

Delaware Grays, SCV Camp # 2068

Statement to Georgetown, DE Town Council

Our organization commends your dedicated service toward the public good of all citizens, and is saddened to witness recent outbursts of protest that have resorted to rude, ad hominem references toward Council members; boycott threats; presumptive assignment of motives and intentions of others based on prejudicial, judgmental fanaticism, certitude, sanctimony, and self righteous impatience.

An ugly “cancel culture” that aggressively practices intolerance for true diversity, fueled by a ravenous appetite to eviscerate the Bill Of Rights in general, and the First Amendment rights in particular of those they unilaterally decide fall within their target zone, knows-no boundary, having most recently reached George Washington; Thomas Jefferson; Abraham Lincoln; to Dave Chappelle and even recently Mount Rushmore.

We are confident to be joined by the vast majority of greater Georgetown citizens who commend your courage to stand up to the tantrums from modern day bullies, in your recognition of the uniform benefit of the Georgetown Historical Society [GHS] and support of its commendable record of both past and sustained material as well as dedicated service to our entire community. Like you, we have noted their volunteers, Board, and leadership being comprised of sincere and dedicated community members with servant hearts, who have too been bitterly threatened with financial ruin from bullying tactics employed intending to take advantage of perceived newfound weakness in public resolve.

We are honored to have been invited and welcomed to be a small part of that service in clarifying misconceptions of Delaware’s history, providing educational programs while honoring those from our State in an artful and handsome memorial obelisk recessed upon the rear portion of GHS grounds. Our memorial was unveiled in 2007 in a unifying, dignified ceremony attended by hundreds, inclusive of Mayor Mike Wyatt as well as then DE Governor Ruth Ann Minner, who issued a proclamation inspired by that ceremony declaring May 12-18 as 11 Confederate History and Heritage Week” throughout the State of DE. (See copy of contemporaneous press release obtained from DE Historical Society Archives attached and made a part hereof).

Our Camp 2068 is a division of the Sons Of Confederate Veterans, whose purpose shares the website’s definition: “The Sons of Confederate Veterans, ... shall be strictly patriotic, historical, educational, fraternal, benevolent, non-political, nonracial and non-sectarian. The Sons of Confederate Veterans neither embraces, nor espouses acts or ideologies of racial and religious bigotry, and further condemns the misuse of its sacred symbols and flags in the conduct of same.”

In an effort to lower the temperature; avoid contributing to more attempts to denigrate the loyal public servants of our region; and to obtain closure, our organization has previously elected to rely upon an Aug. 2, 2022, adopted Statement from GHS, the content with which we agree sets forth the relevant explanation for how our Memorial became and is properly sustained as an important educational part of the Museum. (See GHS

Statement attached and made a part hereof).

While we have expressed disappointment with some of the recent tactics & vitriol employed by those who have only recently bitterly denigrated most of you and the Confederate Battle Flag, we respectfully understand as well as concur with their denunciation of America's institution of slavery, we having directly as well as consistently noted it as a moral and political evil for all time. Indeed your body has been specifically, as well as condescendingly addressed by those insisting the flag, that has been for 16 years and remains fittingly utilized solely to honorably memorialize those Delawareans fighting with unsurpassed valor who fell under it, is and can never be regarded as anything but a "repulsive symbol of racism, hate, oppression, and violence", Full Stop. Those brave Delawareans left hearth and home to daringly make the ultimate sacrifice in their struggle for freedom they visioned and perceived as fully an exact parallel to their ancestors who preceded them in 1776.

President Lincoln called for an unprecedented Federal military invasion of sovereign States when there were 9 slave states in the Union (soon to be 10 with W VA), and there were comparatively only 7 slave states in the Confederacy. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Jimmy Carter were not ashamed to be photographed with a Confederate flag.

In August of 1960, President Eisenhower wrote to a Republican doctor from Connecticut: "...Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War between the States the issue of secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years. Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted."

