



Department Order No. 6
Series 2021-2022
Department of Illinois
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

September 1, 2021

September 11 Remembrance

September 11, 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of a defining day in the history of our Nation. At no time since the attack on Pearl Harbor has an enemy caused such a loss of life on American soil. We of a certain age remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news that the World Trade Center was hit by planes hijacked by terrorists followed by the Pentagon being hit by another hijacked plane. A hijacked plane was enroute to the White House when brave passengers forced it down in the fields of Pennsylvania, preventing it from reaching its target.



We had just gone on our morning break at the car assembly plant where I worked when someone came through and told us. Several were close to the cafeteria and were able to watch live on TV and others had radios. Production was halted and we were sent home. My wife watched it live on her computer at her job at the Peoria Public Library before they were sent home. Everyone was confused as to what was happening and what the future would be. There was NO traffic on the roads and the sky was the clearest blue that had been seen since all planes were grounded and there were no contrails. I'm sure that many of you had the same experiences.

Some of us knew people who were in New York and were either lost in the attack or affected by it. My sister-in-law taught sixth grade and had a former student, Charles Lawrence "Chip" Chan, who perished when the towers came down. He was a recent college graduate and a new hire at Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 105th floor. He was one of 658 employees of the company that lost their lives that day. He would have been 44 on his birthday later this month. A monument sits in Springdale Cemetery in Peoria though his remains were never recovered.

Many of our Brothers were members of the armed forces and served in Iraq and Afghanistan in the months and years following September 11, 2001. My nephew Mike was in his second year at WestPoint when the attack happened. When he graduated two years later, he was sent to Iraq and later Afghanistan. He served many tours lasting from weeks to months as a Ranger and later a Green Beret. He escaped injury from an IED in Iraq and so far has not suffered from PTSD as some in his unit have. He is currently a LTC stationed at Albany, New York in charge of an Army recruiting office for the next couple of years.

A 20 year Marine Corps. Veteran who lived around the corner from me passed away recently at age 51. He served many tours of duty in the war zones. His life following his retirement from the military was

filled with PTSD and physical pain according to another neighbor, a Vietnam Veteran who was a corpsman who received the Silver Star and Purple Heart and also suffered PTSD from his service. Only a person who saw battle can truly understand. This is not unlike the experiences of our Civil War fathers in the GAR.

From Wikipedia:

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, carried out by terrorists from Al Qaeda President George W. Bush proclaimed Friday, September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001.

A bill to make September 11 a national day of mourning was introduced in the U.S. House on October 25, 2001, by Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY) with 22 co-sponsors. The result was the resolution to proclaim September 11, 2002, as the first Patriot Day.

From 2009 to 2016, President Barack Obama proclaimed September 11 as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, in observance of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. In 2017, President Donald Trump proclaimed September 8–10 as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, and proclaimed September 11 as Patriot Day.

The flag of the United States is flown at half-staff at the White House and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments throughout the world; Americans are also encouraged to display flags in and outside their homes. Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday; schools and businesses remain open in observance of the occasion, although memorial ceremonies for the 2,977 victims are often held. Volunteer and service opportunities are coordinated by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Illinois, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by the National Constitution and Regulations, the National Policies, and the By-Laws of this Department, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. All Brothers of the Department of Illinois shall cover their badges with a black ribbon or similar band for a period of thirty (30) days.
2. All Camps shall drape their charters in black fabric for a period of thirty (30) days.
3. All Brothers are encouraged to attend local ceremonies or perform private remembrances at local cemeteries.

The foregoing Department Order is proclaimed this **1st** day of **September**, in the year of our Lord two-thousand twenty one, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-fifth.

/s/ Joseph M. Hutchinson
Department of Illinois Commander

Attest by: /s/ Leigh Franklin
Department of Illinois Secretary