

Captain Andrew T. Harllee's



Dispatch



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Negative Symbols at Confederate Graves

[Editor]

It has been said that if you want to upset a good man, just mess with his family. We all have a family of veterans who are buried in cemeteries not far from us who have some folks messing with them—and that makes me angry. Up in Charlotte N. C. at Elmwood Cemetery, there is a stupid City Manager who had the Confederate flag removed from the Confederate section of the cemetery—flagpole and all! Apparently, she has a spineless council who refuses to force the Ms. City Manager to replace the flag and pole at Elmwood, and then tell her to keep her nasty claws away from things that don't really concern her. Mr. Mayor thinks that the Confederate flag is a terrible symbol and should not be seen anywhere—not even the gravesites of those who defended that flag. So, Mr. Mayor and other City officers had a U. S. flag posted at the entrance of Elmwood Cemetery. Being closer to us, at Darlington Memorial Cemetery, in Darlington, S. C., a protest has emerged to prevent the Cross of Honor from being placed on two Confederate soldiers graves. The reason for this protest is that Darlington Memorial Cemetery is a black cemetery. Of course, the two soldiers who the SCV is desperately trying to honor, are—black Confederate soldiers. I know this may come as a shock, but the protester of record is second vice president of the Darlington branch of the NAACP. She claims that she doesn't have anything against the SCV organization and their goals and beliefs. She said, "I totally agree with honoring the black Confederate soldiers. However, I must take strong issue with the SCV entering the Darlington Memorial Cemetery and placing on graves a black cross with the Confederate flag on it." Well...excuse me Ms. Hannah Chapman Dixon, but those Confederate soldiers buried in that cemetery served under that Confederate flag...duh! What do you expect that cross to have on it; after all it is a Southern Cross. Now I may be wrong about a lot of things, but I really want to think that I use a small measure of common sense about a few things. Please, won't someone tell me if I am looking at this in a negative perspective? It seems to me, that it hasn't been too long ago that many of the black community and the PC community denied that there was ever such a thing as a black Confederate soldier. Now this 'lady' of the NAACP is saying that she supports the SCV in honoring black Confederate soldiers. It seems that she is also saying, 'Now that we have to admit there were black Confederate soldiers, do it the way Ms. Dixon would like for you to do it—or just don't do it at all.' I wonder if she even one time asked herself, "How would these men like to be honored?" I wonder if she has thought to consider how those men felt about those Confederate emblems. Should she think about someone other than herself, and honestly consider who these

men were, she might find what she wishes for and what these men would wish for, would be two different things altogether. I do have enough mental capacity to know that dead people can't talk, but I really would like to know how some of these veterans would feel about the way the symbols they defended are spoken of today by many who are their direct descendants. Many men of the South died in The War of Southern Independence defending those symbols which some now claim to be offensive. All of the survivors of this war also fought to defend those symbols, and I doubt that any of them went to their graves despising those symbols. As for us, I am reminded of words spoken by Teddy Roosevelt, "People who will not fight for the graves of their dead are past redemption."

Memorial Service Held in Darlington

The W. E. James Camp 74 did themselves and the SCV proud with the memorial service held on the 17th of February. A most fitting time to have a memorial service for sixteen black Confederate veterans was during Black History Month. Despite an outcry from a local NAACP leader concerning the Southern Cross of Honor being placed on two graves at Darlington Memorial Cemetery, this service proceeded and finished with respect and honor to these veterans.



Commander Trip Wilson, members of the W. E. James Camp and the Junior ROTC, which Trip instructs, all deserve much credit for this service. Some of the notables in attendance were, Commander of the South Carolina Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, Randy Burbage, Theresa Pittman, president of the S. C. Division of the United Daughters of The Confederacy, Gene Hogan, Lt. Commander of the South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Ken Howle, Commander of the Pee Dee Rifles Camp was keynote speaker and the Harllee Guard of the Andrew T. Harllee Camp fired salutes of honor for these veterans. This is the first memorial service where our mortar was used to fire a salute in honor of our Confederate Veterans. Attendance was good and the black community was well represented. There was no sign of any representative of the NAACP.

NAACP Offended...Again!

One of the many counties in the Southern State of Florida is named after the General Robert E. Lee. That county is Lee County. A portrait of Robert E. Lee hangs high on the wall above the area where the Lee County Commissioners sit. This portrait has now become offensive to many of the local NAACP. Anthony Thomas Jr., chairman of the political action committee for the Lee County Chapter of the NAACP says, "The picture of Robert E.



Lee is offensive, not only to black people, but to Northerners. I know that the Sons of Confederate Veterans are proud of their heritage. We are, too. We are not asking the board to take it down, but just to put a picture of Lincoln up next to it." Commissioner Brian Bigelow would like to consider moving the picture to a less prominent location in the courthouse "rather

than have this portrait become the center of the racial unrest it might become." He continues by saying, "We send this image of Robert E. Lee out across the Internet and television every week to the Public. This portrait is painful to some and we should not question whether it is, but use that prominent location as a way to attract people to Lee County by putting something else there." Another commissioner, Bob Janes said, speaking of the county, "It is named Lee County, not Lincoln County, or Ronald Reagan County, and to have a picture of the individual the county is named after is certainly appropriate. It has nothing to do with Confederacy." Then Willie Green, Lee County NAACP president, said it is not that easy. "He should walk a mile in my shoes. I don't want to be constantly reminded of the days of slavery. I want to get on with my life. So help me do that by putting the Great Emancipator up there beside Lee." Another Commissioner, Frank Mann has his own approach. "I'd be happy to have a picture of Lincoln, as well as other presidents, hung about the courthouse," he said. "Presently, the pictures hung in and about the courthouse commemorate people who have had some direct historic connection to Lee County government. For instance, if you go to Broward County, I'm sure you will find a picture of Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, a former governor of Florida." The Lee County NAACP also have two other requests. They wish to expand the county commission from five to seven members to potentially make it more racially diverse by having a district concentrated in a predominantly minority area. The other request is to name the Fort Myers/Lee County Annex Building after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Editor] Your editor sent e-mail to Brian Bigelow, since he seems to be the weak link of the five commissioners. He was asked if he really thought that the request of the NAACP to place a picture of Lincoln would satisfy them. Further, if the portrait of General Lee was so offensive, how on earth would a picture of anyone placed beside that portrait make it any less offensive? When are our politicians going to learn that it is not required of them to satisfy every wish of the NAACP? Today... would be a good day to start!

NAACP Offended—Again?

Do you see a pattern here? This time it is in the State of Missouri where State Bill HB 495 is proposed. This bill is designed to establish the Missouri State Park Board. This eight-member board will be responsible for managing all aspects of the historical marker program. Clyde Williams, a representative from the NAACP, showed up at the House corrections and public institutions committee meeting to oppose HB 495. Williams said, "This bill is an attempt to have the Confederate Flag be displayed on state property. For the past two years, Missouri has been in the national spotlight in the month of June as the state flying the Confederate flag." He continued by making a statement to the effect that the Civil War might have settled some scores more than 150 years ago, but some wounds still fester. He said, "We should be rallying around symbols that tie us together and not tear us apart. The rebel flag represented hatred, oppression and the Confederacy, which was an enemy of the United States." To give a short walk down memory lane to those who are not aware of what this fight is all about, it is concerning a Confederate cemetery in Higginsville, Missouri. In 2002, the then-Gov. Bob Holden had the Confederate flag removed from the cemetery because of the political pressures placed upon him by the usual anti-Confederate crowd. This cemetery is located at the Confederate Park in Higginsville, a former site of a home for injured Confederate soldiers for nearly 60 years. Today, nothing is left but the chapel, the hospital and the cemetery. As the old soldiers died, the homes were torn down because it was not a veteran's home, it was a Confederate veterans home. Rep. Michael McGhee wants the board, once it is established to return the Confederate flag to the cemetery. The Confederate Park in Higginsville is in Rep. McGhee's district. He claims that he wants the Confederate soldiers to be honored the same as other soldiers. "If you go to New England, where the British who fought in the Revolutionary War are buried on U. S. soil, there are British flags flying over them. If you go to Texas, where Mexican soldiers from the Mexican-American war are buried on U. S. soil, there are Mexican flags flying over their graves. Our soldiers buried in France have the stars and stripes flying over their graves. Those are the flags that those soldiers fought and died for. The same as the Confederate flag is the flag these soldiers died for." Rep. McGhee claims that before he was elected, he didn't know there was a Confederate cemetery in his district. Then, he said, "10,528 people signed a petition asking to have the Confederate flag put back up over the soldiers that died carrying it." Rep. McGhee said, "Since the Civil War has been over, (Confederate) soldiers never flew the Confederate flag. Not in front of the hospital, not in front of the chapel, and not in front of any Confederate soldiers homes. The stars and stripes flew there. The only place the Confederate flag flew was over the cemetery of the soldiers that died for that cause." Rep. McGhee, because of the racial controversy surrounding the flag, went to the Walmart in Higginsville asking African-Americans if they believed the flag should be displayed at the cemetery. He said he talked to 28 individuals and each one agreed that they did not particularly like the Confederate flag, but they had no problem with it flying over the cemetery. Those people, who were interviewed by Rep. McGhee, because of the response they gave him, would lead one to believe that the NAACP is not always speaking for those they claim they are speaking for. (Just a personal observation)

The Month of March

The month of March is an important month for Southern history, for it was on March 11, 1861 that the Confederate Congress unanimously adopted the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. Then, five days later on the 16th Jefferson Davis arrived in Montgomery, Alabama to accept the post of Provisional President of the newly organized Confederate States.

