

INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE OF DURHAM AND VICINITY
ELDER JAMES BLAKE, PRESIDENT

A Message from Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham and Vicinity Regarding the Recent Events in Durham

Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?

We are at a time in our nation's history when the stench of racial prejudice and bigotry has personified itself. Once again, this disease has shown itself. As people of faith, it is a malady we had hoped had been cured. Sadly, we see now that ugly illness was only in remission.

This week the citizens of Durham took to the streets to show the world that there is no place in our beloved city or anywhere else in the United States of America for hate, bigotry, and racism. In no uncertain terms, they made it known loud and clear that the KKK, Neo-Nazis, and other extremist groups were not welcome in the Bull City.

Our beloved Durham and nation and have been at this place before. This day is not unlike another day in our nation's (not always bright) history, when the poor and the oppressed were being ignored, when racist men and women spewed their venom of malice and hatred.

It was at that moment God did what God always does. God moved. He raised out of obscurity a 20th Century prophet the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and caused him to ask a question, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" It would later become the title of his last book.

Dr. King would challenge the nation to a moment of decision. He would point out that a moment of crisis is always a moment of decision. King's question is as relevant now as it was then.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham and Vicinity believes that no truer words have ever been spoken. Where do we go from here? Chaos? Indifference? Silence? The Status Quo? Or do we pursue aggressively the "Beloved Community?"

As followers of Jesus Christ, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham and Vicinity, now in its 75th year as an organization, stands in solidarity to say that we will not tolerate racism, intolerance, or injustice!

As ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have chosen sides. We will not remain neutral. Remaining neutral is not an option. Neutrality empowers the oppressor and victimizes the oppressed. Silence emboldens those who persecute and casts down the persecuted.

People of good will no longer tolerate anyone who desires to honor, celebrate and re-establish a very dark period of American history. For sure, 240 years of slavery is America's original sin. Much effort has been made to move toward a color-blind society and become the "beloved community" Dr. King envisioned.

As people of faith we strive to make this "beloved community" a reality, one of freedom and discipline, compassion and passion, united and diverse all bound together by our God's love.

It is in the spirit and hope for the "beloved community" that The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham and Vicinity calls for the immediate removal of all symbols of the Confederacy that are displayed on government property including our United States Capitol.

We believe that when this is done, we can begin to move from chaos to community.

*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth;
and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.*

Acts 17:26 (NIV)



Robin Kirk [redacted]

Invitation to present before the Durham City-County Committee on Confederate Monuments on June 21st

Carson Holloway <carson.holloway@duke.edu>
To: Robin Kirk [redacted]
Cc: "Charles.LeCount@ncdcr.gov" <Charles.LeCount@ncdcr.gov>

Thu, May 17, 2018 at 11:50 AM

Hi Robin,

The Board of the Bennett Place Support Fund met last night and discussed the possibility of presenting before the Durham City-County Committee on Confederate Monuments on June 21st at 7pm. While we understand and respect the mission of the Committee and the larger concerns of the community, we don't feel that a representative of this Board is an appropriate party to represent the State of North Carolina which owns and operates the Bennett Place Historic Site. We would respectfully suggest that Charles (Chuck) Lecount, Deputy Director of North Carolina Historic Sites within the NC Department of Cultural Resources be invited to meet the Committee on June 21st. I have taken the liberty of emailing him to alert him to our recommendation and copying him on this email.

Two ideas came out from our Board discussion which I wanted to share with you.

First, the Bennett Place is not a Confederate monument and is, rather, a monument to peace and to the reunification of the country. The initial move to save the site in the 1920's was based on this principle and Unity was the theme and still is.

Secondly, the Board feels strongly the we would not support the relocation of the plinth from the Confederate statue that was in front of the old Durham Courthouse on the Bennett Place site, although, again, the site itself is the responsibility of the State. Our feeling is that Bennett Place stands on its own as a representation of both the location of the surrender and a historically accurate depiction of the look of a Central North Carolina yeoman's farmstead. Our mission is to support the educational/cultural role of the site.

