



SONS OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 23, 2020

Brothers of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans,

Late in the year 1776, in an effort to stir the fervor of Colonists fighting for independence, the American patriot, Thomas Paine, penned the words, "These are the times that try men's souls." This has been quoted often throughout the history of our great nation, and it seems appropriate once again. Indeed, we face an enemy, unseen, whose subtlety and pervasiveness matches or exceeds any we have faced before. In a period in which access to information is greater than any time in the history of the world, we are left with more questions than answers. We are asked to forgo certain privileges and freedoms we have long taken for granted. In an age of great scientific advances we are outfitted, not with weapons of space-age technology, but with rudimentary instructions to practice proper hygiene and maintain certain distances from one another. Curious times indeed, yet times in which resilience of the human spirit will lead us to victory, just as the days in which the ancestors we honor were called to serve.

Our order was founded on three principles: Freedom, Patriotism and Humanity. Now is an appropriate time to remind ourselves how important are these precepts we have pledged to uphold, and seek ways in which they can be demonstrated. Let us practice the freedoms we enjoy and hold fast to the hope we will emerge from this trial to take up again the practice of the freedoms we are compelled to temporarily lay aside.

Let Patriotism motivate us to unite as a nation, laying aside bitter dispute and factions that expend energies necessary to defeat the enemy we face. Partisan activity will have its time, but for now, we all should seek to unite around those things that make us one nation.

Finally, Humanity is a principle much in demand now. In this time of "social distancing" let us look for ways to provide a virtual human touch to lift the spirits of those who find themselves in despair and loneliness. Kindness and love are gifts that benefit the one who gives, as much as the one who receives.

Yours in Freedom, Patriotism and Humanity,

James W. McBryant II
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National President

DEVOTED TO THE MEMORY OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS
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