

Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans Major John C. Hutto Camp #443 Jasper, Alabama

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Major John C. Hutto Camp & York Rifles at the Townley Christmas Parade 2015

Major John C. Hutto Camp

January Meeting Notice

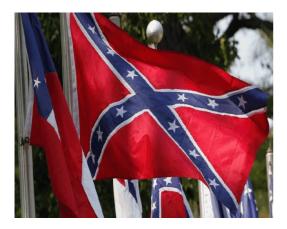
Sunday, 17 January 2016 - 2:30 PM

New Hope Church of Christ Hwy 69 between Jasper & Oakman

Memorial Service & Grave Marker Dedication for Pvt. Byrd Covin 43rd Alabama Infantry, Co. K

> 21 Gun Salute provided by St. Clair Camp #308 & York Rifles

Confederate flag controversies heat up for the holidays - Published December 20, 2015 FoxNews.com



The Confederate flag flies outside the museum at Confederate Memorial Park

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...circa 1865.

A new crop of Confederate flag controversies boiled up along the East Coast just in time for the holidays.

In Virginia, residents are fighting over the flying of the rebel flag in Danville, as a new billboard welcomes drivers to "the last capital of the Confederacy." About 50 supporters carried the Confederate flag during an unauthorized display at a Roanoke Christmas parade earlier this month. And the flag won a victory in Pennsylvania on Tuesday when Kutztown University overturned a ban on the rebel insignia. "It's our right to show our heritage, our pride, what we believe in," Virginia Flaggers member Tommy Goddard told WDBJ7.

The Danville billboard, which went up last week, greets those entering town with the message: "Welcome to Danville. The last capital of the Confederacy and proud of it." Those leaving town see a similar sentiment with the Beverley Hillbilly's-like addition, "Y'all come back."

Some residents have already complained about flagpoles with Confederate flags the group has placed around the city, Goddard said. City officials confirmed to WDBJ7 that a complaint was filed to the planning and zoning board.

Goddard's group doesn't seem intent on backing down.

"Hoping that the city realizes if they go for this code, that there is always other ways to get around ordinances and codes, other ways to make sure that flag or flag pole stays up," Goddard said.

The Danville debate is at least the second Confederate hullabaloo in Virginia this month.

As many as 50 flag bearers carried the rebel banner during a parade in Roanoke on Dec. 11, The Roanoke Times reported. The unauthorized display was reportedly organized by several pro-Confederate flag groups and formed behind the permitted float for the Sons of Confederate Veterans 28th Infantry Camp 49.

The Roanoke NAACP, which opposed the Sons of Confederate Veterans float even before the unsanctioned flag bearers showed up, organized an opposition rally near the parade's beginning.

"It shocks and saddens me that these issues resulted in individuals on both sides of the debate resorting to the use of a Christmas parade as a venue to further their cause, not celebrate the season," Downtown Roanoke Inc. board Chairman Tony Pearman told The Times. DRI organizes the parade.

And while Confederate flag supporters in both Virginia cases face significant opposition to their cause, the flag claimed a win in a small Pennsylvania town Tuesday.

Kutztown University overturned a ban that barred the Confederate flag – and swastikas – from being displayed inside dorm rooms and other areas on campus, Inside Higher Ed reported.

"The Confederate flag and swastika are NOT permitted in any residence hall, suite and apartment or student room," the original policy, enacted earlier this month, stated. The word "not" was uppercased and bolded in the original text.

But the university's legal counsel put the kibosh on Kutztown's prohibition, citing a need to review the ban's "constitutionality." "The university will educate our students and other members of our community, so they will understand the historical and modern context for these symbols," a university statement issued Tuesday said, "and we will continue to advocate for an environment wherein all those associated with our university can feel valued and safe."

UA removes portrait of Confederate General John Tyler Morgan from Morgan Hall



By Joshua Gauntt

The University of Alabama removed the portrait of John Tyler Morgan from the Morgan Hall English Building on Friday.

