

**National Patriotic Instruction  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**October 2024**

**G.A.R. Ritual — Badge Presentation**

Most of us are familiar with the SUVCW Ritual for presentation of the membership badge during initiation of a new member. It may be of interest to read how the G.A.R. handled the same ceremony with their initiates. The following is from the 1907 edition of the “Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic”:

COMRADES. In the days of ancient chivalry the candidate for the honors of knighthood was examined in the exercise of arms, in his record of military service; and if duly qualified was given a shield without device, and charged to show such a brave and gracious manliness before God and man that he might win an emblazonry for it.

In these days the members of the Grand Army of the Republic do not need to win any device to designate their chivalrous spirit. They have shown on land and on sea, in war and in peace, the best qualities of genuine knighthood. They uphold, as you have been instructed, three important principles—Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty.

As the emblem of those principles, the Grand Army of the Republic has adopted this badge. It is more honorable than any shield. It is emblazoned with a heroism that was patriotic and with a patriotism that was heroic.

It is made out of cannon captured in a war that seriously affected the financial and industrial prosperity of the country at home and abroad; that cost four hundred thousand loyal lives; that made three hundred thousand Union soldiers and sailors cripples for life; and that left more than a million devoted mothers, widows, sisters and orphans to mourn for their loved ones who did not return.

Your services in the past have been such that you are deemed worthy to receive it. As the representative of the Post, I give it to you.

*[The Commander steps forward and pins the badges upon the left breast of the recruits.]*

My comrades, wear it over hearts so loyal, so patriotic, so vigilant and so brave that it shall be to others an incentive to the most unselfish patriotism; and to yourselves a guard against everything that can disgrace the past you helped to make honorable and our dead have made sacred, or that can bring shame upon the Grand Army of the Republic.

To your honor as men, as patriots, and as comrades, I intrust it.

It is obvious that the G.A.R. held their badge in very high esteem for the loyalty and sacrifices it represented. We should do the same with our membership badge. Wear it proudly at all events and *always* . . . remember the Boys in Blue!



In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC  
National Patriotic Instructor