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National Counselor

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In answer to a request by the Commander-in-Chief Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for a Counselor Opinion regarding a clarification of the propriety of wearing of the Recognition Button and the Buttonhole Button in lieu of the Badges of the Order during the Official Duties of the Order and its meetings the following is offered:

Research: I reviewed the Articles and Sections of the Constitution and Regulations pertaining to the wearing of Badges and found the following pertinent points.

1. Chapter V, Article VI, Section 1 **Officers, Members, Associates, Juniors, Junior Associates and Honorary Members of the Order, while in Camp, Department or National Encampment, on parade or while performing other duties of the Order (other than while performing tasks involving manual labor), shall be identified by the wearing of a Badge of the Order upon the left breast.** Brothers should take care to ensure their dress is appropriate to the occasion, such as business attire. Should the individual desire, he may also wear badges, awards and decorations awarded to him by U. S. Government and military officials, patriotic and hereditary societies, and foreign governments.
 - a. The precedence for wearing addition medals to the Badge of the Order is provided in a precedence table found in Chapter V of the C&R
2. Chapter V, Article VI, Section 3 sub paras P and Q –
 - a. Sub para–P. Recognition Button. Brothers may wear the Recognition Button, which shall consist of a reproduction, in miniature, made of bronze material of the Official Badge of the Order. It shall not exceed 11/16 inches in height or 9/16 inches in width.
 - b. Sub para–Q. Buttonhole Decoration. Brothers may wear a buttonhole decoration consisting of a red, white, and blue rosette not exceeding 5/8 inches in diameter. The central circular disk is divided into four segments, more than half the area devoted to opposing segments of blue alternating with white and the band to be composed of alternating red and white.

Reasoning: The review of the C & R' regulations regarding Badges:

1. Clearly found they stated that the Badge of the Order was required to be worn by all brothers, while in Camp, Department, or National Meetings as well as while performing other duties of the Order except for while engaged in a task that involved manual labor i.e., grave marker restorations, cemetery cleanings, and other such work.
2. There was no reference at all which allowed for the wearing of the Recognition Medal or The Buttonhole Button in lieu of the Badge of the Order.
 - a. The Recognition Button and Buttonhole Button were intended for use as a way to be recognized as a brother in daily life outside of the meeting room or other official function
3. There was no mention of whether or not the Term Badge of the Order referred to the physical Badge or to an embroidered or printed Badge, such as that which might be on a Jacket or Shirt.

Opinion: Wear of the Badge of the Order is required for official functions and duties, as stated in Chapter V, Article VI, Section 1 of the Regulations, with the exception noted for manual labor, and the neither the Recognition Button nor the Buttonhole Button may be used in lieu of the Badge of the Order.