



**Michael A. Paquette**  
**Commander in Chief**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



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**General Order #20**  
**Series 2021-2022**  
**13 August 2022**

### **Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star Awarded to Roderick Fraser**

The Commander in Chief and Council of Administration, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, take great pleasure in presenting the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star to Brother Roderick Fraser, of the Department of Massachusetts.

For Meritorious Achievement in the superior performance in the accomplishment of the Ideals and Principles of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War during the period of 9 September 2016 until 18 May 2022, Brother Roderick Fraser of the Department of Massachusetts. Since becoming a member of the SUVCW in September of 2016, Brother Fraser, a retired Naval Surface Warfare Officer, Commander of the USS Underwood during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and former City of Boston Fire Commissioner from 2006 to 2014, has dedicated himself to this organization, and has gone above and beyond his duty as a member to strengthen and improve the Order.

In his first year as a member, Brother Fraser revived the Department of Massachusetts newsletter, The Clarion Call, which he continues to edit and publish. He also maintains the Department electronic mailing list and conducts mass mailing for the Department facilitating communication within the Department.

Brother Fraser initiated and coordinated the Department's sponsorship of the Massachusetts History Bowl State Championship for high school students, advancing recruiting and branding for the Order.

He was a member of the Encampment Host Committee for the 2018 National Encampment in Framingham, Massachusetts, where, as some may remember, he provided the gigantic federal flag used as background at the head table. This added greatly to the patriotic atmosphere at the 2018 National Encampment. This flag was a gift from his men upon his retirement from military service.

Brother Fraser initiated and continues to coordinate and raise funds for a major ongoing project to restore the General Charles Russell Lowell GAR Post No. 7 burial plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston. The project includes the straightening and cleaning of federal headstones, repairing vandalism on the plot's granite curbing and decorations, restoring two artillery pieces and their bases, which are on static display. This project has given Brother Fraser, his Camp and the SUVCW great recognition among Boston city officials, local Veterans groups and the local community.

Brother Fraser has referred 10 Brothers for Membership in the SUVCW, in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where he is a dual Member. He continues recruiting efforts among members of military and hereditary groups to which he belongs, such as the Sons of the American Revolution and Massachusetts Military Society.

Brother Rod is a graduate of the SUVCW's Memorial University and has authored a Camp Secretary's Handbook for the National Organization, which is under review by the National Secretary. In this way, he uses his education and communication skills to lead and teach others within the Order.

He is the cofounder and current Camp Commander of the Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp No. 54 in Boston, Massachusetts, and was also the author of the Camp's initial By-laws. His organizational and

communication skills are of great benefit to expanding the membership and conducting of the business of SUVCW.

Brother Rod found that the first African American Union Army Nurse was buried in Boston without any notation of her name and accomplishments. He conceived of, planned for, raised funding (through grant requests and lobbying for matching funds), procured and coordinated the erection and engraving of a monument for Susie Baker King Taylor, the Union Army's first African American Nurse, and had her name engraved on the headstone of the grave she shares with her husband. This work furthers the mission of the SUVCW, to honor all veterans and especially those who served from 1861 to 1865.

Brother Rod currently serves as the Department of Massachusetts Department Senior Vice Commander and is appointed to the National Promotions and Marketing Committee, where, among his other achievements, he initiated and maintains the SUVCW's YouTube Channel. Brother Fraser is a member of the 1st Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and serves as the District's Public Information Officer. His leadership and technical skills are a great asset to the Order and promotes the order on the internet.

This past year, Brother Fraser organized a dedication ceremony for the Susie Baker King Taylor monument, which included speeches by Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette, Boston Mayor Kim Janey and Historian Rebecca Byrd. For the public, the ceremony is as important as the monument, as public recognition of those who served, regardless of race or sex, and inspires the current generation to do the same. And, with a good deal of media coverage, both on television and in print, it reinforces the SUVCW name and brand in the public's mind.

Brother Fraser is currently conducting video interviews with SUVCW members for the Order's, "What Makes Us Brothers" video series on the SUVCW's YouTube channel. He is using his technical skill to promote Fraternity and inspire others to join our order.

Brother Fraser is coordinating 1st Military District SVR participation in the rededication of the Robert Gould Shaw 54th Massachusetts Monument in Boston, Massachusetts on June 1, which will include 54th Massachusetts Infantry reenactors, the Boston Children's Choir, and noted VIPs and speakers, such as US Vice President Harris and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III. This will be an historic event, and Brother Fraser is determined to include the SUVCW in the public celebration.

The actions, ability, initiative, and dedication of Brother Roderick Fraser reflect great credit upon himself, his Department, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Ordered this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2022



Michael A. Paquette  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:



Alan L. Russ  
National Secretary  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War