



**Edward J. Norris
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



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**General Order #29
Series 2019-2020
28 June 2020**

1. I call your attention to Section 2 which may be used by Brothers, Camps, and Departments as an approved letter with appropriate letterhead. The content shall not be changed other than the words in brackets. Brothers may optionally attach the Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy, as approved during the 136th National Encampment in Lansing, Michigan, 2017. Any other communication must still adhere to Past Commander-in-Chief Mark R. Day's General Order No. 2, Series 2017-2018.

2. Dear [name of person]

[Brother, Camp, Department] is opposed to the [destruction, defacement, removal] of the [name] monument.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's National Policy, endorsed by the body of our membership, states that we strongly condemn the destruction, defacement, or removal of any monument dedicated to a Union Civil War veteran or Union leader.

These monuments were erected in honor of men who fought to end slavery in the United States. Many of these men gave their lives or carried wounds that affected their lives for many decades. The Union army and navy consisted of men of all races and nationalities. We also had leaders who inspired men and set policy to end slavery.

The Union's sacrifices led the way for the adoption of two very important Constitutional Amendments.

The 13th Amendment states that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The 14th Amendment states that "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Our country has recently seen the destruction, vandalism, and removal of Union Civil War monuments, including those dedicated to a regiment of black soldiers who greatly contributed to

turning the tide of the war, to soldiers who were ardent abolitionists who spent many years prior to the war trying to end slavery, and to leaders who inspired others to end slavery.

Tearing down, vandalizing, or removing any monument does not bring about change. Change is accomplished through learning and understanding the lessons of history. Wars and violence are no longer necessary as all citizens can exercise their right to vote, thus influencing the direction of our country.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Camp, Department]

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

(Optional) Attached: Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy

3. This General Order is effective until a new monument protection policy has been approved at a National Encampment.

Ordered this 28th Day of June, 2020.



Edward J. Norris
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attested:

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