



DEPARTMENT ORDER #2

Susan Mertz, DP

1/13/2018

2721 John St.

Easton, PA 18045

*Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in the bonds of fraternal feeling.*

Abraham Lincoln, 1860

Dear Sisters,

I hope that the New Year brings you much joy and contentment.

I want to thank everyone for their condolences for the recent deaths of my mother and husband. It has been a very trying two years. I often thought of our civil war nurses as I travelled between death beds. I can't imagine the toll it took on them to care for and handle the tremendous loss of so many promising young men.

We lost a Real Daughter, Maggie Johnson Devane in September. She was 111 years of age.

Despite the threats, I marched in the Remembrance Day parade. My new Victorian style umbrella got a workout. I never thought that I would see the day that so much security would be necessary to commemorate President Lincoln's dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. The SVR saw that we were well protected. Security couldn't have been tighter. Thank you to all of our State Police, FBI, ATF, and all those involved who assured that our historic parade was able to continue. I was pleased to hear many of our Sisters thanking law enforcement as we passed by.

I hope that the current climate won't deter you from your work as living historians and preservationists. Our history is like a very large and complex puzzle. Like all puzzles it needs all of the pieces to both complete it and understand it.

Our Lincoln Luncheon is fast approaching and I hope that you will be able to attend. PDP Ann Mcmillin will be our speaker and will discuss Lincoln's relationship with longtime friend, Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, who was an early casualty in the war. Our luncheon will be hosted by Joel Searfoss Camp #273, and Auxiliary #10 on February 10th, at the Williams Family Restaurant in Easton. Registration forms are on our website. The Past Commanders and Past Presidents Association will hold a brief meeting after the luncheon.

Mt. Union Camp #502 will again host our Appomattox luncheon on April 7th at Oakhurst. General Grant, aka Ken Serfass will be our speaker. I hope that you can attend. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon last year.

Congratulations to PDP Betsy Nightingale and John Matthews on their recent marriage. Best wishes to PDP Margaret Shuttlesworth, who is moving to be closer to her grandchildren. Please pray for the 3 ½ year old great-grandson of PNP Margaret Atkinson as he is struggling with diabetes. We have a number of Sisters who have been injured in accidents recently. Please keep them in your prayers as well.

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Past Camp Commanders and Presidents Association of South Central Pennsylvania is looking for new members. The dues are a nominal \$5.00 per year.

This long standing association has hosted the Dedication Dinner for many years. This year will be the 88th Dedication Dinner. Your participation will help maintain this long standing tradition of the Allied Orders.

The association is open to all Past Commanders and Past Presidents from all of the Allied Orders from any part of Pennsylvania.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Susan Mertz,

Pennsylvania Department President

Attest,

Margaret Shuttlesworth

Department Secretary