

General Ulysses S Grant



As Portrayed By Kenneth J Serfass



Born in 1822 in Ohio, Ulysses S. Grant graduated from West Point in 1843. He fought in the Mexican War, served out west and then resigned from the U.S. Army in 1854. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant was working in his father's leather store in Galena, Illinois. Grant gained national attention with his victories at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg.

After his victory at Chattanooga, Lincoln appointed him General in Chief of all U.S. armies in March 1864. Grant assumed command of the Army of the Potomac, and for the first time faced Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

As Commanding General of the United States Army from 1864 to 1865, Grant confronted



Robert E. Lee in a series of very high casualty battles known as the Overland Campaign that ended in a stalemate siege at Petersburg. During the siege, Grant coordinated a series of devastating campaigns launched by William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip Sheridan, and George Thomas. Finally breaking through Lee's trenches at Petersburg, the Union Army captured Richmond, the Confederate capital, in April 1865.

Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Grant wrote out magnanimous terms of surrender that prevented treason trials. Soon after, the Confederacy collapsed and the Civil War ended.

After the war, Grant sought a political career and was elected President of the United States twice (1869-1877). In 1884, he started writing his autobiography. He completed the book a few days before his death of throat cancer in July 1885.



Gunnery Sgt Kenneth J. Serfass was born in Bethlehem, PA on June 18th, 1966. He joined the USMC in 1984 and his final tour was with the First Marine Division Band during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ken has been an active civil war reenactor and impressionist since his boyhood in Pennsylvania, and from his forty years of study of his self-avowed childhood hero US Grant, he has created a niche as a full time professional living historian portraying Ulysses S. Grant. His adventures and travel as US Grant are documented on the Facebook page, "US Grant in living history" and through "Linked In", an internet networking site.

Ken has been appearing publically as General Grant since 2009, speaking at events across the country and has visited the major areas of Grant's military campaigns in Virginia and Mississippi. He has had opportunities to present the general in walking tours, horseback tours, train rides at "Steam Into History" and at various living history and roundtable events on a regular basis across most of the north east and along the west coast with events at Pamplin Park and Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia for the Civil War sesquicentennial.

It is with a profound honor that he tells the story of one of America's greatest military leaders and Ken takes it very seriously to reaffirm Grant's place of honor among the most respected people of our nation's history.