

# SPECIAL EDITION



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# DCV TRAVELLER



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## DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS & SOUTH CAROLINA

[www.DCVTX.org](http://www.DCVTX.org)

**August 2015**

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Greetings DCV Compatriots,

As most of you know, our Confederate heritage and history is under assault. We are sending out this special edition of the "Traveller" to bring you up to date on the status of the various heritage battles that are being waged against the heroes of Texas.

I am sure that if the proposed House Bill 1242 that we fought against, was up for vote today, Confederate Heroes Day would be removed from the calendar. There is no doubt that another attempt will be made when the legislature is back in session. Recently several senators and a couple of representatives sent a letter to the Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General of Texas to review the many plaques and statues that adorn the Capitol building in Austin and the Capitol Grounds.

We have repeatedly requested a meeting with the new President of the University of Texas to discuss the Confederate Statues located on the South mall of the main building (UT tower) in Austin. So far, no response has been received. Terry and others attended the two forums that were held on campus. After the last forum; I have no doubt that the committee, that was hastily formed, will recommend that at least the statue of CSA President Jefferson Davis will be moved; the location is still to be determined.

In addition, the Austin Independent School District is considering a name change of at least four schools within the district. A DCV resolution was drafted and sent to each member of the board of trustees opposing any name change.

The city council of Austin is looking at changing the name of Robert E Lee Road. Again, the DCV sent a resolution to each council member and the mayor to speak out against changing the name.

I want to thank each of you for the work you do to preserve our Southern Heritage. We must remain vigilant; after the evil event in South Carolina, those who hate the South and what Southerners stand for, feel now that any action against all things Southern will be vindicated.

Two plaques were removed in San Antonio and another assault is being made on a plaque that is still in Travis Park. We are working with our friends in other organizations to defend our Heritage.

Please keep an eye on our web site and Facebook page for updates and action items.

Please know that I am truly honored to serve as president and remain at your service.

Steve von Roeder

'May GOD save the Ol' Southland Forever'

## University of Texas at Austin

In 1920 former Confederate Major George W. Littlefield, a Regent and principal donor to the university donated the funds to construct a memorial to the students whose lives were lost fighting for the United States in World War I. It was a grand scheme also designed to commemorate the coming together of the nation following the War Between the States where those above and below the Mason Dixon line came together for the first time since the WBTS to fight side by side to defeat a foreign enemy of the United States of America. The memorial included a statue of Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States during World War I and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America. Also included in the arrangement of statuary was General Robert E. Lee and notable Texans, General Albert Sidney Johnston, Confederate Postmaster General and Statesman John H. Reagan, and the "Peoples Governor" Stephan Hogg.

In March of 2015 the newly elected President of the student Government presented President Powers with a student backed Resolution demanding the removal of the statue of Jefferson Davis. The DCV immediately contacted the office of the President of UT voicing opposition to the removal of the statue of Jefferson Davis or any of the statues of former Confederates on the university campus.



Vandalized Statue of Jefferson Davis

A formal resolution from the DCV was drafted and delivered to University of Texas at Austin President Gregory Fenves.

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Descendants of Confederate Veterans is charged with "the perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the Confederate soldier's history"; and

**WHEREAS**, The President of the University of Texas at Austin has announced his interest in the area surrounding the Littlefield Fountain and relocating the statues of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Albert Sidney Johnston and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned statues are accompanied by a dedicatory statement that reads:

*"To the men and of the women of the Confederacy who fought with valor and suffered with fortitude that states' rights be maintained and who not dismayed by defeat nor discouraged by misrule builded from the ruins of a devastating war a greater South. And to the men and women of the nation who gave their possessions and of their lives that free government be made secure to the peoples of the earth, this memorial is dedicated"; and*

**WHEREAS**, this memorial and statuary were given to the University of Texas at Austin by the University of Texas regent and civil war veteran Major George Washington Littlefield thru a testamentary devise; and as a State University is the property of All Texans, not just the current students.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate Veterans does oppose any relocation of the statues or memorial by the University of Texas at Austin unless such relocation will cause the statues to be featured more prominently on the University of Texas at Austin Campus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate of Veterans deplores racism in all of its forms from wherever the source and does heartily support the University of Texas at Austin in its efforts to promote racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity so long as the cultural heritage as funded by Major Littlefield is not forgotten, diminished or neglected.

Resolved this 25th of June 2015.

Steven S. von Roeder  
Founder / President  
Descendants of Confederate Veterans

University President Gregory Fenves established an Advisory Committee in July and gave them 30 days to prepare recommendations to him regarding the future of the statues. Two public forums were held, both were attended by members of the DCV where speakers voice the DCV's opposition to removing the statues. The Advisory Committee will submit their recommendations to President Fenves on August 10<sup>th</sup> for his consideration. It is not known at this time how long president Fenves will take to make a decision on the future of the statues.



DCV Members at the Statue of Jefferson Davis during the 2007 Annual Convention.

Related articles:

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2015/07/26/university-task-force-prepares-to-announce-its-recommendation-on-davis-statue-controversy>

<http://kxan.com/2015/07/06/public-can-voice-opinion-on-future-of-jefferson-davis-statue-on-ut-campus/>

### **Renaming Schools and Roadways**

Following the tragedy in South Carolina a tidal wave of anti-confederate sentiment swept across the nation. The debate about the statues on the UT campus was already ongoing and in the local spotlight when the S.C. incident occurred. Local governments begin to consider removing plaques and markers, and in some cases acted without public input. There are calls by the City of Austin to change the names of roads. School districts are calling for changing school names.

