
Re: Confederate Soldiers Monument

1 message

Gayle Woody - Commissioner <gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 11:32 AM

To: Brian McMahan <brianmcmahan@jacksonnc.org>, Don Adams <donadams@jacksonnc.org>, Emma Parrish <eparrish@fontanalib.org>

Dear Emma,

Thank you for expressing your concern. I have heard thoughts on the statue from citizens who feel as you do, and from those who want the statue to remain in remembrance of their relatives who fought/ died in the Civil War.

This is a conversation we will have in our community, but it must be respectful of diverse opinions. From the conversations I have had with folks, BOTH sides feel their view is "obvious".

We must not fall into perpetuating stereotypes on either viewpoint. Those who want the statue to remain have heartfelt reasons as do those who want it removed.

These are not "racist" folks. They are people who want to preserve their family history, but know there are dark parts in that history, including slavery.

I have also talked to African American citizens of Jackson County. Some want it moved, some do not. "It has been there since I was born and is part of our history" one told me yesterday. Others see it as a reminder of our nation's darkest chapter.

There are also laws to consider. As an elected official, I am listening to all viewpoints. Respectful listening is essential at this time in our world.

Please continue to engage in this conversation. It is very important.

Sincerely,
Gayle Woody

On Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 10:47 AM Emma Parrish <eparrish@fontanalib.org> wrote:

Ms. Woody,

I'm writing to urge Jackson County to remove or rename the Confederate Soldiers Monument in front of the Jackson County Public Library Complex. While I understand the importance of honoring local veterans and local history, a statue memorializing the Confederacy implicitly glorifies slavery, racism, and white supremacy. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Emma Parrish

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