



General Orders # 6 January 2018

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

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Greetings Sisters of PA Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic:

Hoping that all Sisters had a Blessed Christmas and a Prayer that

prosper and healthy New Year is in the future for all.

Here is hoping the ground hog tells us spring is around the corner, but we all know we will most likely have 6 more weeks of winter, so let's keep our fingers crossed that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:45am he doesn't see his shadow.

As spring approaches here are some events:

Lincoln Luncheon – February 10, 2018 at Williams Family Restaurant, Easton, PA.

Lincoln Birthday Celebration – February 11-12, 2018 in Washington, DC

On this day tell everyone you love, that you love them. – Valentine's Day—February 14

Also on this date—Lent starts.

March 11<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to spring your clock ahead or you will be late.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, (Lucky or Unlucky) For Caesar it was unlucky, he was assassinated.

As we look forward to Easter, let us remember as Christians what that time means and reflect on how we can improve our lives for the better.

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday                      April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Appomattox Luncheon – Oakhurst Grill, Route 31, Somerset, PA

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day—Time to Honor all those who gave their lives so we may have the freedoms we have. This is a time, we place flags, wreaths and flowers on graves, participate in Memorial Services and march in parades.

I would like Sisters who participate in some type of event on Memorial Day to please take a picture and write a brief account of what you did and forward it to me. It would be great to see how many Sisters do something for our departed ones who gave so much for us to live in a free country.

I would like to remind those who are planning to attend the Department Meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Williamsport to please let me know, so I have approximate number attending. Just drop me an email or a quick phone call. If you have something you wish to have discussed, let me know, so the subject can be put on the agenda.

Our Department Historian is requesting each circle have a contact person for her to reach members interested in sharing their memories/family stories of WWI service or Red Cross across the years.

Upcoming events for Starkweather Circle's next meeting is Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Monongahela Area Library at 11 AM. Annual election of officers will occur, and guests welcome in reception following the business meeting.

This year's memorial service is Wednesday, May 30 at 6 PM at the Monongahela Aquatorium. "Serving Beyond Our Borders" will focus upon our fallen. In commemorating the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I, our ceremony would be enhanced if our sisters shared their connections to those serving in WWI and Red Cross endeavors across the years. Civil War traditions inspired practices that continue today- floral tributes, Medal of Honor awards, etc. Clara Barton's legacy of Civil War nurse and founder of the American Red Cross continues to respond to all in need. Please notify your circle officers whether you wish a phone conversation or emails to share your memories, family stories, and experiences.

#### SOME BACKGROUND INFO:

The American Civil War inspired Memorial Day and WWI inspired Veteran's Day. Civil War inspired floral tributes, and World War I utilized the poppy as symbol and fundraiser.

Civil War nurse Clare Barton founded the American Red Cross that continues through present day.

The red poppy has become the internationally recognized symbol of remembrance for veteran sacrifice. It all began on a war-torn battlefield during World War I, when the crimson petals caught the eye of a soldier named John McCrae, inspiring the poem – “In Flanders Field”. The flower celebrates the service of more than 4.7 million Americans who served during WW I, and honors the 116,516 who died on the battlefields of Europe.

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Department Historian, Dorothy Faye Walker*

Announcement, Announcement, Announcement! – The Department of Pennsylvania, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic now has its own website. Located at [www.palgar.org](http://www.palgar.org) I have been working with Sister President Darlene to make this a useful website for our members. Please take a look and email me with any comments, concerns, or corrections. This is your website, so please feel free to send me any suggestions for information you would like to see posted. Try and make a habit of checking the site regularly, as information and order forms about upcoming events will be posted. Most forms will also be fillable online. Just download the form to your folder, add your information, save (or print) and then email the form, saving on postage and printing costs.

*Department Senior Vice and Webmaster, Ellen Higgins*

If you have any upcoming events and wish other Sisters to know about, please notify me, so it can be put in a General Orders or on the Web site.

Our organization is only as good, as our members.

Closing thought: Do you ever stop to think

What makes a day seem bright

It isn't just the sunshine

Though of course, that helps alright

It's not just meeting friends you like

Exchanging news and jokes----

No ---- It's little thoughtful things.

You've done for other folks.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

*Darlene Alcorn, Department President*

Department of Pennsylvania

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic