

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

**January 2025**

## **Description of the Grand Army Badge**

*The paragraphs below are how the G.A.R. themselves described their membership badge and are quoted directly from the Official Souvenir Program of the 46<sup>th</sup> G.A.R. National Encampment in Los Angeles, California in 1912:*



The Badge is of bronze, made from cannon captured in different decisive battles during the late Rebellion, and in form a five-pointed star, similar in design to the two hundred medals of honor authorized by Act of Congress to be given to soldiers and sailors most distinguished for meritorious and gallant conduct during the late war. The design, as here given, and adopted by the Grand Army of the Republic, was arranged by General F. A. Starring, Inspector-General of the Order.

### *THE OBVERSE*

In the center of the Badge is the figure of the Goddess of Liberty, representing Loyalty; on either side a soldier and a sailor clasping hands, representing Fraternity, and two children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the Comrades, representing Charity. On each side of the group is the National Flag and the Eagle, representing Freedom, and the Axe or Bundle of Rods, or Fasces, representing Union. In each point of the star is the insignia of the various arms of the service, viz.: the Bugle for Infantry, Cross Cannon for Artillery, Cross Muskets for the Marine, Cross Swords for Cavalry, and the Anchor for Sailors. Over the central group are the words, "Grand Army of the Republic," and under, the word and figures, "1861-Veteran-1866," commemorating the commencement and close of the Rebellion, and also the date of organization of the Order.

### *THE REVERSE SIDE*

Represents a Branch of Laurel—the crown and reward of the brave—in each point of the star. The National Shield in the center, surrounded by the twenty-four recognized Corps' Badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together showing they are united, and will guard and protect the Shield of the Nation. Around the center is a circle of stars, representing the States of the Union and the Department composing the Grand Army of the Republic.

### *THE CLASP*

Is composed of the figure of an Eagle, with Cross Cannon and Ammunition, representing Defense; the Eagle with drawn sword hovering over and always ready to protect from insult or dishonor the National Flag, which is also the Emblem and Ribbon of the Order.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC  
National Patriotic Instructor