

Headquarters
Department of Illinois



Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War

Department Order No. 2
Series 2024-25

PO Box 2069
Hammond, IN 46323
May 23, 2024

Brothers,

Starting this weekend and during the coming week, in quiet services across our country, Americans will come together as a nation to remember those lost in the clash of battle; those who will never again hear the thunder of bombs, the roar of tanks, the rumbling of airplanes overhead or the scream of artillery shells. This Memorial Day, we come together to honor the many sacrifices these heroes made for our freedom.

Amid the war-torn decades we've endured, we take great pride in these heroes ... these men and women who believed they were just doing their duty. They had strength when the situation demanded it; determination when everything felt lost; devotion, courage, and patriotism when others looked to them for guidance. No one ordered them to practice the most basic of human ideals ... they did it because they were Americans and lived in a nation worth defending.

Generation after generation has been fortunate enough to reap the benefits paid for by those who believed that freedom was worth fighting for and, if necessary, dying for. They gave up their todays for our tomorrows, and now we must carry their message of dedication and determination to the masses, because there is no greater way to honor their memory. As we enjoy living in the land of the free, and the home of the brave, we must continue to remind Americans that there is no freedom without bravery, and those we honor were brave when it counted the most.

All of these truths are just as important today as they were in 1868 when the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, John A Logan, issued General Orders No. 11, a portion of which I will leave here:

“The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit...”


“If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.”

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Welch, PCC". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Brother Bobby Welch, PCC
Department Commander
Department of Illinois
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: 
Brother Don Sherman, PCC
Department Secretary