

From: [Athena Brown](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Confederate statues
Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017 7:40:55 PM

Your inbox is probably jammed full of these emails, but for what it's worth, I'm also lending my voice.

Please do not allow an Orwellian "memory-hole" to be created. American history needs to be acknowledged -- all parts, good, bad, and the controversial. Please keep all statues and commemorations where they are, and free from vandalizing.

From: [Jay Willis](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Fwd: Jefferson Davis Highway monuments
Date: Monday, October 02, 2017 10:30:15 AM

Hello,

My name is Jay Willis and I live in Battle Ground. I, like most Americans, am totally against the march to change history by the removal of any historic monuments. What are we becoming, the Taliban? We cannot judge the past actions of the famous but always flawed founders of this nation by the current PC madness. Those were different times and most folks today only have a soundbite taste of propaganda history instead of even looking into all the facts. To appease all the offended, we need to change the name of Washington State and I am sure that there is offensive dirt to be found when researching, Clark, Vancouver or any place and figure in the NW.

Historical monuments prompt those truly interested in the facts to delve deeper into history. When you try to change history future generations are not able to learn anything from it, but I suppose that is the point of the current PC madness. The fact that Jefferson Davis lived and had a national highway system installed in order to honor his many accomplishments and to bring reconciliation to the differences between the North and South are facts that should not be hidden.

In 1939 people thought that naming roads and erecting monuments to Confederate leaders would help bring north and south together in peace and understanding and help erase lingering bitterness on both sides. It was a tribute to mostly of the acts these leaders did after the war to bring Americans together that was honored. The highway was "a symbol of the fact that all bitterness between the South and the North had vanished." The New York Times, 1934

As a hero of the Mexican War, he is recognized as a US Veteran. In fact, by an act of Congress, all Confederate Veterans are US Veterans and the VA will supply Confederate headstones for their graves and if identified bodies are found, like the crew of the Hunley, will give them a full military funeral.

I know that the persons behind the removal of these monuments from their original and obscure locations are now regretting that decision. The City of Vancouver and Clark County reinstalled the Vancouver monument on private land and now everyone knows about them. Good for you in creating any controversy that resulted. In your rush to appease the offended one, you could not see how that action was going to backfire on you and you cannot yet see how taking action to remove the monument from the historical record is going to play out.

I had written a long email regarding all of Jefferson Davis accomplishments in the North West but it was eaten by the computer so I included this short article by a local historian which covers an abbreviated history of his efforts to expand the military forts and roads in our area, including Fort Vancouver.

Jefferson Davis – unlikely champion for

the Pacific Northwest

by Karen Meador

For most people, the phrase Jefferson Davis and the Pacific Northwest sounds like the ultimate historical paradox. But before he became President of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, Davis had had a long career of public service to the United States as a West Point graduate and Army officer, Congressman, Senator, Secretary of War and closest adviser to President Franklin Pierce. Matters concerning the Pacific Northwest commanded his close attention.

JeffersonDavis



As an ardent expansionist, Jefferson Davis was a great supporter of creating a continental nation. From the time he entered Congress in 1845, through his final term in the Senate as Chairman of Military Affairs, he sponsored numerous bills and secured appropriations to promote American settlement of the West. In the 1840s, many in government discounted the value of the remote Oregon Country. Yet, in his first congressional speech, Davis addressed the boundary dispute with Great Britain, calling for the U.S. to assert its claims to the region. Expanding the Army presence along the Oregon Trail and throughout the Northwest, as well as sponsoring numerous surveys, topographical expeditions and scientific studies were among his top priorities. Advocating the initiation and expansion of mail service as well as securing pay increases for soldiers serving in the “Pacific possessions” were also among his efforts.

Jefferson Davis’ most enduring legacy to the Northwest may be his patronage of numerous engineering projects, among them the Pacific railroad surveys. On a more topical note is his enthusiastic sponsorship and supervision of the construction of the early military roads, including the Military Road which runs through South King County today. Despite rising sectional differences in the prewar years, Davis maintained his longstanding dedication to addressing the needs created by America’s recent territorial expansion and “binding the Pacific slope more permanently to this Union.”

This came to a halt with the election of Lincoln as President. Although he had argued against secession as a senator from Mississippi, southern-born Davis felt compelled to side with the South. At the end of the Civil War, Jefferson Davis was charged with treason against the United States. Though he never was tried on those charges, he was prevented from ever running for public office again. In 1977, however, Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield called for the restoration of Davis’ U.S. citizenship. In introducing Senate Resolution 16, he made a stirring speech alluding to many of Jefferson Davis’ little-known contributions to the United States, calling him “an outstanding American.”