I am happy to discuss all this further.

Thanks, Carson.

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22-06-18

To: Durham County Board of Commissioners',
Confederate Memorials & Monuments,
North Carolina, USA.

From: G.E. LEFURGY,
Civil War historian,
Sydney, Australia.

Dear Sir/Ma'am-

Please to include this communique towards being in favour of restoring the Confederate monument which was displaced, ('The Boys Who Wore The Gray'). Allowing or condoning this nature of action can only further the social divisions which are gripping your local area, state and country.

As a life-long Civil War historian, originally from Canada and now residing in Australia, I can not approve of this unjust demonisation and emotional nationalism which has been witnessed the last few years upon Confederate history, rather than a reasoned patriotism and critical reflection on American history through the era.

I can attest personally that restoring the statue would go a great length to restoring esteem in America from the world historical vantage point.

Regards,


G.E. LEFURGY.

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August 2018

Remove Stephanie Diane Ford from Durham Confederate Monument Committee for Extreme Bias.

88 have signed. Let's get to 100!



Greg Adams started this petition to [City-County Committee on Confederate Monuments and Memorials in Durham NC](#).

Remove Durham NC committee member Stephanie Diane Ford for anti confederate bias and prejudice.

Start a petition of your own

This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?

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[This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?](#)

Updates

- 4 months ago
50 supporters
- 4 months ago
Greg Adams started this petition

Reasons for signing

LATEST NEWS

August 19, 2017 12:44 PM

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and Durham NAACP call for removal of all Confederate symbols

BY OMAR S. BEASLEY AND ROLAND W. STATON JR.

Once again, the world bore witness to the ugly underbelly of this country's racial history. Due to the alarming nature of the incidents in Charlottesville, Virginia, along with the deficient and inappropriate response from the White House, The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and the Durham branch NAACP feel it is imperative that we speak out.

The Durham Committee and the Durham NAACP stand firmly with those who oppose all neo-Nazi, alt-right, white supremacists and sympathizers who marched in Charlottesville and across the country. We denounce the actions taken by groups who continue to mask their hatred of Black people, Hispanic people, Jews and other various marginalized groups, under the guise that they are preserving American values and culture.

We grieve the loss of Heather Heyer and others who stood in peaceful protest of hate and racism. We applaud the witnesses and disruptors who continue to work to bring these perpetrators to justice.

The actions taken by this mob dial back to a time in our history where white supremacy was empowered by the government and celebrated freely and publicly. Clearly our government has given this group the leeway to do the same things now, in 2017. Well the DCABP and the Durham NAACP believe that with the support of our community we can send the message that we will not tolerate this hate. We will not tolerate this violence against our humanity and we will not elect a government that perpetuates those views. Let this be the time when we rise up to and stand in solidarity with the fearless ones who fight at the front lines against racism.

“

THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THIS MOB (IN CHARLOTTESVILLE) DIALS BACK TO A TIME IN OUR HISTORY WHERE WHITE SUPREMACY WAS EMPOWERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND CELEBRATED FREELY AND PUBLICLY.

The committee and the Durham NAACP understand the emotion, rage, and frustration that fueled the vandalism the confederate statue here in Durham, as these quote "monuments" are a constant reminder of the racist and prejudiced ideologies that still plague this city and the state. While we do not encourage acts which violate the law, we understand the desire to fight back against the notion that these symbols of hatred should be memorialized in our city. If we are to heal and move forward together we must agree that the atrocities of our past should neither be celebrated nor further perpetuated in OUR city of Durham.

With this in mind, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and the Durham NAACP makes this official request to the elected officials of both the county and city government. With great earnestness and expediency, we request the immediate removal of all Confederate memorials, flags, statues, memorabilia, plaques, certificates, or any other commemorative objects which exist on city or county property.

This request is made in memory of those who have lost their lives in the fight against racism and white supremacy here in Durham, in Charlottesville and other parts of this country. It is made remembering the millions of enslaved African people who endured years of torture and brutality, who built this nation brick by brick, bale by bale, AND survived to produce generations of Americans who continue to make this nation stronger.

It is our hope that the removal of these Confederate items sends an emphatic message that bigotry, racism and white supremacy is not condoned, tolerated, encouraged, or accepted in the city of Durham. This city and county have a history of leading the way in North Carolina towards equality and freedom. We must remember the bravery of our past and act swiftly to squelch any attempt to spread hatred and cut it off at the pass now.

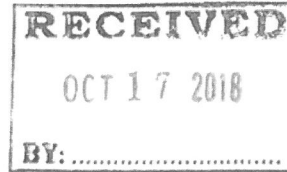
Again, we stand in solidarity with all of Durham's citizens against racism, hate and all other divisive ideologies to support a North Carolina where we are safe, protected and can call our home

Omar S. Beasley is the chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. Roland W. Staton Jr. is the president of the Durham NAACP.



MORE LATEST NEWS

COMMENTS



03-09-18

To: Durham City-County Committee,
Durham, North Carolina, USA.

Re.: Confederate Monuments and Memorials.

From: Parties Interested, Civil War History as
ascribed.

Dear Commissioners-

This communique regards the appearance of Miss Teresa ROANE, of Richmond, Virginia, before yourselves regarding above subject on 23 August 2018, making submission of her expertise. This hearing, you are aware, met to consider five charges. They being-

- 1) Engage in transparent processes with the public consideration with regards to remnants of Confederate history in Durham.
- 2) Propose possible options on dispensation on the torn-down Confederate monument in front of the Durham Courthouse and the future of the said statue's base.
- 3) Catalogue all known monuments of the Confederacy and remnants of same and/or depictions of enslavement existing in Durham.
- 4) Propose to City/Council officials', as appropriate, a plan re. dispensation of ibid statues/monuments/remnants/etc.
- 5) Committee may solicit, at discretion, advice from the public on both events and location of historical items/events/etc, important to the history of Durham.

I've watched have the footage of same meeting and wish to convey the following:

First, please to accept my thanks for giving Miss ROANE the opportunity to appear. Her vast knowledge upon the Civil War is well-known. I believe her appearance benefited the Committee's mandate, the Durham general public and all persons around the world interested in the Civil War and Durham's connection to this.

Notwithstanding, I take issue with a number of particulars. These included:

-Miss ROANE had been instructed ahead of time to make her presentation approximately fifteen minutes in duration. She was instead, 'informed on the spot', she would have the opportunity to speak for forty-five minutes. This discrepancy of time did not permit her to make greatest use of her knowledge and ought to have been accurately communicated to her beforehand.

-Her microphone was inconveniently situated, (which she commented upon); a 'test set-up', would have alleviated this problem.

-The questions put to her by Watson JENNISON and Susana LEE about the history of the United Daughters of the Confederacy were out of place. It can only have been known ahead of time that the United Daughters have a designated Public Officer, who alone is permitted by the organisation to speak about it in any capacity; other members are not authorised to do so. As Miss ROANE is a member in good standing, putting these to her, rather than addressing them to said designated individual, can only have had the purpose of putting her out of countenance. That Mr. JENNISON also enjoyed this immature behaviour and expressed it was noted by myself, Miss ROANE and even at least one community speaker.

-Miss Stephanie FORD's question about why the Jim Crow-era of segregation was instituted after emancipation in the South had no bearing on any of the listed five charges for the committee hearing. Why this red herring comment was allowed to stand without address from the panel, and repeat it later, is beyond benefit of the doubt. At the minimum, Miss FORD ought to have requested to question outside the scope of the said five charges. As well, she was allowed to interrupt Miss ROANE and her asking aloud that the community speakers having to state whether they were residents of Durham seemed to waste the hearing's time, (said community speakers having already registered their affiliation).

It would be truthful to state the matter that an air of what the great writer and historian, George ORWELL described in his landmark essay, 'Notes on Nationalism', (1945), as 'emotional nationalism' pervaded the attitudes of a number of the Councillors. More to the point, it would seem that what is being strived for in Durham is what the great Australian historian, W.E.H. STANNER, described in the Boyer Lectures of 1968. Writing how Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders had been systematically 'written out' of the Australian narrative, STANNER described this as, 'the cult of forgetting'; 'the process of dis-remembering.'

It would be hoped for all citizens of the world whom take interest in the American Civil War that Durham County would choose instead to embrace an attitude and conduct toward it's Confederate history in a manner that would embrace the critical reflection of reasoned patriotism. Lastly, if the community speakers orations are indicative of a 'sampling' of the local public at large, it is hoped that the Durham Committee will genuinely take into account that approximately 70% of these supported the return of the Confederate statue and/or did not disagree with this aim.

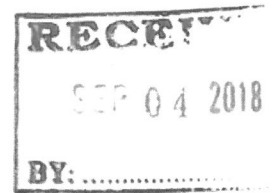
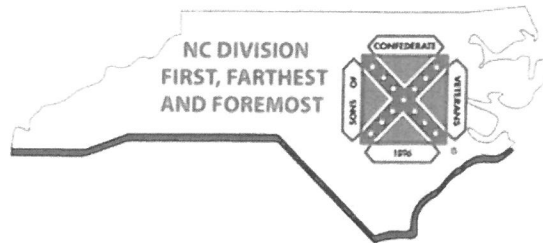
Please to note my support for the placement back of the Confederate statues. I would suggest this for the inscription placed thereupon-

'Without hagiography, which would be a disservice to any human being, but with all the critical reflection his life warranted, Durham will remember and honour The

Grey.
Regards

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Lefurgy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with long, sweeping strokes and loops.

G.E. LEFURGY.



August 29, 2018

Durham County Board of Commissioners
c/o Ms. Terri Lea Hugie, Clerk
200 East Main Street
2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
Durham, NC 27701

To the Durham County Board of Commissioners:

In accordance with state law, the North Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, along with the North Carolina Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, respectfully demand the restoration of the Durham County's Confederate memorial in its original location. This would include any repairs that are necessary to return the memorial to its condition prior to the riot on August 14, 2017.

We are happy to provide any assistance needed in this matter and expect this to be completed within a reasonable period of time. As you know, the law requires such objects of remembrance to be put back in place within 90 days. As more than 365 days have passed while various government entities confirmed their obligations under state law, time is certainly of the essence. Despite your obligations to be good stewards of taxpayer money, you have apparently refused to make a claim for insurance proceeds covering the memorial to which you are entitled. We hope that this can be remedied and that such money is made available for its intended purpose.

We also expect that in the future, the memorial will be protected adequately, as any other public property in Durham County would be protected if so threatened. Continued disregard for the law and tolerance for mob rule is unacceptable. What was allowed to transpire in Durham under your authority directly resulted in another riot in Chapel Hill this past week, with the same culprits repeating their deed.

We further remind you that Durham County's history cannot and should not be curated for political purposes. Several reputable public polls, testimony before your own City-County Committee on Confederate Monuments and Memorials, and an overwhelming majority of public comments recently provided to the North Carolina Historical Commission support the restoration and preservation of this and other memorials across the state.

Please keep us updated on the progress of the restoration.

Sincerely,

R. Kevin Stone
Commander

Cc: Mrs. Peggy Johnson, President, North Carolina Division, UDC
C. Boyd Sturges III, Attorney for the North Carolina Division, SCV

RKS/jrs

North Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
NCSCVPublicAffairs@gmail.com

