



Kevin P. Tucker
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Special Message #7
17 November 2025

Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Brothers,

This past Saturday, many of us in the Order gathered in Gettysburg to commemorate Remembrance Day. From the moving Allied Orders wreath-laying ceremony at the Albert Woolson Monument, to the stirring Remembrance Day parade, to the elegance and tradition of the Original Civil War Ball, and the many heartfelt ceremonies held across the battlefield, the entire day was a powerful testament to our shared commitment to remembrance. Standing on that sacred ground, I was filled with gratitude and pride as I witnessed the remarkable turnout of Brothers from our Order. Your presence honored the memory and great sacrifices of our forebears and demonstrated the enduring strength, unity, and purpose of our mission. Together, we carried forward the legacy entrusted to us, reminding all who watched that the spirit of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty remains vibrant and steadfast.

Now, as we enter this season of gratitude, I invite each of us to pause and reflect on the origins of one of our nation's most cherished observances. In the darkest days of the Civil War—when the future of the Republic hung in the balance—President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling the nation to a day of Thanksgiving. In October 1863, even amid sorrow, sacrifice, and uncertainty, Lincoln urged Americans to lift their hearts in gratitude and to look with hope toward a renewed and united future.

President Lincoln's call to Thanksgiving shows us that gratitude is not merely a response to comfort; it is a beacon that guides us through trial and inspires us to build something better. As members of the SUVCW, we are heirs to a noble heritage—one defined by courage, perseverance, and commitment to the ideals that continue to shape our nation. Let this Thanksgiving be a moment to renew our dedication, strengthen our bonds, and reflect on the blessings of liberty safeguarded by those we honor.

As Commander-in-Chief, I wish each of you—and your families—a peaceful, meaningful, and blessed Thanksgiving. May you find joy in fellowship, strength in remembrance, and inspiration in the legacy we are called to uphold.

With heartfelt appreciation for all you do in service to our Order and its mission, I extend to you my warmest Thanksgiving greetings.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "K".

Kevin P. Tucker

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