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FLAG DAY 2026

Brothers,

On Flag Day, June 14th, we pause as Americans and as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to reflect upon the enduring meaning of the flag of the United States — the emblem under which our forefathers marched, fought, suffered, and, in many cases, gave the last full measure of devotion for the preservation of the Union.

To the Union soldier, the flag represented far more than cloth and color. It was the symbol of national unity, constitutional government, liberty under law, and the hope that this nation — conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal — would endure. Men rallied to it amid the smoke and terror of battle. They carried it across fields stained with sacrifice. They guarded it with their lives because they understood that the survival of the nation itself rested beneath its folds.

Today, we inherit both their legacy and their responsibility.

Our Order is bound not only by lineage and fraternity, but by solemn obligation. In the oath we take upon entering the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we pledge fidelity to the Constitution and allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Those are not hollow words, nor are they mere ceremony. They are a sacred trust inherited from the men of 1861–1865 who defended the Republic in its gravest hour.

The founders of our Order understood that respect for the flag was inseparable from respect for the country itself — the very nation which Union soldiers and sailors fought, suffered, and sacrificed their lives to preserve. Our Initiation Ceremony instructs every new Brother in the proper honor and reverence due the flag of our nation. This instruction reflects the seriousness with which our Order regards the national colors and reminds us that patriotism is not passive sentiment, but active and visible respect for the principles and sacrifices the flag represents.

At a time when national unity is too often strained and civic understanding diminished, the flag remains a visible reminder that Americans are bound together by common ideals greater than ourselves. It calls us to remember duty, sacrifice, citizenship, and devotion to country. It reminds

us that freedom has never been achieved without great cost and that the Union preserved by our ancestors must never be taken for granted.

As Brothers of the SUVCW, we are not merely students of history — we are custodians of memory and guardians of patriotic principle. Let us therefore honor the flag not only with ceremony, but with conduct worthy of those who defended it. May we continue to teach its meaning to future generations and uphold the ideals for which the Union soldier fought.

On this Flag Day, I ask each Brother to proudly display the colors of our nation and to renew in his heart the pledge we make as Brothers of this Order: that the sacrifices of the Boys in Blue shall never be forgotten, and that the Union for which they fought shall forever endure.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



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