SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department of the Chesapeake

Patriotic Instruction – February 2022

Febuary has arrived . . . or has it? Did you know that this month (Feb**r**uary) is one of the most misspelled (and mispronounced) words in the English language? No matter how YOU pronounce it, it’s still pretty cold. But have heart! It IS the last month of “meteorological winter,” so warm Spring weather can’t be too far away, right? (Just keep telling yourself that). That means we can hopefully get back to doing the things we need/want to do.

February is also traditionally known as the “Purification Month,” named after FEBRUUS, the ancient god of purification, and the Romans considered it to actually be the end of the year, because March brought Spring, and the “rebirth of a new year.” Therefore, purification was required to make way for fertility of crops, and for creativity, during better weather. Our tradition of “Spring Cleaning” readily comes to mind.

We begin to get restless at this time of year. We are starting to emerge from our social hibernation, especially given recent events and restrictions due to COVID. February is also the only month that can pass with NO full moon. The nights can be long and dark, and we look forward to getting back together with people, and attending events and activities with those whom we have been separated from, during the long cold winter months.

But February does not have to be boring. We do have many opportunities to gather patriotically during the month of February, to celebrate and remember events, and honor people, organizations, and the passage of laws and proclamations, to include, but not limited to:

01: National Freedom Day, signed by Abraham Lincoln, regarding the 13th Amendment

02: Groundhog Day (just for a bit of fun)

03: Four Chaplains Day

08: National Boy Scout Day (The boys who helped the old veterans at Gettysburg in 1913)

12: Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday

14: Valentine’s Day

16: 1863: Conscription Act passed by the Senate (First national draft system)

21: Presidents Day

22: George Washington’s Birthday

25: Battle of the Ironclads

28: My 43rd wedding anniversary (My wife reminded so I don’t forget)

And so, my fellow Patriotic Brothers, as we emerge from our winter caves, let us look forward to what may be accomplished in this new year. Let us all strive to work shoulder-to-shoulder, as one, no-one better than the next, to fulfill our Patriotic duty, “to *commemorate our fathers’ deeds; to render loyal service to our country, and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag.”*

In September 1859, Abraham Lincoln stated: *“The old general rule was that educated people did not perform manual labor. They managed to eat their bread, leaving the toil of producing it to the uneducated. This was not an insupportable evil to the working bees, so long as the class of drones remained very small. But now, especially in these free states, nearly all are educated-quite too nearly all, to leave the labor of the uneducated, in any wise adequate to the support of the whole. It follows from this that henceforth educated people must labor. Otherwise, education itself would become a positive and intolerable evil. No country can sustain, in idleness, more than a small percentage of its numbers. The great majority must labor at something productive.”*

Aristotle said: *“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.”* Let us all look to what patriotic, and productive service we may labor at, as we move forward together into the next phase of 2022.

FC&L, Andrew W. Johnson, M.Ed., Patriotic Instructor, SUVCW, Department of the Chesapeake