



Department Order No. 3
Series 2018-2019
Department of Illinois
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

May 26, 2018

Memorial Day Sesquicentennial Observance

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Illinois, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by the National Constitution and Regulations, the National Policies, and the By-Laws of this Department, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1- On May 5, 1868, famous General from Illinois, John A. Logan, in his role as Commander-in-Chief, Grand Army of the Republic, issued his now-famous General Order No. 11, establishing May 30 of that year as a day to decorate the graves of “comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.” Later in the same order, he notes he desired the observance “be kept up from year to year.”

2- Every Brother is required, through the sacred obligation he took at the time of his application to the Order, and then again at his initiation, to “observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day.” He is also required to be “faithful in all duties of citizenship”. Remembering the sacrifices of our heroes is among the most important duties of citizenship and patriotism, in the opinion of the Department Commander.

3- Given the split observance of Memorial Day, both the Monday (and by extension the weekend) provided under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968, and the 30th of May as provided by the Grand Army of the Republic (“traditional Memorial Day”), it is my hope that Brothers take every opportunity to remember our ancestors and their comrades in arms, as well as those who gave their lives in defense of their country before or after America's bloodiest conflict, through ceremonies, prayers, and private reflection on their sacrifices.

4- It is therefore ordered that, in this sesquicentennial year of our Nation's most sacred holiday, the Department of Illinois and our Camps and Brothers do everything they are able, collectively and individually, to promote, observe, and celebrate the lives and sacrifices of the greatest people to have ever walked the face of the earth, the American serviceman and servicewoman. Whether this observance takes place on Memorial Day Weekend or traditional Memorial Day, be safe, be solemn, and remember.

The foregoing Department Order is proclaimed this 26th day of May, in the year of our Lord two-thousand eighteen, and of the independence of the United States the two hundred forty-second.

/s/ Harry W. Reineke IV
Department Commander's

Attest by: /s/ Steve Aarli
Department Secretary