DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
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DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 02 November 20, 2026
SERIES 2026-2027

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS AMERICA 250
2026 YEAR END OPPORTUNITIES

As we approach the end of 2026, the first year of the America 250 Celebration which runs from 2026 through 2033 for The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I wish to bring your attention to two opportunities for our camps to engage our communities. These community engagement opportunities have been brought to my attention by Brother Eric Crittenden, Chairman of the Department of Kansas America 250 Committee.

1) First, is the America 250 Volunteer Give Away in which people can visit the America 250 website and log the hours of volunteerism they are already doing. This will enter them in a contest to have the chance to be one of 250 winners that get to decide how/where to give away $1,000,000 (One Million Dollars!) of prize money. So, it's a win, win, win opportunity to receive credit for what you are already doing in your community and show your patriotism during the celebration of America 250. The deadline for entry is December 1, which is quickly approaching, so if interested you need to act ASAP! Visit https://america250.org/america-gives/ for full details.

2) The second opportunity for community involvement also presents a chance for us to engage the youth of our cities and town, and to spread the word about our organization to the younger generation. The program is called “Constituting America 250 - We the Future: America’s Field Trip” and is a nationwide student contest for grades 3 through 12. The program invites students in grades 3-12 to share their perspective on "How is the Constitution Designed to Protect Americans Freedoms?" A total of 50 students will be awarded a special behind-the-scenes field trip experience this coming summer to some of the nation’s most iconic historic and cultural landmarks. The contest ends 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET on 3/31/27. Please take the initiative to speak to your community’s schools, teachers, etc. and spread the word on this chance for our youth to learn their nation’s history. Visit https://constitutingamerica.org/fieldtrip-info/ for full details.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

James D. Thornton, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Department Secretary

Partner