This Month's Meeting

The SCV Camp 2010 meeting this month will be on the 15th. The meeting place will be at the American Legion building on Hwy 9 East. The meeting will begin by having the evening meal around 6:30. Compatriot Larry Jones will prepare this month's meal, along with anyone else willing to help—who also has the nerve to take credit (or blame) for this meal. The teaching part of the meeting will begin around 7:00 P. M. The speaker for this month is Dr. John Griffin. He is the author of several books and has been to our Camp before as he spoke of his book, "A Pictorial History of the Confederacy." He has also written a book titled "Abraham Lincoln's Execution." Both are good books and he gives a very good presentation of them. The topic in which he will speak at this meeting is different. He will be talking about Lt. Bill Farrow of Doolittle's Raiders. Bill Farrow was a WWII hero and native from nearby Darlington County. Although this is not a war hero from the 1860's, I am sure that Dr. Griffin will give an interesting presentation as usual. Please come out and support your Camp by attending its meetings. You should be able to learn something at each meeting, and if you don't, at least you will be able to spend some good time together with those who have a common bond with you. The Andrew T. Harllee Camp needs you!

Racism by Association...Museum May Change its Name

The Museum of the Confederacy will likely drop "Confederacy" from its name when it relocates, because of the word's negative perceptions. A group of historians, preservationists and grant writers who studied the museum's health said, "The Confederacy, and by association the museum, now symbolize racism." The museum is the world's largest collection of Civil War artifacts. Waite Rawls, the museum's president and CEO says, "One of our challenges is a gap between the public's perception of who we are and the role we play, and the reality of who we are and the role we play. The repositioning we have done over the past 30 years is to be more of a modern education institution and less of a memorial...to the Confederacy." One of the places being discussed to move the museum is in Lexington, where Lexington Councilwoman Mimi Elrod said, "To me, the Confederate flag symbolizes slavery, oppression and denying people their rights. I have a problem with a museum that celebrates that being in our city. If you have a museum that looks at all aspects of the Civil War, that's very different to me." After discussing a name change with Rawls, Elrod said she welcomes more talks. Darryl Starnes, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans opposes the relocation of the museum. He says, "Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. That's the place the Museum of

the Confederacy should be. He also opposes changing the name of the museum because that would "dilute the integrity of the museum." [Editor...I know, you are getting tired of my personal remarks, but please bear with me.] Changing the name of the museum is almost sacrilegious. Many of the artifacts owned by the museum was personal property of many of the leaders of the Confederacy and given to the "Museum of the Confederacy" so that those artifacts would be seen by anyone who wished to go to a place where Confederate things were displayed. Many of those who donated those items did so because of the name of the museum. To change the name now would be somewhat similar to changing the rules in the middle of a contract. Those items were received by the museum because the gift was to be displayed in a Confederate museum...yes, Mr. Rawls, that means a memorial to the Confederacy! To agree to changing the name is a slap in the face to all those who were a part of the Confederacy, not to mention giving in to a politically correct society who says we should be ashamed of our heritage and do away with all things confederate. Maybe the new name could be the Museum of Intolerance, or the Museum of Racism, or the Museum of Divisiveness, or how about the Museum of Oppression—oh, it could be called the Museum of Slavery. We could just let the NAACP decide for us.

Hillary Clinton Wants Flag Removed

Last month, Hillary Clinton came to South Carolina in hopes to win a bid here for a presidential nomination. She made a comment in an AP interview saying that her party would have a hard time winning in GOP-heavy South Carolina. She said, "I



think it is going to be hard for any Democrat to carry the state. The Republican Party is very strong here." Earlier in the day, she spoke to more than 1,500 people gathered at Allen University, a historically black college in Columbia. Two other presidential hopefuls, Sen. Joe Biden and Sen. Chris Dodd have already been to South Carolina and made comments regarding their desire to see the

Confederate flag removed from the State Capital grounds. Senator Clinton is not going to be left out. She said, "I personally would like to see it removed from the Statehouse grounds." She played a new appeal saying, "I think how many South Carolinians have served in our military and who are serving today under our flag and I believe that we should have one flag that we all pay honor to, as I know that most people in South Carolina do every single day." Mrs. Clinton is missing the point. That flag that she desires to dispose of, is a flag that more South Carolina veterans died under than any other. Yet, she doesn't think that it deserves to be honored by South Carolinians. She may also find that the people of South Carolina will support those candidates that have common interest with them.

Deo Vindice