

THE RITUAL AND CEREMONIALS

This is an adaptation of a part of the "Ritual and Ceremonials" of the United Spanish War Veterans . Many members of the Sons of Veterans, USA were also members of the United Spanish War Veterans, and the "Rituals and Ceremonials" of the two groups are remarkably similar. Although not a formal part of the "Ritual and Ceremonials" of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, this adaptation is offered here for use by Camps for its historic interest and continuing sentiments.

ADMISSION OF BROTHERS BY TRANSFER

(ADAPTED FROM UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS RITUAL - 1912)

Order of Business: After the "Initiation of Candidates" and "Re-admission of Honorably Discharged Brothers"

Note: **(S)** = salute. / = break.

If Brothers have been admitted to the Camp by Transfer and have not been ceremonially received by the Camp, the Commander will direct the Secretary: (Note: prior to introduction to the Camp of Brothers admitted by a transfer, the Secretary shall provide the Commander with a list of their names.)

Commander: "Brother Secretary, you will announce the names of the Brothers admitted to the Camp by transfer."

The Secretary will rise and **(S)**, and will read the names of Brothers admitted to the Camp by transfer who have not been ceremonially received by the Camp. (If any of the Brothers are present at the meeting, they will be invited by the Guide to retire to the anteroom previous to this ceremony).

Commander: "Guard, are any of these Brothers in waiting?"

Guard: (S) "Yes, Commander!" (If there are none, the Guard will **(S)** and reply: "No, Commander!" and the Camp will proceed to Reports of Officers and Committees.")

Commander: "Guide, you will conduct to the Camp and present to me the Brothers admitted by transfer."

Rap: (***)

The Guide will rise and **(S)** the Commander and will procure the papers in each case from the Secretary and proceed to the anteroom and, if satisfied to the identity of the Brothers in waiting, will escort them into the Camp and form them in line at the Altar. After the **(S)** to the Commander, which will be given by the Guide's command, and in which he will join, he will report.

Guide: "Commander, I take pleasure in presenting to you Brother (-- name here --), formerly of the (-- name here --) Camp, and Brother (-- name here --), formerly of the (-- name here --) Camp, whose applications for transfer to this Camp have been granted." The Guide will then move one pace to the rear.

Commander: "Brothers, your credentials as faithful members of other Camps of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have been accepted by us and we have granted your applications for the transfer of your membership to this Camp. You will find here the same fidelity to the organization that you have known in the past, and the same loyal comradeship which we now sincerely pledge to you, expecting the same pledge from you in return. Are you ready to renew your obligation and pledge to us your faith?"

Each Brother will respond: **"I am."**

The Color Bearer will position himself at the Altar with colors as prescribed in the "Initiation of Candidates".

Commander: "You will each raise your right hand and repeat after me; I, (-- your name --), / in the presence of Almighty God, / and the witnessing members of this Camp, / do hereby earnestly renew / the obligation which I took / upon entering the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, / and moreover, / solemnly and sincerely / promise and affirm / that I will be a loyal Brother / and a faithful member of this Camp, / earnestly striving / to promote its welfare and prosperity. / This pledge I promise to fulfill / on my honor as a man / and a Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War."

The Commander will signal the hands to be dropped and give one rap (*).

Commander: "Guide, you will conduct the Brothers to the Secretary's station where they will subscribe to the Bylaws the Camp, and then re-conduct them to the Altar."

The Guide will **(S)** and obey his instructions. After the Brothers have subscribed to the bylaws of the Camp, the Guide will re-conduct them to the Altar, and will **(S)** the Commander and report to him.

Guide: "Commander, your instructions have been obeyed."

Commander: "Brothers, by virtue of the authority in me vested as Commander of this Camp, I now have the pleasure of receiving you into our ranks and of heartily welcoming you in the principles of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, and to all the rights and privileges of active membership in the (-- name here --) Camp No. (-- number here --), Department of (-- name here --), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War."

The Commander will then introduce the Brothers to the Camp and direct the Guide to escort them to their seats. The Guide will **(S)** and will obey his instructions and resume his station.

The Camp will then proceed to "Reports of Officers and Committees."