



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
NATIONAL POLICY
ON MONUMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

The Sons of Union Veterans condemns the criminal vandalism or unlawful destruction of monuments dedicated to the memory of American Soldiers from all wars as a breach of faith and duty to our ancestors, and to the principles of freedom they fought to preserve and pass on to their descendants.

- l. The primary purpose of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to perpetuate the memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought and sacrificed for the Union from 1861 to 1865 and in many cases were wounded or died to save the United States of America.
 - a. It is our solemn duty to honor the soldiers belonging to the Union, “Boys in Blue” who fought that terrible war and to oversee the process of preserving the memories of those soldiers and sailors, and their courage, tenacity and strength, by raising monuments commemorating their service and deeds. The erection of such monuments has continued down through the years, extending even unto the present day. These monuments can be found in cities, towns, and villages across the entire country, and indeed, beyond our shores.
 - b. Furthermore, we seek to honor the men and women, both public and private, who provided the inspiration and leadership, which lead to the salvation of the Union and the liberation of a people from bondage.
 - c. One of the ways we perpetuate the memory of the “Boys in Blue” is to care for and work to repair those monuments dedicated to their sacrifice when the need arises. To this end, we have established ways by which we may assist in the erection and repair of monuments and memorials. This work is ongoing.
 - d. Recent, criminal acts of vandalism and outright destruction of monuments dedicated to our Union heroes by groups or individuals demanding their elimination or removal have increased. With regard to the vandalism or destruction of such monuments it is the policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that there should be criminal prosecution of perpetrators of such crimes by legal authority.
 - e. In cases of organized attempts to remove monuments, those efforts to remove them are to be actively opposed in all ways that are both practical and legal. The methods by which this active opposition would happen will differ from case to case, given the unique situation involved in each event. However, in all cases, the Commander-in-Chief, or his designee, acting with his instructions and under his authority, should set the course of action to be followed in addressing the problem.

- II. Monuments serve the necessary purpose of inspiring and educating future generations of Americans on the sacrifices made by their forefathers. Further, monuments are visible signs of the patriotism and selflessness shown by American soldiers and sailors, who placed the country before their own lives and fortunes, to ensure the preservation of the Nation. By this policy, we state our intent and reaffirm our commitment to our honored dead and dedicate ourselves to do all in our power as an organization, to ensure that the memorials to them will be preserved for the inspiration and education of future generations.

Approved by the Council of Administration, 6 November 2020