



SPECIAL ORDER NO. 4

SERIES 2016-2017

AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Passing of Past Commander-in-Chief Elmer F. Atkinson

By the authority vested in me as National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the National Constitution, Rules and Regulations, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: It is with a heavy heart that I report the death of Past Commander-in-Chief Elmer F. “Bud” Atkinson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 11, 2017 at the age of 92 years.

Section 2: Brother Bud was born July 4, 1924 and resided in Philadelphia his entire life. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Bud enlisted in the Army, serving for four years in an armored unit in the European theatre and then remaining in the Active Army Reserve for twenty more years before retiring with the rank of Sergeant Major. Employed as a professional firefighter by the city of Philadelphia, Brother Bud retired after 24 years to become the manager of an air conditioning company. He subsequently went on to work as the assistant building supervisor for a large insurance company. His final retirement was in 1986, after which he devoted his time to volunteer work in hereditary and historical groups.

Section 3: He joined the SUVCW in 1938 and derived his eligibility for membership from his great-grandfathers Private Balthasar Moeckel of Company G, 75th Pennsylvania Infantry, and Private William Brown of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Section 4: Brother Bud held numerous offices at the Camp, Department and National level and was finally elected Commander-in-Chief in 1992. He was also very active in the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR).

Section 5: He was instrumental in the maintenance of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library in Philadelphia, and was also a member of the Frankford Historical Society in Philadelphia, a life member of the SUVCW, a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a life member of the National Rifle Association, and a member of the American Legion.

Section 6: Brother Bud’s family has a long and honorable history with the Allied Orders. His wife Margaret Atkinson served as ASUVCW National President from 1994-1996, and several of their progeny belong to the SUVCW and ASUVCW. His aunt Caroline Riddell was National President and his uncle Clarence Riddell was Commander-in-Chief, serving together in 1976.

Section 7: A viewing will be held Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 10:00-11:00 am, with the services at 11:00 am at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 808 Lion Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The family has requested an SUVCW service during the viewing. Graveside services will be private.

Section 8: The ASUVCW extends its sincere condolences to Brother Bud's family and friends, and to the members of his Camp and Department.

Section 9: All Charters are to be draped in black for a period of thirty (30) days.

Section 10: All Sisters are respectfully directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge for a period of thirty (30) days.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this thirteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first, in the city of Wonevot, County of Juneau, State of Wisconsin.

/s/ Denise Bernadine Oman, PDP
National President, ASUVCW

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Rachelle M. Campbell, PNP
National Secretary, ASUVCW