



Kevin L. Martin
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Independence Day – An Opportunity to Grow

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

Governor Ronald Reagan, January 5, 1967

Brothers, as July 4 nears, these sage words are a solemn reminder to each of us that the struggle for liberty is never-ending. Those patriots of the American Revolution laid the foundation for freedom that our ancestors fought to preserve during the darkest days of the Civil War. The words are also a stark reminder to us, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that our charge to honor the service and memory of the “Boys in Blue” in perpetuity cannot rest on bloodlines alone. While membership in our Order depends mightily on the recruitment of descendants of our Union heroes, it is the good works we as an Order **do** that attracts and retains new blood. It is our **actions** that define us, making us truly worthy of our name.

Therefore, with Independence Day on the horizon, I charge each of you as Brothers to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Wherever possible, do so with the Brothers of your Camp. Whether marching together in parades, participating collectively in community celebrations or ceremonies, or simply attending these events as a group, do so proudly wearing the badge of our Order. Demonstrate to your family, your friends, and your community the commitment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to the ideals of freedom and patriotism – not only now, but for generations to come.

So Ordered this 30 Day of June, 2025.

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Attest:

Alan L. Russ
Alan L. Russ, PDC
National Secretary