

TO BE READ IN CAMPS AND FILED



Department of the Chesapeake
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

105 Eagle Mountain Drive
Shipman, Virginia 22971
jrarick@prodigy.net

Department Special Order No. 1
Series of 2020-2021

September 18, 2020

Brother Edwin C. Bearss

Reference: C-in-C, Special Order No. 1, Series 2019-1020, September 17, 2020 (attached)

1. Special Order No. 1, referenced above, from the Commander in Chief, SUVCW, pays homage to Honorary Brother Edwin C. Bearss of the Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 1, Department of the Chesapeake.
2. I commend to all Camps the reading of Special Order No. 1, especially paragraph 4. detailing the desire of Brother Bearss family to direct donations in lieu of flowers.
3. I herewith order that all Charters, Badges and Electronic Media (web pages, Facebook, *etc.*) of the Department of the Chesapeake be draped in black for 30 days from the issuance of this Department Special Order.

1 Attachment

By order of:

JAY A. RARICK
Department Commander

Attest:
MICHAEL BEARD
Department Secretary – Treasurer



Organized 1881 heir to and representing the Grand Army of the Republic



Edward J. Norris
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



91 Kelly Drive
Lancaster, MA 01523
CinC@SUVCW.org

Special Order #1
Series 2019-2020
17 September 2020

1. It is with great sadness that I'm reporting the passing of Edwin C. Bearss, 97, of Arlington County, Virginia on September 15, 2020. Many of you knew him and witnessed his contributions to our organization and to our understanding of the Civil War.
2. Brother Bearss was one of our four current Honorary Members. He became an Honorary Member at the 130th National Encampment (2011) held in Reston, Virginia and was associated with the Lincoln Cushing Camp in the Department of the Chesapeake.
3. Brother Bearss was the recipient of numerous awards in the fields of history and preservation. He wrote extensively, including a three-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign, and was a regular guest on programs for the History Channel, A&E Networks and TLC, as well as appearing throughout Ken Burns' documentary *The Civil War*. On November 1, 1981, he was named Chief Historian of the National Park Service, a position he held until 1994. After his retirement in 1995, he received the title Chief Historian Emeritus, which he held until his passing.
4. At the request of the Bearss Family, in lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Brother Bearss may be made to the American Battlefield Trust. Recognizing the special place that these battlefields held in his heart, such gifts will be used to secure additional land associated with the Vicksburg Campaign.

Ordered this 17th Day of September, 2020

Edward J. Norris
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attested:
Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War