



## Proclamation Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America

**Whereas**, on July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies declared their independence and gave birth to the United States of America, founded upon the enduring principles of liberty, equality, constitutional government, and the sovereignty of the people; **and**

**Whereas**, the Founding Fathers' vision established a Republic whose survival depended not only upon its creation, but upon the continued fidelity of each generation to those principles; **and**

**Whereas**, the Constitution formed "a more perfect Union," binding the states together in perpetual union, subject to the rule of law and the will of the people; **and**

**Whereas**, less than a century after gaining Independence, that Union was gravely tested by rebellion and civil war, threatening the dissolution of the nation and the failure of the great experiment begun in 1776; **and**

**Whereas**, between 1861 and 1865, more than two million soldiers and sailors answered the call of the United States, and through sacrifice, perseverance, and devotion, preserved the Union, upheld constitutional government, and ensured that the Republic would endure; **and**

**Whereas**, the victory of the Union Armed Forces affirmed that the United States is one nation, indivisible, and that the principles of liberty proclaimed in 1776 would not perish from the earth; **and**

**Whereas**, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was founded to preserve the memory of those who fought to save the Union, to educate the public as to the causes and consequences of the Civil War, and to promote patriotism and loyalty to the United States of America; **and**

**Whereas**, the Semiquincentennial of the United States offers a solemn and historic opportunity to reflect upon the nation's founding, its trials, its preservation, and its continuing responsibility to uphold liberty and union for future generations; **now**

**Therefore**, I, Kevin P. Tucker, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, do hereby proclaim the years 2026 through 2033 as a period of Semiquincentennial Commemoration within the Order, under the theme:

## **“Liberty Preserved: From Independence to Union.”**

**Furthermore**, I call upon all Departments, Camps, and Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to:

- Honor the Founding of the United States and the principles proclaimed in 1776;
- Commemorate the service and sacrifice of the Union veterans who preserved the Republic during its greatest trial;
- Engage their communities through ceremonies, education, and public remembrance;
- Partner with civic, educational, and historical organizations in observance of America's 250th Anniversary;
- Renew their commitment to the preservation of our nation's history, unity, and constitutional heritage.

Let this Semiquincentennial year serve not only as a celebration of our nation's birth, but as a reaffirmation that the Union preserved by our forefathers remains worthy of our vigilance, service, and devotion.

**In witness whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to be affixed this 1st day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six.



**Kevin P. Tucker**  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