Morgan served as a Confederate General during the WBTS and later as a United States Senator with ties to the Ku Klux Klan.

A group called We Are Done has been

pushing for this along with removing other ties to racism from campus buildings. They call the university's move progress.

"By removing it, it acknowledges it but there is still so much more progress that needs to be done. We want more. We deserve more. The university deserves more and we've overcome so much that we shouldn't just say we're ok with taking a picture down even though you are surrounded by remnants of racism and segregation and inequality on campus," said Kalyn Lee, an organizer with We Are Done.?

Sources say the staff at Morgan Hall has been pushing for the portrait to be removed for some time.

UA released the following statement:

Works from the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art will be exhibited in the foyer of Morgan Hall, located on the UA Campus. When the University accepted the collection in 2008, we committed to make the art accessible to the public and to exhibit the works on campus and use them for educational purposes. The large wall space in the foyer of Morgan Hall provides an appropriate campus venue for extended display of works from the collection. The historic portrait of Hon Tyler Morgan will reside in the University's Hoole Special Collections Library.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Robert Olin selected the area, in conjunction with a request from the Department of English to use the area in ways that are more relevant and current to the academic discipline. Artwork will be installed by early January, and works will be rotated periodically.

Abraham Lincoln's killing was 'workplace violence'

By John Phillips - December 2015



Sometimes it's hard to admit you have it wrong. It's particularly hard to swallow when the nation collectively gets it wrong and has done so for a century and a half. But it's finally time to correct the record once and for all — upon further reflection, we should stop referring to the killing of President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth as a political assassination and start calling it what it really was, "workplace violence." In Civil War America John Wilkes Booth was quite possibly the most famous actor in the country and was even referred to as "the most handsomest man in America."

The New York Daily News dubbed him "the man who could have been remembered as the George Clooney of his day."

Additionally, the stage was good to Booth financially. In the late 1850s he became wealthy as an actor, earning more than \$20,000 a year -- that's over a half a million a year today's dollars.

Looking back at the facts, the media was wrong to haphazardly declare the killing a politically motivated assassination.

After dazzling audiences with his stage performances up and down the Eastern Seaboard, family friend John T. Ford enticed Booth to perform at his brand new 1,500 seat theater in Washington D.C.

Booth took him up on his offer and promptly took the starring role in Charles Selby's "The Marble Heart."

President Lincoln was a fan of the theater and watched the play from his box.

According to Lincoln historian Dorothy Kunhardt, during the play Booth aggressively shook his finger at Lincoln while delivering a line of dialogue.

Kunhardt says that Lincoln's sister-in-law,

who was watching the play with him, noticed the act of aggression and said, "Mr. Lincoln, he looks as if he meant that for you."

Lincoln responded by saying, "He does look pretty sharp at me, doesn't he?"

On another occasion, Lincoln's son Tad saw Booth on stage and was so awed with his performance that he invited the actor to meet the president between acts.

Booth declined this request.

On April 14, 1865, Booth entered Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., as President Lincoln watched a performance of "Our American Cousin."

He then shot the president in the head, jumped from the box to the stage, shouted "Sic semper tyrannis!" a Latin phrase meaning "thus always to tyrants," and fled.

Looking back at the facts, the media was wrong to haphazardly declare the killing a politically motivated assassination.

Did anyone at the time bother to consider the pressures that actors are under during live performances in such a large venue?

Clearly there was some kind of history between the two men.

Author Gene Smith wrote that Booth's acting may not have been as precise as his brother Edwin's. Sentiments like this had to be a blow to Booth's healthy ego.

Did Lincoln share this belief? If so, it's safe to assume that he created a hostile work environment for Booth and shares some of the culpability for this spontaneous act of violence.

But people at the time probably just weren't sophisticated enough to understand the nature of the workplace relationship between actors and regular members of the audience.

Americans leaped to the conclusion that Booth killed Lincoln over lingering resentment related the Civil War.

This 'rush to judgement' prompted a predictable jingoistic response from a blood thirsty American public who were left with the impression that Booth and many of his fellow confederates weren't peaceful lovers of the union.

One hundred and fifty years later, it's time we set the record straight and declare the killing of President Lincoln to be an act of "workplace violence."

John Phillips can be heard weekdays at 3 pm ET on "The Drive Home with Jillian Barberie and John Phillips" on KABC/AM 790 in Los Angeles and writes a weekly column for the Orange County Register.

Removal of Confederate monuments violates free-speech right to preserve history, suit says Debra Cassens Weiss Dec 21, 2015 - Lee Circle statue



A 1917 photo of the statue in Lee Circle. The statue of Robert E. Lee was raised, and Tivoli Circle renamed Lee Circle, in 1884.

Several historic preservation groups have filed a federal lawsuit challenging a decision to remove four Confederate monuments in New Orleans.

The suit was filed hours after the city council voted 6-1 to remove the statues on Thursday, report CNN and the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The complaint cites alleged violation of federal and local laws, as well as the federal and Louisiana constitutions.

Among the monuments slated for removal and storage are statues of Confederate Gens.

Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard and of the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis.

The suit claims removal of the monuments violates the plaintiffs' First Amendment right to free expression, "which they exercise by maintaining and preserving the historic character and nature of the city of New Orleans, including their monuments."

The plaintiffs also claim a violation of equal protection because they say they were treated differently than monument opponents. "The city's effort to move the four monuments appears to have originated with the musician Wynton Marsalis, whose opinion has inexplicably been afforded more weight than that of the residents of New Orleans," the suit says. "The defendants intentionally treated plaintiffs, and persons opposed to removal of the four monuments, differently from other similarly situated individuals, and there is no justification for the difference in treatment."

The Democratic mayor of New Orleans, Mitch Landrieu, did credit the famous jazz musician in June for prompting him to ask the city council to reconsider which monuments to display, according to an earlier article in the Times-Picayune. Landrieu reportedly told a crowd that a 2014 conversation with Marsalis about the city's tricentennial made him rethink his own attitude towards monuments which honor Confederate figures.

Marsalis was born and raised in New Orleans. He wrote an opinion piece for the Times-Picayune on Dec. 15 in favor of renaming Lee Circle and removing the statue of the general, in which he said: "When one surveys the accomplishments of our local heroes across time from Iberville and Bienville, to Andrew Jackson, from Mahalia Jackson, to Anne Rice and Fats Domino, from Wendell Pierce, to John Besh and Jonathan Batiste, what did Robert E. Lee do to merit his distinguished position? He fought for the enslavement of a people against our national army fighting for their freedom; killed more Americans than any opposing general in history; made no attempt to defend or protect this city; and even more absurdly, he never even set foot in Louisiana. In the heart of the most progressive and creative cultural city in America, why should we continue to commemorate this legacy?"

Marsalis suggested in his op-ed that the space in Lee Circle could instead be devoted to a monument celebrating the support the city received from the international community after Hurricane Katrina.

The plaintiffs-the Monumental Task Committee, the Louisiana Landmarks Society, the Foundation for Historical Louisiana and a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans-also claim that removal of the monuments violates a Louisiana constitutional provision recognizing the right of the people to preserve, foster and promote their linguistic and cultural origins. According to the Times-Picayune, another argument in the suit "reprises arguments in a lawsuit filed in the early 1990s and supported, among others, by avowed Ku Klux Klan member David Duke." The argument: The U.S. Department of Transportation, which uses federal funds for streetcars, has to use the money in a way that preserves historic properties. The department should prevent the removal of the monuments until a required review can be conducted, the suit says.

The 1990s suit resulted in a court order preserving one of the monuments now at issue, according to the new suit.

A hearing on the plaintiff's motion will be heard on Jan. 14, the Times Picayune reported in a follow-up article. Mayor Landrieu has agreed not to remove the monuments before that hearing.



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