

Memorial Day Remarks

Address given at the annual Memorial Day Commemoration
held by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
in Valparaiso, Indiana, on May 26, 2014

by Randall Eckley, Secretary of the Duneland Chapter, Indiana Society, SAR
and SUVCW member

There are some that say the spirits of the dead live on, and I think this must be true. For there are times, especially on days like today, when the distant voices of the Patriots of 1776 can be heard, thanking the Boys in Blue who died, so that their nation might live. Through the mist of time they can be seen, embracing and joining together for one last muster, as the roll of the muffled drum plays its sad tattoo. These fallen heroes do not rest alone in eternity. From Lexington and Concord to the present day, members from every generation have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The noble work of these honored dead is over, but we live and the task before us is clear. It is our obligation to never allow the memory of their devotion to fade away into the deep recesses of history. Their courage and valor should be hallowed this day, and every day. And, as in the past, we must reject the false patriotism of those who would divide our nation. Our Union is one and inseparable! Therefore, let us dedicate ourselves to ensuring that our Great Republic long endures. May it always provide liberty and justice for all.