Historian and writer Karen Meador has done extensive research on the building of Military Road. She will speak on Jefferson Davis’ support of Pacific Northwest settlement on Saturday, February 23, 1-3 PM, at the Kent Senior Center, 600 E Smith Street in Kent. For more information, visit SoCoCulture’s online [calendar](#).

From: [Linda McGinnis](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Hertiage status
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 10:37:45 AM

Do Not Remove the heritage status or marker. You cannot erase history doing so does not change it but makes us forget the lessons to be learned from it. Should we remove the pyramids if they were built by slaves. Grow up America quit your crying and work for the changes you want not stomp your feet and whine. Volunteer, mentor, teach, donate time and money, but quit tearing America apart, ANTIFA you are a hate group. plain and simple.

Linda McGinnis
Vancouver, Wa

Republican registered voter, community volunteer, American through and through.

From: [lydia frenzel](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Oct 3- Jefferson Davis Marker
Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017 5:32:04 PM

Dear Ms. Kamp-

I am a resident of Vancouver, Clark County residing at 620 Se 168th Ave # 103. I have truly enjoyed the heritage and history of Clark County and Fort Vancouver.

I will not be able to attend the meeting on Oct. 3, 2017, when the consideration of removal of the Jefferson Davis marker from the Heritage Register is being considered. I favor removal of the marker from the list.

This is a gut response. I grew up in Texas in the area where Rene Robert Sier De La Salle's ship ran aground. The "La Belle" has recently been recovered. My ancestors served in the Confederate Home Guard, and a bombardment at Indianola- a town larger than Galveston at the time, which has now disappeared into the bay. We had a World War II camp. My sister is a past chair of the Calhoun County Historical Commission who coordinates with the County Judge. She is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, as well as Daughters of American Revolution, and Daughters of the Texas Republic. She focuses her attention on finding and preserving the many small cemeteries around the county, and getting World War II soldiers recognition that was awarded but never presented. I have not heard her try to establish new monuments to the Confederacy. She seems to be able to distinguish between significant historical events located within the region and what was made up by an agenda years after the event.

I lived in Louisiana. I didn't give it a thought when I drove around Lee Circle with the Robert E Lee statue. However, the statue did bother some of our New Orleans neighbors as a reminder of days that had not yet gone away. It was very evident after Katrina that our major heart and soul of the City was neglected in favor of other more affluent neighborhoods. It still is a disgrace to our political recovery system when you drive to the ninth ward today. When you go through Mississippi or the southern states, it is easy to realize that old prejudices are still just under the surface of many gullible people who are steeped in old traditions. Biloxi, Mississippi, still is the old South. Reminders of repression of a part of our population are ever present.

Most of my information about the Jefferson Davis marker has come from articles in the Columbian, and a reading of your online documents depicting how this marker came to be where it is today. I do not approve of desecration of any marker, nor private property. However, Jefferson Davis wanted to destroy the United States. It is quite proper to commemorate the grassroots efforts of the Washington Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. However, Jefferson Davis is not part of the heritage of Washington State.

Washington State and Clark County has a wealth of history to commemorate and preserve.
I favor removal of the marker from the Heritage Register.

Lydia M. Frenzel

512-753-6466

skype: lydia.frenzel

google video phone: lydia.m.frenzel

SSPC 2014 John D. Keane Award of Merit- outstanding leadership & significant contribution to
development of protective coatings industry

WJTA-IMCA 2015 Pioneer Award- Contributions to the waterjet industry

SSPC 2015 Women in Coatings Impact Award- women whose contribution have created a
positive impact on the culture of the industry

From: [Garth Mckinney](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Historical statement.
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 10:44:16 PM
Attachments: [Official Registry Statement 2\(1\).docx](#)

Hello, I am reaching out to you today to share with you a letter i have written in more of an article fashion for your committee to revue. I would really appreciate it if you would forward this document to the necessary people to make it on record for OCT 3rd.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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"Duty then is the sublimest word in the English language. You should do your duty in all things. You can never do more, you should never wish to do less." Robert E. Lee.

*- Garth McKinney
1st Lt Commander SCV
Pacific NW Division.*

From: [Sarah Margaret Martin](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Jefferson Davis Highway Marker
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 12:45:19 PM

Dear Ms. Kamp,

As a tax payer and a caring citizen, i'd like to please request not to fund this symbol of hate. I do not wish my tax dollars to be used to perpetuate and celebrate hate, period.

My family and all families deserver better use of their hard earned money to help others in the community and not toward a symbol of hate, again, period.

Sincerely,

Michael Gallegos
12500 NW 19th Ave 98685

From: [Sarah Margaret Martin](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Jefferson Davis Historical Marker in Ridgefield
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 12:21:30 PM

Dear Ms. Kamp,

I am a citizen in Felida, at 12500 NW 19th Ave, Vancouver, 98685. I am writing in objection to the Jefferson Davis Highway marker being listed on the Clark County historical register. The Jefferson Davis Highway, was created to glorify Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America, who declared war against the United States of America, in the name of the continuation of the use of slave labor to prop up the cotton industry of the South.

I am a white woman, who is the mother of three young boys, whom I am trying hard to raise to know the difference between right and wrong; to see the value of every human being; to celebrate diversity, and reject the notion of the superiority of any person based solely on the color of a person's skin. I am fully aware that The Jefferson Davis Highway marker sits on private property. I also know it has nothing to do with the history of Clark County, and **as a taxpayer, I object to my money being spent to prop up celebrations of hate and white supremacy.** The **ONLY** way I would approve of such a thing, is if the full history of the person and the full history of the human toll of the cotton industry that the marker celebrates is on full display on the same property, or somewhere closeby.

Clark County should not support the celebration of oppression of any person. Do the right thing. Set a good example for Clark County kids. Please either require that the full history of this man and his industry be told, or defund this marker.

Sincerely,

Sarah Martin
Taxpaying Citizen of Clark County

From: [Michael Bonham](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Jefferson Davis Memorial (revised)
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 10:21:16 PM

Dear Ms Kamp,

I found that I had made a historical error in my previous email and I deeply apologize. It has been corrected and again I am truly sorry for any inconvenience.

I would like to respectfully ask that the Jefferson Davis Memorial remain in the Historical Registry. I am not a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, nor a member of the ANTIFA or the SJW, but I am a concerned citizen and historian. Jefferson Davis was a very progressive man for his time and he went on to affirm that there needed to be a process by which slaves could be emancipated. He understood that emancipation would not be successful without education and compensation to the slave owners.

" The slaves must be made fit for his freedom by education and discipline, and thus made unfit for slavery. And as soon as he becomes unfit for slavery, the master will no longer desire to hold him a a slave." J.D.

This is a remarkable statement for the period. It may be noted that no political platform of either political party addressed a solution to the nations slavery problem prior to the Civil War.

He also stated:

"I tried all in my power to avert this war. I saw it coming, for 12 years I worked night and day to prevent it, but I could not."

This memorial is truly of historical significance and a benefit to the county, as well as the state. It is a point of interest to historians, tourist, and my children's school is planning a field trip to visit this year. It also benefits the economy in an area where jobs are scarce, unless you work in the Casinos. I strongly support the Jefferson Davis Memorial remain in the Historical Registry and would like to thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mike Bonham

From: [Annie Donehey](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway marker
Date: Monday, October 02, 2017 3:05:46 PM

As a resident of Clark County, I am writing to voice my concerns and opposition to the inclusion of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway marker located at 24024 NW Maplecrest Rd, along I-5 near Ridgefield, Washington in the Clark County Heritage Register. The first and most important reasoning in my opposition is the inclusion of Confederate symbols and imagery due to their threatening and violent nature in their association with white supremacy and racist ideology, which has no place in Washington State. Second, addressing the original statues for the inclusion of the marker, the justification for the marker on the grounds of its significance to Clark County is a self-serving logic that provides an insufficient argument for its inclusion and holds no real historical significance to this county.

1. The marker itself seeks to preserve and honor the president of a nation separate from our own, holding values contrary to and in direct threat against those of our nation and the current State of Washington. The original marker for the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway was established during a spike in confederate monument erection noted by the Southern Poverty Law Center to coincide with state enactments of Jim Crow laws, which is argued by historians to illuminate an underlying intention of advancing white supremacist ideologies rather than honoring soldiers or historical figures. (<https://www.splcenter.org/20160421/whose-heritage-public-symbols-confederacy#findings> , <http://www.npr.org/2017/08/20/544266880/confederate-statues-were-built-to-further-a-white-supremacist-future>) The establishment of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway and its markers was from the efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). The UDC was a major driving force in the creation of many monuments that were established during the early 1900's to promote the ideals of southern white supremacy and has no historical significance or affiliation with Clark County. The preservation of white supremacist ideology and historical figures who fought for those values is in direct conflict with values and interests of Washington State for diversity and equality.
2. Grounds for the inclusion of the marker on the Clark County Heritage Register center around the cultural significance of the efforts by the UDC to establish the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway marker. This argument could be summarized as the marker is in recognition of its own existence. To include a marker on the grounds that it is significant because of its creation is self-serving, circular logic, and insufficient when weighted against the racial prejudice that surrounds its conception. The marker also lacks any further significance to Clark County and Washington State in that this area as part of the Washington Territory, was associated with the Union, having settlements established by Union Soldiers, and had no involvement or active role with the Confederacy or Confederate soldiers.

There is a strong response by some that the removal of Confederate monuments and markers are an attempt to erase history and dishonors the soldiers who fought. The removal of this marker is not an attempt to change or obfuscate history, as the history it represents is not a complete history nor is it the history of Clark County. The marker was created to honor and holds the name of a man that has no affiliation with Clark County and does not provide an

accurate representation of the violence committed by the Confederate states to the African American population. Without providing an accurate and culturally sensitive account of the Confederacy, the slavery it was founded on, or the continued promotion of white supremacy by the group that established the marker, this marker serves as propaganda, not education.

This marker stands as a symbol of racial prejudice and white supremacy that was established by a group foreign to our state and holds no substantial significance to the heritage of Clark County other than to continue to normalize racial violence. The presence of the marker on any official register is a being complicit and active in the promotion and recognition of such violent and dangerous rhetoric. The marker should be removed from the register. While the removal of the marker can't change history and the atrocities committed in the name of the Confederacy, its removal can be a step towards building a stronger, inclusive community that does not hold hate as a value.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Annie Donehey

Vancouver, WA 98663

adonehey@gmail.com

From: [harleydog20](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Jefferson Davis Memorial
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 4:39:02 AM

Dear Ms. Kamp,

Please add our names to the list of those who would like to see the Jefferson Davis memorial in Ridgefield, de-listed in the Clark County historic register.

For people who drive past this it is a reminder to many, particularly people of color of, a very sad time in our history, some of which seems to be repeating itself in current times. Since it is on private property it may not be possible to remove it altogether, which would be preferable, but at least please consider removing it from the historic register. The standard beliefs that it stood for then, and unfortunately, represents even today, have no place in our country let alone in Clark County.

Sincerely,

Jim and Andrea Buchmann
10004 NE 77th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98662

From: [Michael Bonham](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Keep the Jefferson Davis Memorial on the Historical Registry
Date: Sunday, October 01, 2017 2:16:40 AM

Dear Ms Kamp,

I would like to respectfully ask that the Jefferson Davis Memorial remain in the Historical Registry. I am not a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, nor a member of the ANTIFA or the SJW, but I am a concerned citizen and historian. Jefferson Davis was a very progressive man for his time and, having released his own slaves prior to the Civil War, he went onto affirm that there needed to be a process by which slaves could be emancipated.

" The slaves must be made fit for his freedom by education and discipline, and thus made unfit for slavery. And as soon as he becomes unfit for slavery, the master will no longer desire to hold him a a slave." J.D.

This is a remarkable statement for the period. It may be noted that no political platform of either political party addressed a solution to the nations slavery problem prior to the Civil War.

He also stated:

"I tried all in my power to avert this war. I saw it coming, for 12 years I worked night and day to prevent it, but I could not."

This memorial is truly of historical significance and a benefit to the county, as well as the state. It is a point of interest to historians, tourist, and my children's school is planning a field trip to see this year. It also benefits the economy in an area where jobs are scarce, unless you work in the Casinos. I strongly support the Jefferson Davis Memorial remain in the Historical Registry and would like to thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mike Bonham



I am writing you today to ask that you leave the Jefferson Davis Park Historical Monument on your registry. I am sure you have heard many differing opinions on this issue but ask that you hear mine as well. This issue is deeply seated in the hearts of many but I ask that instead of following current events and the constantly changing opinions of our nation's people, that you instead look at how this will be remembered in history. This issue has grown and morphed daily into something very far removed from the original point; that history is defined as the study of past events. To study and learn from our greatest achievements and biggest mistakes is how we evolve and grow as a nation and a world into something better than before. Many have begun to say that if we remove Confederate monuments based only on the fallacious opinion that they represent the glorification of slavery then we should remove every monument of the founding fathers as well as they were proven to have had slaves. We cannot remove these Confederate monuments for example without then removing all monuments and the state flag honoring the then slave owning former President George Washington. The greatest achievements made by our first president cannot be celebrated or commemorated simply due to the intrinsic flaw that he lived and participated in a time in our history when slavery was a reality. This is an opinion shared by many. All progress and monumental discovery throughout history is meaningless and should be destroyed only because it serves as a reminder to many that slavery was at some point a reality? How can we not look to these monuments as a shining example of how far we have come and instead seek to glorify that they represent a past that will never be repeated? Our country's history is not one to be ashamed of as it has laid the foundation for the very rights so many have today. That we should not honor these men simply because they were slave owners despite their influence on our nation, will not help us further our people and stay away from repeating the mistakes of our past. To learn from your mistakes, you must be able to look to them and educate yourself on its history. If you can't remember all the reasons for which something took place or you don't look at both sides impartially, you are doomed to repeat the wrongs done. The facts I will share with you are why I believe this monument should remain on the historical registry. Through the words shared from both Confederate and Union soldiers I will express these truths of history that are forgotten. This truth is distributed throughout federal records and is simply ignored in favor of focusing on slavery; which was not the reason the war for southern independence was fought.

Virginia is one of the founding states of our nation and was one of if not the first state to formally declare they wanted the heinous reality of the slave trade to end. Many discuss the Abolitionist Movement but fail to remember that the heart of that movement was in Virginia, which would later become the home to the Confederate Capitol. In 1778 the state of Virginia introduced a law titled, "An act for preventing further importation of slaves." This act stated that anyone whom should violate this law would have their slaves deemed free. The truth largely forgotten is that it was a southern state that officially put forth legislation in the hopes of preventing further slave importation. James Madison of Virginia stated that "The British Government constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to this infernal traffic." Thomas Jefferson, also from Virginia wrote, "One of the reasons Virginia felt compelled to secede from the established Government was that the British forced Virginia to endure the slave



trade.” While Virginia made attempts to pull away from the slave trade, northern states like Massachusetts and Rhode Island followed the lead of the British and began and later won one of the first constitutional battles to disavow Virginia’s newly instated law which prevented it from removing the slave trade. Allow me to repeat that northern states worked and succeeded to stop a southern state from abolishing slavery. It wasn’t solely British rule forcing the continuation of the slave trade onto Virginia but the involvement of the northern states as well, leading eventually to the war for southern independence.

James Madison and Thomas Jefferson were among many who put forth their opinion on why the War for Southern Independence was fought. Woodrow Wilson states in his book, “A history of the American people,” on page 231 that, “It was necessary to put the South at a moral disadvantage by transforming the contest from a war waged against states fighting for their independence into a war waged against states fighting for the maintenance and extension of slavery... and the world, it might be hoped, would see it as a moral war, not a political; and the sympathy of nations would begin to run for the north, not for the south.” Wilson expresses the need to morally disadvantage the southern cause in order to make the North look as though they were in the right. Much like society today spreads misinformation about the Civil War, which truly was derived by the rights of the states to withdraw their consent to be governed by an oppressive government. Winston Churchill states “The flags of the Confederate states of America were very important and a matter of great pride to those citizens living in the Confederacy. They are also a matter of great pride for their descendants as part of their heritage and history.” Patrick Cleburne, a famous supporter of abolition states, “I am with the South in life or in death, in victory or in defeat . . . I believe the North is about to wage a brutal and unholy war on a people who have done them no wrong, in violation of the Constitution and the fundamental principles of government. They no longer acknowledge that all government derives its validity from the consent of the governed. They are about to invade our peaceful homes, destroy our property, and inaugurate a servile insurrection, murder our men and dishonor our women. We propose no invasion of the North, no attack on them, and only ask to be left alone.” He went on to say, “Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.”

During the War for Southern Independence the Union didn’t bring the common thought of liberty with them. Much like Sherman’s march during the war the northern invaders came, took and destroyed in a fashion much like we would expect from a foreign army invading our country today. Americans took the lands of Americans and took the lives of innocent American women and children. Through this strife many spoke and wrote letters of the horrors that would follow the northern army as they marched through the Southern Confederacy. Union soldiers



wrote of the atrocities they were committing and how they went about achieving their goals. Much like Colonel Turchin of the Union Military. In 1862 General Buell published the finding of the court-martial against Turchin: “[HE] Allowed his command to disperse and in his presence or with his knowledge and that of his officers to plunder and pillage the inhabitant... They attempted an indecent outrage on a servant girl.... Destroyed the stock of fine bibles, and testaments.... Defaced, and kicked about the floor and trampled under foot.... A part of the brigade went to the plantation. Quartered in the [black] huts for weeks debauching the females... Mrs. Hollingsworth’s house was entered and plundered, the alarm and excitement occasioned miscarriage and subsequently her death.... Several soldiers ... committed rape on the person of a colored girl. The court finds the accused guilty as charged.” We should note that this wasn’t the end of Turchin’s crimes against the innocent civilians of the Confederacy. Though he was found guilty, shortly after on August 5th of 1862 Colonel Turchin was promoted to Brigadier General of the United States Volunteers personally by President Lincoln. Turchin accepted the promotion on September 1st and continued his career of devastation until October 4th, 1864. Clearly President Lincoln had no problem allowing multitudes of innocent civilians to suffer and pay for crimes they weren’t committing and had no say in. As Francis W. Springer put it, “We must remember that the majority of Southerners did not own slaves, and most certainly did not fight so others could own them. The real answer is quite simple, the south was fighting because it was invaded.” As I continue with more quotes of Northern atrocities during their invasion, I would like to point out that during these years, many states in the Union including Oregon would move forward with legislation that made it illegal to be an African American settler within their states. In places like Oregon, you were required to be accounted for by that of a white male in order to remain in their state and even then it was still illegal to be there even if you worked on the ships that brought in trading goods. The punishments for the crime of being African American and in their state could carry the penalty of death.

Many debate the participation of African Americans in the war for Southern Independence. Often the accusations are simply that the South conscripted soldiers into their military and that the Union willingly accepted African Americans without the need for forceful conscription. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that simply doesn’t support this claim. Through research of state and local records as well as diaries and letters you will find that this isn’t as cut and dry as some may have us all believe. Many African American men in fact volunteered to fight for Southern independence; in many cases by the thousands. There is proof in history of African American men marching into Southern cities flying the southern flags. Professor Ervin L. Jordan Jr., Author of *Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Virginia during the Civil War* writes, “Numerous black Virginians served with the confederate forces as soldiers, sailors, teamsters, spies, and hospital personnel.” There are several instances in history where the loyalty and honor of the African American southerner were tried; none more so than when the north would march through the southern lands. One instance was written about by a southern soldier and sent to a Union officer stating, “ The colored people... have been forced to remain all night on the wharf without shelter and without food... one had died, and other are suffering with disease. Your men have turned them out their houses, which they have built



themselves and have robbed some of them of their money and personal effects.” During the Northern invasion many soldiers would come across homes housing only defenseless women and children. Another Union soldier stated, “Dry up; We have seen enough of you southern women’s tears.” During this same time another soldier was reported to have walked up to the same young woman forcing a drink to her mouth and stated, “Drink, you damned old rebel, drink to the Union!” These northern soldiers continued ransacking homes even after they were begged to stop. One union soldier stated, “Protect you? Protect you rebels? Never, no protected for rebels.” Can you imagine what countless American women and children had to endure during this war? In Memphis in 1864 a report was released stating, “The Cavalry broke en masse in the camps of the colored women and are committing all sorts of outrages.” On December 30th 1864 General Rufus A. Saxton sent a report to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton where he noted Union atrocities. He stated that, “I found the prejudice of color and race here in full force, and the general feeling of the army of occupation was unfriendly to the blacks. It was manifested in various forms of personal insult and abuse, in depredations on their plantations, stealing and destroying their crops and domestic animals, and removing them of their money... the women were held as the legitimate prey of lust.” On May 12th 1862, a report was sent to the United States Secretary of the Treasury related to mass conscription of African Americans. “This has been a sad day on these islands... some 500 men were carried to Hilton head, the (Explicit) Africans were sad. Sometimes whole plantations, learning what was going on ran off to the woods for refuge. Others, with no means of escape submitted passively. This mode of conscription is repugnant.” The following days report stated that, “The blacks were taken from the fields without being allowed to go to their houses even to get a jacket. On some plantations the wailing and screaming were loud and the women threw themselves in despair on the ground. On some plantations the people took to the woods and were hunted by the union soldiers.” Acts like these brought about a letter by another Federal Agent stating, “This Conscription, has created a suspicion that the Government has not the interest in the blacks that it has professed, and many of them sighed yesterday for the ‘Old Fetters’ as being far better than the new liberty.” To me, it is truly heartbreaking that an army would invade on the pretense of freedom, and then rob those deserving of it of what liberties and freedoms they did have. The Union simply didn’t bring this freedom and Liberty with their during their invasion. More of these atrocities can be found through out the war, a report from Nashville, Tennessee stated this about Union officers, “Officers in command of colored troops are in constant habit of pressing all able-bodied slaves into the military service of the United States.” It is important to note that the man states constant habit, and not occasional occurrence. Ulysses Grant received a communique on February 26th, 1864, informing him that, “A Major of the colored troops is here with his party capturing up blacks, with or without their consent... they are being conscripted.” By now you can obviously tell that the Union had a habit of conscripting civilian African Americans against their will.

Previously I brought up the common thought that the south only conscripted African Americans soldiers into the armed forces. History would show that a great deal of men would come forward and volunteer their services to their state militias. As an organization, the SCV tries to educate people on all aspects of the War for Southern Independence. This includes the



honorable service of African Americans from the start to until the end of the war. It would be inappropriate and untruthful to forget that these men came forward to volunteer, fight and die for the state in which they had loyalty to. George W. Williams stated in 1888, “For more than 2 years before blacks were authorized to fight for the Union men of color had been extensively employed in belligerent operations of the Confederacy.” In North Carolina men from all over would come forward expressing their willingness to enlist and serve to defend their homes and family from and invading army. One such account is T.J. Minns June 5th 1862 letter in which he stated, “I can raise a company from 50-100 men of Mulattos of free men of color to serve the southern Confederacy.” While he was in New Bern North Carolina he wrote, “ 15-20 more free blacks have come forward as laborlores in defense of their city”. In Petersburg Virginia African American southerners would come in mass to volunteer for the state militia. These men volunteered to help fortify the city. So great was there patriotism for the cause that these men went into the local court house square where the proceeded to have a pro-cause rally. Former mayor John Dodson was so moved that he presented a folded Confederate flag to the group which they accepted. The groups spokesmen stated that, “We are willing to aid Virginia’s cause to our upmost ability”. Often people forget that these Southern African Americans believed that their future sat with their state. Much like most of the population at the time. Many of these men had an easy choice when the horrors and atrocities of an invading army reached the ears of Southerners of all racial ethnicities. I know of no other way to declare your loyalty to something other than declaring you would die for it. That is exactly what one African American group of volunteers did. The summer if 1861 The Winston Salem Peoples Press reported, “Fifteen free men of color left Salisbury N.C. for the mouth of the Cape Fear, volunteers for the service of the state. They were in fine spirits and each wore a placard on his hat bearing the inscription ‘we will die by the south.’” The evidence of men coming forward for the service of southern states continues on for pages and through several books written by people who were actually on the battlefield. These people who saw firsthand and witnessed the heroism of these brave men as they went into battle and saw as these men they went about their duty, not once wavering in their loyalty to the cause or in defense of their families.

I hope by this point that I have evoked an interest and willingness within you to search deeper and look longer before deciding to remove our monument from the historical registry. There is a great deal of additional topics I could bring forth to showcase how many different atrocities congruently created the need for Civil War. For example, before the war the tax rate on the Southern people was increased from 20% to 47%, a crippling increase many couldn’t afford to pay. Another example being how the Corwin Amendment was backed by Lincoln and approved by congress to keep the southern states in the union, all but assuring a continuation of slavery with no end. We can discuss more atrocities committed in various southern states by those entering them under the pretense of liberty. I think it is important to consider what some of the Confederacy’s military leaders had to say about the war. Most of all perhaps would be Confederate leader Jefferson Davis, who some erroneously believe was fighting this war for slavery when in fact he believed in an end to slavery and was working towards that goal. It was clear that Jefferson Davis had similar political views with George Washington and Thomas



Jefferson. Jefferson Davis stated that, “Governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the people.” Just as Americans fought for the right to secede from British rule, so similarly did the southern states have the right to secede from northern rule in reflection of the many injustices enacted by the northern government. Jefferson Davis is often portrayed as a bad individual simply for being the President of the Confederate States of America. He had stated during the war, “All we ask is to be let alone.” Jefferson Davis was informed that he had been elected to the position of President of the CSA. Records show that he had concerns about taking this position for various reasons but knew he had a duty to serve his people and to lead where they were leaderless. Jefferson Davis states, “A people morally and intellectually equal to self-government must also be equal in self-defense.” During his days of leadership Jefferson Davis influenced many aspects of our country that we still see today, stretching from coast to coast.

