National Medal of Honor Day

Brothers,

I wanted to take some time to write to you all today regarding National Medal of Honor day, which is the 25th of March. As many of you know this is the highest award for valor our country can bestow upon a member of the Armed Forces. The reason that 25 Mar was chosen as the day to commemorate these courageous acts of valor is because the first Medal of Honor was awarded on this day 157 years ago. On 25 Mar 1863 the first member of the United States Armed Forces was honored and it was Private Jacob Parrott of the 33rd Ohio Infantry. Pvt. Parrott was a member of Andrews Raiders, the group of men that went behind enemy lines in April of 1862 to disrupt enemy supply and rail lines in Northern Georgia, which led to the Great Locomotive Chase. He was one of six members of Andrews Raisers that were honored that day.

During the American Civil War 1522 members of the United States Armed Forces received the Medal of Honor, that is a staggering 43% of the 3508 members who have received the medal. Over the years, the tales of these brave 1521 men and 1 woman have struggled to been kept alive. It is our job to make sure that these actions are never forgotten. I challenge each one of you over the next week or so to have some type of conversation with a friend or loved one about these acts of valor. Thankfully with todays technology, we can do this over the internet and social media in order to ensure we are not exposing ourselves to the health crisis currently ravaging the country. I appreciate all of your continued efforts to help preserve the memories of the Boys in Blue and promote patriotism not only in our order, but outside of it.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor