



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Sons of Confederate Veterans

"Historic Elm Springs"

9 July 2015

STATEMENT BY CHARLES KELLY BARROW, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE SCV

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is dismayed that the politicians of the great state of South Carolina have traded their integrity for the fleeting benefit of appeasing those individuals and groups who do not let facts stand in the way of their objectives. Not only does the removal of this flag constitute a breach of trust arising from the assurances of permanent protection when the Confederate Battle Flag was removed from the Capitol to the Monument, it also evidences a capitulation to the malicious campaign that has fanned the flames of divisiveness for the sole purpose of political gain. It is a politically convenient insult to the legacy of millions of South Carolinians.

Like all Americans, we are broken hearted at the act of senseless evil that took the lives of 9 beautiful souls at the Emanuel AME Church. It was the work of a deranged racist who wished to provoke the kind of disharmony and division that has been unintentionally created by this hastily conceived legislative act.

We, the SCV, have been outspoken against the use of our ancestor's symbols for hateful purposes. We do not tolerate it within our membership or outside our membership.

Our organization was founded in 1896 by the Confederate Veterans who fought under this Battle Flag. We were charged by them with upholding their honor and the memory of their extraordinary record of valor and sacrifice. We are their flesh and blood, and we will continue to oppose the wave of cultural cleansing and political correctness that sullies their name and divides Americans of good will.

We will also escalate our fight against the demagogues of all races, who are closed-minded to the Confederate Flag's many positive contexts. Our membership is multi-racial and multi-ethnic and we are supported by a strong majority of the American people.

The removal of this Flag from the Memorial where it is properly displayed as an important symbol of South Carolina's difficult journey is not the courageous way to build bridges to the future. No political act can erase the memory of these brave and good men. And as this particular flag comes down, thousands more are being lifted, for the St. Andrews Cross stands not for hate, but for love.

Commander in Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans