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Monument Protection Policy

Dear Brothers,

Having received some questions and comments from our fellow Brothers on the SUVCW's National Policy on Monument Protection, as well as having heard of some posts on social media that misunderstand what the policy says and means, I would like to take a few minutes to offer some thoughts for your consideration.

Today, our great nation is faced with anti-patriots who have been and are illegally destroying private and public property. They have pulled down statues of Union Civil War heroes and even of President Lincoln. They have attacked monuments and memorials to great Americans from every period in our history.

In this context, the 2020 National Encampment directed that our National Policy on Monument Protection be updated in order to be relevant to what has been going on today. Our National Policy on Monument Protection was carefully written with this goal in mind. The introductory paragraph is the keystone for the rest of the policy.

“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.”

I want to emphasize that it is the policy of the SUVCW to honor American veterans, as defined by Federal (Public) Law, from ALL wars. Anyone who says otherwise is flat wrong.

Some Brothers have asked, “because the policy doesn't specifically mention Civil War monuments, are we no longer defending our Civil War heritage?” I assure you that our great Order remains as fully dedicated as ever to preserving and teaching the true history of the Civil War. We aren't retreating on any front. We aren't bowing to political correctness. We have chosen the best strategy to fight to preserve our nation's history.

Far from abandoning support for monument preservation for any one era or side, we have expanded our reach to all American Veterans of all wars. That is clearly in line with our charge given to us in our Congressional Charter. Thus, the policy has more of a desired goal of helping to keep green

the memories of all our veterans, the things they did, qualities they possessed, and what they stood for. It also combats "cancel-culture" right across the board, better than did the former policy.

If we decide to support legislation to protect monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy! If we want to oppose the lawful attempts to remove monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy! If we want to call for prosecution of criminals who maliciously destroy monuments, any monuments, we are encouraged to do so by this policy!

On a related topic, a number of Brothers have expressed their concern regarding the outside commentary in social media and other venues regarding this policy. To this, I would encourage you all to read the policy itself; you will see that such comments are uninformed and baseless.

Brothers, I hope you found this special message helpful in explaining the real background, intent, and impact of the National Policy on Monument Protection.

Thank you for all the great work you do to keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue! Every day you make me more and more proud to be a member of our great Order!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,



Brian C. Pierson
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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Jonathan C. Davis
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National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War