



**GENERAL ORDER NO. 5
SERIES 2016-2017
Department of Illinois
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

June 29, 2016

July 4th Independence Day

Brothers,

As I sit here and think about what I want to say to each of you on the importance of July 4th, the day of our independence there are so many things that I would like to say but it would take way too long. So, basic fact number one – if you are reading this you are a member of our order which by default means you cherish the memory of your ancestors, the cause, the battles they fought, and the sacrifices given. In my opinion preserving all of those items mentioned cannot be taken lightly.

Many of you might be members of the Sons of American Revolution, SAR, I am a proud ancestral member. My membership numbers are National #177074 and State of Illinois member #8135. The journey to become a member was both challenging and rewarding at the same time. I learned that on my mother's side there was a family that lived in Rowan County, North Carolina and were very active participants in the revolution. (Yes, this is the line used for membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans.) In fact, there were a total of 17 male members of the family that fought in the Revolutionary War. That number astounds me, 17 people, think about that number. That was true dedication to the cause and plenty of sacrifice was given.

This is just one of the reasons that I am very sensitive when people do things that attack our country, our military, and our actual way of life. My ancestors as I am sure many of yours gave all for this country and I will always cherish and respect those memories. This is why July 4th, Independence Day means so much to me and my family.

I will leave you with a patriotic quote that has been a significant part of my life and the lives of so many others:

*“On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my Country”
– Boy Scouts of America*

Celebrate July 4th, 2016 Independence Day with family and friends safely.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this 29th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

/s/ Paul T. Zeien Jr
Department Commander



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ATTEST: By: /s/ Steve Aarli
Department Secretary