In response, the DCV has officially submitted the following resolutions.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Descendants of Confederate Veterans is charged with “the perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the Confederate soldier’s history”; and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council of Austin has announced their interest in renaming Robert E. Lee Road located in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, The Descendants of Confederate Veterans believes that Robert E. Lee, through word and deeds, earned the respect of all Texans and surely deserves to have his name remain on this road; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee served the citizens of Texas honorably during his military service while stationed here with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, United States Army between 1856 and 1861; and

**WHEREAS**, The Descendants of Confederate Veterans believes that much can be learned by studying this honorable man, his ties to Texas and contributions to society as a whole;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate Veterans does oppose any renaming of this road and any others in Austin named for Confederate Heroes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate of Veterans deplores racism in all of its forms from wherever the source and does heartily support the City of Austin in its efforts to promote racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity so long as the cultural heritage of Texas is not forgotten, diminished or neglected.

Resolved this 17th of July 2015.

Steven S. von Roeder  
Founder / President  
Descendants of Confederate Veterans

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** the Descendants of Confederate Veterans is charged with “the perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the Confederate soldier’s history”; and

**WHEREAS,** The Austin Independent School District has announced their interest in renaming the Austin area schools that were named after Confederate leaders; Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, John H Reagan and Sidney Lanier; and

**WHEREAS,** The Descendants of Confederate Veterans believes that each of these men, through word and deed were firm believers in the formal education of all people and in many cases made great and undeniable strides in the furtherance of education at all levels; and

**WHEREAS,** The Descendants of Confederate Veterans believes that much can be learned by the studying of these honorable men, their ties to Texas and their contributions to society as a whole;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate Veterans does oppose any renaming of these schools by the District’s Board of Trustees Board of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Descendants of Confederate of Veterans deplores racism in all of its forms from wherever the source and does heartily support the Austin Independent School District in its efforts to promote racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity so long as the cultural heritage of Texas is not forgotten, diminished or neglected.

Resolved this 7th of July 2015.

Steven S. von Roeder  
Founder / President  
Descendants of Confederate Veterans

In the past two months there has been many criminal acts of vandalism and destruction of statues, monuments, plaques, markers and even grave markers with no indication it will stop. DCV Member, Founder, and past President Steve Lucas prepared this report on the Confederate Monument in Denton, Texas.



**Not** to be outdone in the latest surge against all things Confederate some malcontents in Denton, TX decided to take the opportunity to spray paint the Confederate soldier memorial statue that stands on the courthouse square in downtown Denton (see photo). In anticipation of something like this, a camera had been placed in a window of the courthouse and trained on the monument in hopes of identifying any perpetrator. When published, stills from the camera did reveal the crime in progress. They also revealed that it appears that a seventy-five cent camera was used where one of considerably better quality was needed. From what I saw not much useful information could be gathered from the camera footage. The statue was cleaned the next day by County employees and the criminals are still at large. The local NAACP President is doing his best to keep his name in the paper, a local group of historically challenged citizens have formed themselves into a committee to move or remove the statue because they pretty much feel guilty about just about everything in their lives and life in Denton goes on. The citizen response to the

defacing of the statue has been one of disgust. They do not hold with defacing the statue and they pretty much do not hold with taking it down or moving it. This is been the general stance of the people of Denton and Denton County in the 40+ years that I have lived here. The local newspaper was once locally owned and operated and when it was it was very "pro-statue." Now, it has been sold and would like nothing more than to see the statue stuck in a museum. The editor lamented that there is no other war memorial on the square. Had he stood at the Confederate statue and merely turned around, he would have seen a very nice "all-war" stone memorial less than 30 yards away.

Denton is somewhat unique in the protection of this statue. Seeing as how it stands on the courthouse lawn it is federally protected. Some years ago, the Denton County Courthouse, the lawn and everything on it, and all of the buildings on the square facing the courthouse were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This includes our statue. Since that time, the County Commissioners have refused to even address any protests regarding the statue, citing the protection of the Register. Every few years, just like clockwork, when a new class of the University of North Texas Chapter of the NAACP comes of age, or when the President of the Denton NAACP or some other group feel like they need publicity they come after the statue. So far...so good. But we never say never. All it would take is some knucklehead in a big enough pickup truck and the statue would be gone forever.

We will remain vigilant in our little corner of the world and urge others to do the same. We will never surrender and we will not be defeated without a fight. As far as the Confederate Memorial Monument goes in Denton...he took a round for the Cause but he is still standing tall. But we have his back. Those who oppose his presence would do well to focus their energies on something else.

**Steve Lucas**



We must all remain vigilant and active in our own communities and be prepared to confront the assaults on our heritage.

You can be assured the DCV will continue to lead the fight in the Confederate heritage community to protect and preserve our glorious history and precious heritage.

### **MID-YEAR BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

This is a reminder that the mid-year Board of Directors meeting is one week from Saturday.

**DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015**

**TIME: 11:00 A.M.** (please arrive a little early)

**PLACE: El Conquistador Restaurant**  
901 N Loop Dr.  
Waco, TX 76705 (Bellmeade)  
(254) 799-6655

**Google Map Link**

**<http://tinyurl.com/Waco-conqu>**



**End**