

Patriotic Instructor's Message  
Department of the Chesapeake  
May 22, 2014

As we near Memorial Day it is important to understand modern day life has influenced the commemoration of this hallowed occasion and how many folks have either lost sight of or have a cloudy understanding of the meaning of the day. Be it the proliferation of sales at various retail establishments or simply an opportunity to schedule outdoor gatherings with family and friends, Memorial Day all too often is seen as the kick-off of the summer season rather than a day to honor members of our armed forces who died in the service of our country. Complicating the problem further many confuse the ideals of Memorial Day with that of Veterans Day in November causing both days of commemoration to lose much of their individual significance.

In finalizing plans for your Camp's tribute please consider devoting a portion of your program to helping your guests understand the history of Memorial Day. By building its history into your program we can demonstrate a modern day connection to grass root efforts to honor the fallen that began nearly 150 years ago. Also encourage attendees to observe the "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 26. To assist you in preparing for this portion of your program please visit our National website for detailed information:

[http://www.suvchw.org/?page\\_id=973](http://www.suvchw.org/?page_id=973)

In addition to Camp-sponsored Memorial Day programs consider utilizing social media and other forms of communication to reach out to your communities. Facebook and Camp websites are excellent avenues to help educate our fellow citizens on the significance of Memorial Day and do not forget traditional media outlets. Taking advantage of local radio stations and newspapers that feature hometown commentary will not only inform listeners and readers but it also shines a complimentary light on the Sons of Union Veterans. This educational opportunity helps us to maintain relevance in a twenty-first century world as we honor our ancestors who fought to preserve this great country.

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