth of July comes, we celebrate those unique experiences that make this country amazing.

I am going to keep this instruction on the shorter side as I have only two points to make. First being that we must take time during our cookouts and bar-b-ques to give thanks to these aforementioned opportunities, while recognizing that we always have room to grow. There is a reason the ribbon on our badges are certain colors: Red signifies the unstinted streams of blood, shed that the blessings of a free government might be our heritage, and that our own blood is pledged to preserve the freedoms and responsibilities we so gladly received. The Blue tells us of that true faith and allegiance which our forefathers held to their Country and to each other, and charges us to be mindful of their example. The White represents peace, which with honor, may our Country always enjoy. We must never forget that we proudly wear these badges over our hearts at our meetings and events so that all the symbolism of those colors in our badges are a constant reminder of the sacrifice in blood for the opportunities we have.

The second point I have, and this is a point that I am sad to make, is that while compiling the Form 41s this year, of the Departments that reported, that almost 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of them did not have any Department activity on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our most Patriotic day of the year. A number that I hope to see changed next year, but it is not difficult for us to do some type of display or education pertaining to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Almost every town, city, or county in our states has a 4<sup>th</sup> of July ceremony. Whether it is a formal honoring of those who have served and fought for our freedom, a parade, or a fire works demonstration, they happen. All it takes is us reaching out to the group organizing these events and asking if we can set a table up, or asking if we can be a lecturer at a local organizations monthly meeting on the importance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to the GAR or to our Civil War ancestors. Simply marching in a local parade, proudly displaying our Camp or Department colors with our Brothers in the SVR and the Camp & Department Guard units, will also show as a reminder that the 4<sup>th</sup> is important to us in the SUVCW as it should be to all Americans.

I wish you all a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and issue you all a simple challenge. Get out and talk to someone, anyone and everyone, about why today is important and why Patriotism and pride in America is still, and always has been, a good thing, and for next year plan on taking part in a local ceremony or parade and show our neighbors and communities first hand why the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is important.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor