



DEPARTMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS



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DEPARTMENT ADVISORY 2020-2021 #7

TO: Department of the Chesapeake Camp Commanders

DATE: October 26, 2020

FROM: Jay Rarick, Department Commander

SUBJECT: Civil War Flags and Monuments

Dear Camp Commanders,

1. Department Advisory 2020-2021 #2, Subject as Above, dated 11 June 2020 is hereby rescinded.
2. Per General Order No. 2, SERIES 2017-2018, 21 August 2017, all Brothers are reminded that the Commander-in-Chief will serve as the primary point of contact on all media inquiries involving the removal of veteran's monuments. Media outlets should be directed to forward their inquiries to the SUVCW National Headquarters at: 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Suite 240, Harrisburg, PA 17103- 2411, Telephone: (717) 232-7000 Fax: (717) 412-7492.

<http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/General-Order-No.-2.pdf>

3. The resolution from the 2017 National Encampment at Lansing, MI, entitled *Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy*, **has been rescinded by action of the 2020 National Encampment.**

<http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Battlefield-flag-Policy-January2019-edit.pdf>

Note: This is not a permission to take a position on the subject in absence of a current policy. Please understand that, for the time being, without an official SUVCW position the answer is *we have no position at present*. No one can take a position publicly that in any way would represent itself as the position of the SUVCW, Department or Camp.

It was necessary to rescind the existing policy so that a new policy may be instituted to replace it per resolution of the 2019 National Encampment. At that Encampment a committee was created to craft an updated policy. Unfortunately, the committee did not complete their work in time for it to be discussed and voted on at the 2020 National Encampment. The committee's work has been extended, by vote of the Encampment, and it is hoped that they will shortly finish their existing draft so that it may be implemented by vote of the Council of Administration (COA).

In order to implement new policy, however, it was necessary for the Encampment to rescind the existing policy (only the National Encampment can undo a resolution of a previous National Encampment).¹

¹ There was much discussion that the former policy was in violation of our 1998 Federal Charter, specifically *Title 36, United States Code, "Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations" CHAPTER 2003 –SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, Sec. 200302 (6) "to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, equal rights, and impartial justice for all."* In such case, the Commander-in-Chief would have authority to rescind the resolution, by General Order, as being in violation of Federal Law. With passionate argument on both sides, and legal opinion necessary to support such a move, it was deemed that having the Encampment vote to rescind the resolution would be more straightforward, though not as far reaching in its potential effects.