Though Washington state was only a territory at the time, southern men fought for, defended and helped build her. The bridge named after George Edward Picket is a great example. He helped build Fort Bellingham and the construction of the first bridge across Whatcom creek. He left that project to defend his home state of Virginia during the war. Should we tear down the bridge because the hands of a confederate soldier have helped build it? The Union took part in the slave trade for decades before and after the revolutionary war. The North maintained their grip on the slave trade and the money they acquired through selling people to the Caribbean and to South America. History shows that free African American’s feared that the north would capture and sell them to other nations. CSA President Jefferson Davis stated, “We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honor and independence; we ask no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms.” The South on several occasions sought peace and came forward with letters from the CSA Government only to be declined the right to enter the white house and present these letters to President Lincoln. As President Davis said, “I love the Union and the Constitution, but I would rather leave the Union with the Constitution than remain in the Union without it.” At one point he was even confronted about the atrocities of the Union. It was pushed upon him that he should repay the Union in kind for what they had done to the civilian population but he was steadfast with honor and integrity that he would not put forth any man to commit such heinous deeds on another, even an invading army. As Judah P. Benjamin stated, “When it was urged upon Jefferson David, that it was his duty to the people and to the army to endeavor to repress... outrages by retaliation, he was immovable in his resistance to such counsels, insisting that it was repugnant to every sentiment of justice and humanity that the innocent should be made victims for the crimes of such monsters.”



Please don't remove our Monument from the historical registry. Help everyone to better understand the extent in which this war impacted the lives of all those living in our country. Help us extend the brand of friendship to those who may disagree with us in the hopes that we can come to understand and respect each other's backgrounds and move forward remembering where our country has been, honoring our forefathers for the strife's in which they participated in. So that we may heal the wounds of our country now festering over 150 years and truly bring about a more beautiful and perfect Union between the states. We should not look to discredit our southern history. Just as we would not move to remove those monuments dedicated to the Union in our home states we ask that you do not seek the removal of any Confederate monuments. We simply ask to have the other side of these events heard. We ask only to be allowed to honor those fallen and to open the eyes of many to the truth; that the confederacy did not stand a fight for slavery but for the protection and interests of all of its people.

Sincerely,

Garth P. McKinney

1st LT Commander.

Hunley Award Coordinator

Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Pacific NW Division.



From: [Norman Ernst](#)
To: [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Subject: Removal of Jefferson Davis Highway markers from County Historic Register
Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017 6:31:10 PM

Dear Board members,

I received notice recently that you are considering the removal from the County Historic Register the Jefferson Davis Highway markers, once located in Vancouver and in Blaine, Washington, . It is not clear who the outside forces are that are making such a proposal but it seems clear to me that many of them are the very ones who trespassed on private property and vandalized them in recent months. I have read some of the e-mails sent to your office and there seems to be a common thread in all of them. People are taking offense at the fact that Mr. Davis was President of the Confederate States during the Civil War which makes him a target since anyone associated with the Confederacy is now being labeled as "White supremacists" or promoters of slavery in general. I would like to suggest that this is a smoke screen for a much larger agenda. Recent events have shown that the removal of Confederate monuments is just a starting point and there are other monuments to famous Americans that are in danger of being removed. The Jefferson Davis markers were made to commemorate events that occurred years before the Civil War began.

In 1853 President Franklin Pierce appointed Jefferson Davis his Secretary of War. In that capacity, he was commissioned by the President to survey land along the western coastline in order to build new military forts and roads to connect them in order to move troops. Among those were Ft. Canby on the Washington side and Ft. Stevens on the Oregon side of the Columbia river. It was a part of Davis' legacy when he and his team mapped out the location of new forts along our western coastline to protect our country from foreign invasion or attack. In addition, some of the roads included in that survey became the forerunners of highways that we use today. This includes Hwy 99 which extended from the northern to the southern edges of Washington.

So in 1939 when the Daughters of the Confederacy placed the Jefferson Davis markers in Vancouver and Blaine, it was in honor of Mr. Davis' work as Secretary of War and his valuable service to his government and the American people. The markers deserve their historic designation and I hope that your commission will see that they deserve to continue to remain on the County Historic Register. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to address this matter.

Norm E.