

Department Order No. 8  
Headquarters Department of Maryland  
April 21, 2007

1. Brothers, my service as your Department Commander ends as this final Department Order is written. It has been an honor to serve you over the past year in this capacity and I stand in your debt for your support and comradeship. I trust that we have together helped preserve the memory of those who saved this Union those many years ago. Their dedication, fortitude and determination resulted in ultimate victory in the midst of heart-rending circumstances during the course of that war. It is up to us to ensure that their example still shines and their story remains a source of inspiration in today's world.
2. My thanks to the Department Officers, Camp Commanders and rank and file for what they have accomplished in this last year. I am confident that our new Department Commander can count on all of you as I have. The leadership of the Department Officers, both elected and appointed, bodes well for the future.
3. Past Commander in Chief Andy Johnson has been a reliable and sage mentor who has helped me greatly, not just this past year, but in earlier years as well. We are fortunate to have such a resource available in this department. To have the friendship and example of Past Department Commanders Lee Stone, Ken Hershberger and Ralph Miller has been my good fortune, as well. My predecessor, James Hanby, has been of great assistance by answering my questions and showing me the ropes. My thanks to Brother Mortorff for helping make the administrative complexities of our Order seem simple.
4. It has been a blessing to get to meet and know so many throughout the Department. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
R. Keith Young, Maryland Department Commander

Attested: E. G. Mortorff, Secretary/Treasurer, SUVCW