"I think it's too costly to refight the Civil War. We have paid too great a price in trying to bring people together..." I personally feel that we made a mistake in fighting over the Confederate flag here in Georgia. Or that that was an answer to the problem of the death of nine people - to take down the Confederate flag in South Carolina." - Andrew Young, part of Dr. King's inner circle, standing next to him when he died, served as the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a Congressman from Georgia, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and the Mayor of Atlanta.

Regrettably, we suggest such presumptive sanctimony provides the most compelling evidence to date we have much more in education of accuracy in history yet to achieve. In truth, the combinations and permutations of layers of political and economic abusive complexities which led to the perceived need for 13 sovereign States to secede, followed by the subsequent yet immediate blockading of all Southern ports and a call to arms to invade those States so as to secure the stream of protective tariff revenues into the Federal treasury, all contributed mightily to sustained and bitter divisions.

The institution of slavery in America was securely embedded and fully protected in the Constitution, without which there would have been no Union in the first place, the later controversies centered around the expansion of America's "peculiar institution" in the

western territories, with the political and economic voting interests associated.

While time and space will not allow for further details here, we respectfully call for more loving communication, tolerance, and diversity being increasingly respected, over cancellation with denigration of public servants and volunteers. One of America's great traditions includes tolerance with respectful accommodation extended those who memorialize their ancestral departed to do so as they alone deem appropriate. Indeed one of our educational gatherings included an address by former Congressman Ben Jones, the Democrat from GA's 4th district, who marched with Dr. King. From personal conversation he shared that Dr. King had no problem with the Confederate flag, revered in context as a part of Southern heritage, while his vision rose to ancestors of former slaves as well as slave owners breaking bread together in mutual respect and genuine accommodation for the heritage of each while practicing true diversity, pluralism, and tolerance with respect for each other totally removed from the cancel culture's bitter insistent demands for the evisceration of Constitutional rights of each other. Dr. King diagnosed our racial strife as the product of a lack of love for one another, noting we too often don't love one another, because we don't talk to one another.

The Delaware state flag, also at our Confederate Memorial, represented indeed an historic time of Delaware policy decisions consistent with notions of white supremacy. While Delaware did not join the 13 sovereign States that seceded in 1861, and while that decision had a lot to do with Henry DuPont and Abraham Lincoln, although after enactment of the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery; the 14th Amendment providing due process and equal protection of all national laws to all races of citizens; and the 15th Amendment providing for black men to vote, Delaware stubbornly and repeatedly refused to ratify any of them for a full 36 years after they were added to our Constitution with the cessation of hostilities in 1865.

Still, before your body, only the Confederate flag has been referenced as un-American, unethical, and failing to uphold values that support the advancement of a diverse, inclusive, and equitable society, while the DE flag also for 16 years has balanced and punctuates still the dignified memorial of those Delawareans who displayed such valor in contributing to our diversity of history. Dr. King's words continue to remind us: "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our organization is grateful for the opportunity to memorialize the contributions of our diverse history by honoring with dignity our ancestors who played an important role in it. As GHS has rightly continued to acknowledge, before our accepting their invitation to memorialize Delaware Confederates alongside a like, ongoing yet so far declined invitation to Union veterans by erecting a dignified memorial obelisk, we rightfully secured our contractual rights to so honor our departed as we alone determine appropriate in the relevant preservation of their dignity, before materially investing in significant man hours and treasure in justifiable reliance upon that word of contractual commitment.

We call upon all citizens to make room for the heritage and Constitutional freedoms of each other in the interests of greater understanding with empathy as we travel the road of the stunningly short time

each of us has been allotted to experience on this earth. We ask simply for the return to unity demonstrated when our memorial obelisk was warmly welcomed as a contributing part of our beloved community in 2007, with a call to all of us to sincerely seek to better understand each other through the application of the Fruits of the Spirit, being Love; Joy; Peace; Forbearance; Kindness; Goodness; Faithfulness; Gentleness; and Self-Control. Gal. 5: 22-23.

**Respectfully, Your mst. Obdn't svnt.,
Delaware Grays Camp # 2068**

By: _____

Jeff Plummer., Commander

Encl:

Press account of unveiling of obelisk May 12, 2007; Statement of Aug. 2, 2022, GHS.