

September Patriotic Instruction

Hello Brothers,

I want to take a moment to congratulate Br. Mike Paquette, PCinC on a successful year leading our organization. It is not an easy task and your guidance and wisdom were much appreciated during the past year. I also want to wish luck to our new Commander in Chief Br. Bruce Frail I hope that under your stewardship the order will continue to flourish and grow. Now that the niceties are out of the way, on with our regularly scheduled Patriotic Instruction. Over the past few months, I have taken the time to highlight a few programs that we offer as an organization to help promote Patriotism both inside and outside of the Order. This month will be no different as I want to shine the spotlight on our Flag Certificate Program.

This program is designed for us, as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to recognize those in the community that have shown “exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America”. Camps, Departments and National can issue this certificate out and they are available through the National Quartermaster. Any Brother in the order can nominate a company, individual or agency that proudly, conspicuously, and properly flies or displays the flag. The Camp, Department, or National Patriotic Instructor would then review the nomination and make the final call on if that organization rates the award. That being said, those who are doing the nominating and the Brother that is deciding to award the certificate, must be well versed in how one can show said exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag.

That begs the question, how do we become knowledgeable about this? Well, we don't need to look far as on the [Governance](#) page of our website you can find a few pieces of literature that can help educate us on what these definitions are. The first brochure we have is a flag facts page. It gives the history of the flag and how we got from our first official flag, that was authorized on 14 June 1777, to our current flag, which is the 27th official variant. It also give important flag code facts, how to properly raise and lower the flag, how to position the flag and things of that nature.

The other document is how to properly conduct a flag disposal ceremony. Now an outside organization might not do the ceremony to a T, it should be used as a guideline to ensure that these groups are treating our flag with the proper respect and dignity it deserves while disposing it. This information is vital for a Brother to see if an outside group is showing exemplary Patriotism, but also good information to have for being a Brother of the Order in general. These two items are just some of the countless items you can find online through the google machine that will help you with understanding the US Flag code and proper flag etiquette, I have listed below a few that I have found. My challenge this month is for all of you to lead by example by properly flying your flag, as well as educate those outside the order on proper flag etiquette and search for those in your community that are deserving of the Flag Certificate Program.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor

[The American Flag | USAGov](#) [United States Flag Code | The American Legion](#)

[U.S. Flag Code | Military.com](#) [4 USC Ch. 1: THE FLAG \(house.gov\)](#)