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Sent: 7/2/2015 12:34:57 PM
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Subject: Re: Urgent Communication regarding War Memorial

Beautifully put.

Thank you Ms. Kathleen.

Larry Martin, take some time and research the reasons why the flag was placed on the dome and why it was moved to the memorial. Do not use your, mine or our heritage as currency for tribute or ransom. During the Centennial of the War, President Eisenhower asked all State governments to honour the men who gave all, on both sides. Many Southern States chose to honour their citizens by flying their battle flag. Look into the records and speeches of the day for yourself. I'm sure you have access to all of them. Find where the SC legislators espoused race or civil rights as their reasons for putting the flag aloft. You'll not find that, you'll only find honour. Will you share their honor or share in the shameful lies that are merely the loudest cries at the moment.

If you are willing to look at this issue historically and do not find evil intent in the actions of your predecessors or our ancestors themselves, then take a short walk outside and read the inscription on the monument. It reads:

To South Carolina's Dead
Of The
Confederate Army
1861 1865

This monument
perpetuates the memory ,
of those who
true to the instincts of their birth,
faithful to the teachings of their fathers,
constant in their love for the State,
died in the performance of their duty:
Who
have glorified a fallen cause
by the simple manhood of their lives,

the patient endurance of suffering,
and the heroism of death,
and who,
in the dark house of imprisonment,
in the hopelessness of the hospital,
in the short, sharp agony of the field
found support and consolation
in the belief
that at home they would not be forgotten.
Unveiled May 13, 1879

Perhaps the last line is most important. Confederate lives matter (doesn't ALL life matter?).

Do not trade our heritage for a bowl of red beans or any other temporary fix for your own comfort. Do the right thing and stand for truth and truth will stand with you.

Michael Givens
Your ol' Pickens High School mate

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He who is brave is free.
Seneca, 1st century AD, Roman philosopher

On Thu, Jul 2, 2015 at 11:36 AM, Kathleen <kpig01@gmail.com <<mailto:kpig01@gmail.com>>> wrote:

Dear Larry,

After we talked on Saturday, I have considered your position that you now support the removal of the Confederate battle flag, reversing your previous stance, from its negotiated memorial location on our SC capitol grounds memorial position because you say it was but a recent loyalty only from the last century. You placed a lot of stock in the proposition that it was only erected in 1962. As an avid student of history myself, I have considered your position and point out the following as conflicting historically with this position in line with the total historical prospective, which you should consider.

First, the South lived under the horrendous, evil conditions of the North-imposed Reconstruction for at least 30 years following the cataclysmic end of the War in 1865. The Citadel, The Military College of SC in Charleston, itself, was taken over and shutdown by Northern troops following the war for 17 years, taking an act of the legislature and petitions to have the institute reopened. The South and its defenders left standing were stripped of their property ownership, helpless without monetary funds, deprived of most of its male citizens numbering in SC alone of over 32,000.

This was a HUGE percentage of its population back then, decimating a significant portion of South Carolina. The veterans not killed were indeed walking wounded - many without limbs, eye sight, hearing, income, homes, education, and all likely suffering post traumatic stress injuries for the short remainder of their lives, destined to poverty, subjugation, and ridicule, including my own great-great grandfather who lost an arm at the Battle of Petersburg, he a lifelong, loyal son of South Carolina. He requested before his death that he wanted to be buried with the battle flag that he fought so hard under and cared so deeply about. His final request was to have the battle flag buried with him and in his Confederate uniform.

Additionally, the South generally had no money for flags, which were by most standards, a luxury as the focus was on basic survival. Importantly, you must remember that the South was ordered to cease from showings of Southern Heritage and pride, thus could not push for erection of any Confederate flag. Southerners were a targeted people and deprived of their own pursuit of freedoms in comparison to Northerners. The Northerners' oppression and destruction of Southern heritage after the War was very similar to how the highlanders in Scotland were targeted after the Jacobite uprising in 1746, in which the victorious English suppressed the Scots. The English banned the Scots from speaking Scots gaelic, the wearing of kilts and traditional wear, as well as destroying the Clan system, clan flags and banners, and anything that gave the Scots regional identity and pride. This has historically proven to be incredibly poor judgement by the English and resulted in hugely divisive culture even continuing through this day. Surely, this historical perspective should speak loudly of you and others in leadership as to the "unretreatable" pitfall you set now before us.

Thirdly, recall that following the War the radical republicans at the time ("carpetbaggers" and brutal reconstructionists from the North) took over South Carolina and thrust themselves into the political arena of SC, some becoming governor and state senators. Many were former Union soldiers from the War. The first true son of South Carolina to become governor after the "carpetbaggers rule" was my own Southern relative, Benjamin Franklin Perry. He himself was a "Union man" but a loyal son of South Carolina first and foremost, and he cast his personal preference to remain one Union aside to go with his state and to honor and represent the people of his state he so loved as his duty. There would never be any confederate flags flying under any northern conquerer's reign of domination and control. Such ill treatment of Southerners lingered as steadfast punishment, make no mistake.

Fourthly, there were no flag manufacturing plants in the South and especially not in SC. Plants and cotton gins and manufacturing facilities had been crushed and destroyed by General Sherman, his troops and northern invaders to cripple the South forever if possible. Of course, no confederate flags could hang at the state house or elsewhere.

Fifthly, after the atrocities of the lengthy Reconstruction, came The Spanish-American War in which the regrouping of Southerners rallied as we are prone to do, to march for the USA. More SC casualties endured. There was no time to reflect or post memorials and a lot of continued warfare underway instead of celebrating one's heritage. The task of just living was all-consuming.

Sixthly, there arose the Phillipine Insurrection that occurred from 1899-1902 where Southerners once again served their country as forerunner to World War I. There was no time or money to hoist a confederate flag over the statehouse or much other place as life was tenuous at best.

Seventhly, World War I engulfed the South and the world wherein a huge number of South Carolinians were drafted in 1917-1919, many losing their lives defending the USA. Many of these brave warriors were the brave children of the brave Civil War soldiers thus wiping out several generations of our ancestors. The confederate flag of their ancestors often accompanied these proud Southern Americans to war in Europe, where they served as inspiration. I have seen pictures of young "doughboys" carrying such flags. The American flag and indeed the American way of life was imperiled and defended by our ancestors who also deserve a fitting and prominent war memorial on our state house public grounds.

After the war to end all wars, which history shows absolutely did not, came another huge earth-shattering war, World War II in 1941-1945. Again, Southerners were drafted and most voluntarily enlisted as their country was under direct attack. Because these brave souls did not hasten to erect the