



Kevin P. Tucker
Commander-in-Chief
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Special Message #12

01 January 2026

COMMEMORATING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Brothers,

Yesterday, we commemorated the official issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863—a defining act of moral courage and national purpose during our nation’s greatest trial.

By this proclamation, the United States affirmed that the Civil War was not only a struggle to preserve the Union, but a fight to end the institution of slavery that stood in direct opposition to the principles upon which the Republic was founded. Though limited in its immediate legal reach, the Emancipation Proclamation irrevocably transformed the character of the war, strengthened the cause of Union victory, and set the nation on a path toward the abolition of slavery.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War honor the service and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union and give meaning to the promise of liberty. We especially remember the courage of the United States Colored Troops, whose service further proved that freedom and citizenship were worth defending on the battlefield.

As hereditary guardians of Union memory, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving this history and to upholding the ideals of Union, liberty, and equality that the Emancipation Proclamation so powerfully advanced.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Tucker".

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