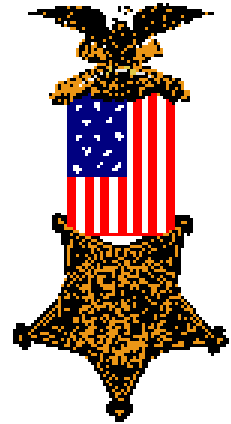




Headquarters  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Department of Michigan

Robert R Payne, Commanding  
December 18, 2018



Brothers,

Greetings and Salutations! I would like to extend to all a very Merry Christmas. In this very special time of year, I urge you, my brothers, to remember our Brothers from the past, who spent Christmas away from family, in defense of the Union.

Just like today, when we don't know if this is our last Christmas, they didn't know if it was their last or if they had many more to spend with their loved ones. Christmas has become a joyful time for many, while many also face loneliness and despair. Take the time to check in with your Brothers and, if possible, spend some time with them. While they may not be blood family, we are bound to each other through the bonds of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. These are the same bonds that held our forefathers, the Grand Army of the Republic, together in a tight knit Order, as "They drank from the same canteen."

May the God of Peace be with you and your family during this time.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R Payne".

Robert R Payne  
Department Commander  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War