SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department of the Chesapeake

Patriotic Instruction – March 2022

**AM I MY BROTHER’S KEEPER?**

I hear people complaining that the world today is a tumultuous and extremely dangerous place to live, and many young people are concerned about bringing children into a world filled with so much hatred and social unrest. Many years ago, Albert Einstein was quoted as saying: *“The**world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.”*

We all know who “these people” are. They are our friends, our neighbors, and even our family members. People who believe it is “someone else’s responsibility” to fix all the issues and problems facing us on a daily basis. They say it’s up to the politicians, the teachers, the police, the social workers, and the doctors, etc., . . . but “NOT ME!”

A “Keeper” is defined as: *“a person who manages or looks after something or someone.”* Synonyms include [guardian](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AO4RpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+guardian&fr2=), [protector](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68APIRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+protector&fr2=), [defender](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68APYRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+defender&fr2=), [guard](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68APoRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+guard&fr2=), [bodyguard](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AP4RpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+bodyguard&fr2=), [escort](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AQIRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+escort&fr2=), [attendant](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AQYRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+attendant&fr2=), nurse, [chaperone](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AQoRpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+chaperone&fr2=), [nursemaid](https://search.aol.com/aol/search;_ylt=AwrEzefJBBViu68AQ4RpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Definition+of+keeper&v_t=comsearch&s_chn=prt_bon&ei=UTF-8&q=define+nursemaid&fr2=), and minder.Don’t we ALL look after SOMETHING or SOMEONE?

We call ourselves Brothers within the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as we have a common bond of brotherhood, born in the battle and strife faced by our ancestors who saw a cause, and chose to do something about it. We have sworn to continue those good works and deeds within our organization, but also externally for the good of this great nation of ours.

Just as Abraham Lincoln sought to bring the country back together at the end of the Civil War, we need to act in a like manner in our everyday lives. In Matthew 18:15 it tells us: *“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*” Part of patriotism, which is the *“quality of being patriotic; devotion to and vigorous support for one's country,”* includes helping out our fellow man, regardless of who they are, or where they come from, in order to truly be “One Nation Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.”

We cannot be like Cain when the Lord asked him: *“Where is Abel thy brother?”* and Abel replied: *“I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?”* As a world, a country, a state, a community, neighbors, friends, family, and an organization, we must remain as Lincoln stated, a House United, not a House Divided, and that starts with caring for one another. All of us. It is our patriotic duty to care for one another, in good times and in bad. So, I say to you Brothers: Yes! We are our brother’s keepers (and our sisters too, just in case they are reading this). Let us “March into March,” with a renewed spirit and patriotic dedication to our cause, as “KEEPERS.”

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