

Edited March 29, 2024

Characters: 769

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC HIGHWAY

To honor the 33,000 Vermonters who served in the Union forces during the War of the Rebellion from 1861 to 1865, the General Assembly designated VT Route 15 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway in 1937. Only 18 Union veterans remained in the state at that time. A national GAR Highway was named that same year, but it bypassed Vermont. The GAR was founded in 1866, along with several ladies' allied orders, as a fraternal group for Union veterans. Over 100 posts around Vermont served as centers of community social activities for the 5,400 members; only Calais Memorial Hall now stands. In 1954, the U.S. Congress chartered the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as heir to the GAR. The last GAR member veteran died in 1956.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation – 2024