

January 15,

I'm just a common working man and native Meridianite and native Mississippian who needed to write you a letter and let you know where I stand on the flag issue. I fully intend to vote for the current flag and will convince as many Mississippians as i can to do the same. The current flag has flown over Mississippi since 1890 and just now in the last year it has become offensive by many. I wonder why? The answer NAACP!!! It seems odd to me that it took 110 years to become offensive. This is the only flag that i've ever known and the only flag that all living Mississippians have ever known. This is a beautiful and unique flag. It disgusts me that you want it changed. They call us who honor and respect this flag, racists. I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A RACIST ???

People say the Confederate emblem on the Mississippi flag stands for slavery and white supremacy,that's just plain uneducated ignorance. They need to educate themselves and learn the truth about our history. Our history is everyones. Yours,Theirs and Mine! The real TRUE HISTORY WILL SET ALL FREE!!! Everybody seems so concerned about peoples feelings and heritage now days.Everyone's worried about being treated equal and fair. Our heritage is just that, OUR HERITAGE. We have rights, we have feelings and we don't have to fabricate something to be proud of. We are southern and all children in this country need to be taught the truth about THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES. This pride is in our southern hearts and souls, no law passed can or will ever change that. We should be more concerned about accepting people for who they are and not trying to change them.

It's so important to save history from revisionist thinking and what is politically correct for modern times that any erasure of what our ancestors did (good or bad) should be considered a crime. We must take our history and understand it for what it was and what it did in the context and mind-set of the times. We must also refuse to allow one group of people to take a symbol that meant recognition and bravery on a battlefield and turn it into something it was never meant to be -- a racist symbol. By giving in to the pressure being applied by the uninformed rather than educating the people, we will do a great disservice to history and all men. If you don't know history, you will tend to repeat it. SHALL WE ALLOW OUR HERITAGE TO BE TAKEN AWAY???

My southern heritage is nothing to be ashamed of, I know the truth as to why my Confederate ancestors fought for the beloved Confederate States of America and why many thousands of black southerners also fought, WILLINGLY FOUGHT, for the Confederacy -- to be free of a government that was becoming more tyrannical. History has proved our Confededrate Forefathers to be right, more people all across the United States today speak out against the Federal Governments persistent infringement upon our freedoms and the Constitution. OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE MUST NOT BE LOST TO IGNORANCE OF THE TRUTH BY RADICAL GROUPS SUCH AS THE NAACP.

The NAACP and other black groups are always preaching "Black Pride!!...Be proud of your heritage and take pride in being black!! African-Americanism!!". I and other descendants of Confederate soldiers want the same thing..."Confederate Pride!!...Be proud of our heritage! Take pride in being southern and the descendants of citizens of the Confederate States of America!! Confederate-Americanism!!". Southern heritage groups are not attacking blacks, their heritage, or their symbols. Look around and you see Black

History Month activities in the making in all our schools and communities. Why then are blacks attacking the cherished symbols of our heritage? Join us in celebrating our heritage as we join blacks in celebrating theirs.

We have allowed the flag of the United States to be desecrated, under the guise of free speech. We have allowed God to be pushed out of places where, it is but by the grace of God we are allowed to enjoy. When are we as a people going to wake up and look around and say enough is enough. Politically correct and socially acceptable, BULL---- !!! We have never been perfect and never will be. We should be looking for ways to create a better future, not try to erase the past. Our past should remind us to not make the same mistakes again. The year 2001 or the year 1861, The Federal Government should stay out of the states business.

The United States Government uses political pressure, sanctions, and even military force to defend people all over the world from ethnic or cultural genocide. Yet here in the United States a significant portion of the population is continuously having their culture and heritage systematically erased. Why are we denied the protection so willingly given to foreign peoples?

It is necessary to disclaim any connection of this flag to the KKK, neo-Nazis, skin-heads and the like. These groups have adopted this flag and desecrated it by their acts. They have no right to use this flag - it is a flag of bravery and honor, designed by the Confederacy as a banner representing states rights and still revered by the South. The South denies any relation to these hate groups and denies them the right to use the flags of the Confederacy for any purpose. PLEASE PASS LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBITS THESE GROUPS FROM USING THEM!!!

"The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."-----President Jefferson Davis

AMERICAN BY BIRTH,SOUTHERN BY THE GRACE OF GOD

DEO VINDICE

Carey L. Johnston

P.S.

This should never have come to a vote. You were too much of a COWARD to decide this yourself. Instead you appoint a committee to decide. I would have had more respect for you if you had decided yourself (for or against). All this has done is drive a wedge between blacks and whites. We had come so far and now this seperates us again.

THANKS!!! The current flag IS the OFFICIAL FLAG OF MISSISSIPPI, always will be. MAY IT FLY FOREVER!!!! Enjoy your current term, its your last. I GUARANTEE YOU we will definitely vote you out in 2004.