

## June Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

We are now full-fledged in our outdoor restoration and memorial efforts. Having scoured social media for a few days now I am filled with pride of how Camps near and far have stepped up for the 2022 Memorial Day services. This being the most important weekend and date in our calendar I am glad that I have seen such amazing tributes to the brave men of the Union. With that being said, our work is not done, and we must continue to make strides forward.

How can we do this? Well, there are several different ways we can take strides forward, some of which have been discussed in previous Patriotic Instructions (yes this is me prompting you all to go to the [National Patriotic Instructors Page](#) and read my past instructions). However, there is one option that I do not feel has been discussed but was brought up to me recently in a discussion with our Department Patriotic Instructors, and that was our ROTC/JROTC Program. Now, I am not going to talk about the award itself, instead I am going to focus on how we can try to leverage these groups to get our message out to the youth of today.

These units are full of young men and young women who are being taught and trained to be the next leaders of our armed forces. These men and women may have signed up for these courses for a few reasons; to receive a college education, because of a family legacy, or for patriotic purposes. Regardless of the reason, many of these cadets are eager to perform well in their ROTC courses, these courses that teach Patriotism. These lessons in Patriotism harbor a natural fit with our Order and the Allied Orders as a whole. We should be making every effort to reach out to these units in hopes to get into the classroom to speak about the GAR and the Allied Orders, or to see how we can help them in giving back to the community.

Some of the ways that we can get these groups involved is to invite them to some of the cemetery details that we host. We can pitch this to the instructors by stating that it is not only giving back to the community, which many schools now require some amount of community service to graduate, but it is an opportunity for these cadets to learn firsthand about those who came before them. If their command staff pushes back against assisting in a detail, we can reiterate that not only are these details good for promoting Patriotic values, but they are great opportunity to get some positive press for these units. It will show the youth of today giving back to the community and many media outlets, whether they are newspaper, tv or their social media departments, will eat this up.

With schools being out of session for the year, this is the perfect time for us to start planning these events. Getting said plan together internally at Camp meetings and then arranging for us to present the plan to these units, showing them the work that we do in the field and why it is important. We can also take this time to find out who the contact person is for these units and reaching out over the summer in hopes to be able to present them the plan and get it on their calendars for August, September, or October. I am hoping to see pictures and reports of Camps teaming up with their local ROTC Units to work together to honor those who saved the Union.



In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor