



Brian C. Pierson
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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General Order #7
Series 2020-2021
9 December 2020

National Policy on Monument Protection and Preservation

1. Whereas the 2020 National Encampment voted to abolish the existing Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy (August 2017) in order to be able to develop a policy regarding the protection of war memorials and monuments that is appropriate for the current conditions in the United States; and,
2. Whereas the Special Committee for Monument Protection Policy diligently and thoughtfully developed a draft policy and presented it to the Council of Administration for review and approval; and,
3. Whereas the Council of Administration carefully reviewed the draft policy and subsequently voted to approve it;
4. Therefore the National Policy on Monument Protection and Preservation attached to this General Order has been adopted as the official policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War regarding war monument protection. It will be published on the SUVCW National Policy web page.
5. This policy builds upon the solid foundation of earlier General Orders, policies and resolutions on this critical topic. It clearly articulates the Order's position, provides a basis for engaging the public with a unified message, and allows the ability for a flexible response for different conditions and situations.
6. The new monument protection policy intentionally does not take a position on the status of the Confederate battle flag; therefore, the SUVCW is officially silent on this issue.
7. All Brothers, Camps and Departments, Camps shall follow and refer to this policy, especially when communicating with members of the public, government, or press.

Ordered this 9th Day of December, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian C. Pierson".

Brian C. Pierson
Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Jonathan C. Davis

Jonathan C. Davis

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attachment:

National Policy on Monument Protection and Preservation



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
NATIONAL POLICY
ON MONUMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

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. The primary purpose of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to perpetuate the memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought and sacrificed for the Union from 1861 to 1865 and in many cases were wounded or died to save the United States of America.
 - a. It is our solemn duty to honor the soldiers belonging to the Union, “Boys in Blue” who fought that terrible war and to oversee the process of preserving the memories of those soldiers and sailors, and their courage, tenacity and strength, by raising monuments commemorating their service and deeds. The erection of such monuments has continued down through the years, extending even unto the present day. These monuments can be found in cities, towns, and villages across the entire country, and indeed, beyond our shores.
 - b. Furthermore, we seek to honor the men and women, both public and private, who provided the inspiration and leadership, which lead to the salvation of the Union and the liberation of a people from bondage.
 - c. One of the ways we perpetuate the memory of the “Boys in Blue” is to care for and work to repair those monuments dedicated to their sacrifice when the need arises. To this end, we have established ways by which we may assist in the erection and repair of monuments and memorials. This work is ongoing.
 - d. Recent, criminal acts of vandalism and outright destruction of monuments dedicated to our Union heroes by groups or individuals demanding their elimination or removal have increased. With regard to the vandalism or destruction of such monuments it is the policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that there should be criminal prosecution of perpetrators of such crimes by legal authority.
 - e. In cases of organized attempts to remove monuments, those efforts to remove them are to be actively opposed in all ways that are both practical and legal. The methods by which this active opposition would happen will differ from case to case, given the unique situation involved in each event. However, in all cases, the Commander-in-Chief, or his designee, acting with his instructions and under his authority, should set the course of action to be followed in addressing the problem.
- II. Monuments serve the necessary purpose of inspiring and educating future generations of Americans on the sacrifices made by their forefathers. Further, monuments are visible signs of the patriotism and selflessness shown by American soldiers and sailors, who placed the

country before their own lives and fortunes, to ensure the preservation of the Nation. By this policy, we state our intent and reaffirm our commitment to our honored dead and dedicate ourselves to do all in our power as an organization, to ensure that the memorials to them will be preserved for the inspiration and education of future generations.

Approved by the Council of Administration, 6 November 2020