



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

58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
cinc@suvvw.org



General Order No. 18

Series 2025-2026

29 June 2026

250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,

1. On the Fourth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six, the United States of America shall commemorate the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our Republic. This Semiquincentennial stands among the most significant anniversaries in the history of our nation and calls upon every patriotic organization to reflect upon the sacrifices, struggles, and triumphs that gave birth to — and preserved — the American Union.
2. From the earliest colonial settlements, our forefathers built communities founded upon self-government, civic virtue, faith, and the conviction that liberty was the inheritance of free men. The generation of 1776 pledged “their Lives, their Fortunes, and their sacred Honor” to establish a new nation dedicated to the principles of human liberty, representative government, and the rule of law. Through hardship, sacrifice, and perseverance, the soldiers and patriots of the Revolutionary War secured the independence of the United States and established the constitutional Republic under which we still live today.
3. Yet the great experiment begun in Independence Hall did not survive unchallenged. Less than a century after the Declaration of Independence, the Union formed by the Founders faced its gravest crisis. During the Civil War, the nation was tested upon the battlefield to determine whether a government “of the people, by the people, for the people” could long endure. The soldiers and sailors whose memory we cherish answered the call of the Republic and preserved the Union at terrible cost. Their courage ensured that the nation founded in 1776 would not perish from the earth.
4. As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we bear a solemn responsibility not only to remember the men who saved the Republic, but also to reaffirm the enduring principles for which they fought. The liberties proclaimed during the Revolution and defended during the Civil War remain dependent upon the vigilance, patriotism, and fidelity of

every generation of Americans.

5. Today, our nation continues to face challenges to unity, civic understanding, and historical memory. In such times, the example of those who founded and preserved this Republic should inspire us to renewed devotion to constitutional government, national unity, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The 250th Anniversary of American Independence must therefore serve not merely as a celebration of the past, but as an opportunity to educate our communities, honor our shared history, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as one people.
6. Accordingly, I hereby call upon every Department, Camp, and Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to participate actively in local and regional observances of America's Semiquincentennial throughout the year 2026. I especially encourage all Departments and Camps to take part in public ceremonies, parades, commemorative exercises, educational programs, patriotic observances, and community events within their respective areas.
7. Furthermore, I urge every Camp and Department, whenever practical, to arrange for the public reading of the official "Proclamation Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America" issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, so that the principles and purposes therein proclaimed may be shared with the American people.
8. Let us, as heirs to the legacy of the Union veteran, stand visibly and proudly within our communities during this historic anniversary. Let our Order help remind the nation that the liberties secured in 1776 and preserved in 1865 remain inseparable from the continued strength and unity of the United States of America.

Ordered this 29th day of June 2026 by:



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

Attest:



James T Crane, PDC
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War