



Mark R. Day, Captain

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Brothers of the Second Military District,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and officers of the 2nd Military District, SVR for their hard work in 2011. We have been very successful in promoting the memory of the men who gave much and suffered much to preserve the Union by holding a variety of local and national events in every corner of our great district.

Now it is the time when we seek to rest and enjoy the company of our families and friends during the upcoming holiday season. However, for many this will also be a time of remembrance and reflection on what has been and what we hope will come to pass. So too, the advent of the holidays must have been a time, for our Civil war ancestors, to pause from the war and think of home. On December 25th 1862 Corporal J. C. Williams, Co. B, 14th Vermont Infantry wrote the following:

"This is Christmas, and my mind wanders back to that home made lonesome by my absence, while I far away from the peace and quietude of civil life to undergo the hardships of the camp, and maybe the battle field think of the many lives that are endangered, and hope that the time will soon come when peace, with its innumerable blessings, shall once more restore our happiness and prosperity."

Corporal Williams, like all soldiers, far from home at Christmas wished for the end of war and the institution of the peace of Christmas among all men. Let us now join in that unbroken prayer passed down from men like corporal Williams and pray, each in our own manner, that peace will come to our world.

I wish each of you a holiday filled with peace, love, and joy.

Mark R. Day, Captain
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