

**THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**

**USR-99-043**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO REMOVE THE MONUMENT TO THE UNC  
ALUMNI WHO FOUGHT IN THE CONFEDERACY**

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29 AUG 2017 INTRODUCED BY SPEAKER SHRIVER  
COSPONSORED BY SENATOR GOMEZ, AND CHAIR WOODS  
29 AUG 2017 PLACED ON THE INTRODUCTIONS OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS  
29 AUG 2017 PASSED BY FULL STUDENT SENATE  
06 SEPT 2017 PASSED THROUGH JOINT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

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**WHEREAS**, the Student Body Constitution empowers the legislative bodies of student governance to pass all legislation “necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body” (Article IV, Section 8),

**WHEREAS**, The Confederate Army was an enemy of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, The Confederate Army fought to protect the right to own slaves;

**WHEREAS**, The United Daughters of the Confederacy erected this monument to instill fear in black Americans during the Jim Crow Era;

**WHEREAS**, The monument’s existence on UNC’s Campus is antithetical to the university’s “Bold Course of Leading Change to Improve Society”;

**WHEREAS**, The monument poses a safety risk due to the threat of extrajudicial removal and large protests;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL THAT:** The attached statement (Appendix A) supporting the removal of the Confederate monument known as “Silent Sam” be approved as the formal position of Undergraduate Senate:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be forwarded to the Joint Governance Council for consideration as Joint Legislation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, upon approval as Joint Legislation by the Joint Governance Council, the attached statement shall be sent to the following parties to encourage them to stand

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*Certify correct and proper by*

 Speaker  UGSBP

along with students in support of the removal of the the Confederate monument from McCorkle Place and placement of it at another site where it can be fully contextualized:

- (1) Margaret Spellings, President of the University of North Carolina System,
- (2) Carol Folt, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
- (3) W. Louis Bissette, Jr., Chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, and his fellow members of the Board;
- (4) Tyler Hardin, President of the UNC Association of Student Governments,
- (5) Haywood D. Cochrane, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Board of Trustees,
- (6) Martin Brinkley, Dean of the UNC Chapel Hill Law School,
- (7) Ted Shaw, Director of the Center for Civil Rights of the UNC Chapel Hill Law School,
- (8) Leslie V. Parise, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Faculty Council,
- (9) Shayna Hill, Chair of the UNC Chapel Hill Employee Forum,
- (10) North Carolina Historical Commission, and
- (11) Any other parties deemed necessary and appropriate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, upon upon approval as Joint Legislation by the Joint Governance Council, the attached statement shall be sent to the following members of the State legislature and government to encourage them to provide the University reprieve from SL 2015-170 by allowing for the removal of the monument and, thereby, reinforce the University's commitment to inclusivity of students of diverse backgrounds:

1. Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina
2. Dan Forest, Lieutenant Governor of the State of North Carolina
3. Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate,
4. Tim Moore, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives,
5. Valerie Foushee, Senator of the North Carolina 23rd Senate District,
6. Verla Insko, Representative of the North Carolina 56th District, and
7. Any other parties deemed necessary and appropriate;

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WJ Speaker GA UGSBP

Done by the Student Senate on this 29 day of August, 2017.

*Katharine M. Shriver*

*Katharine M. Shriver  
Speaker, 99<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Senate*

And made law on this 6 day of September, 2017.

*Elizabeth Adkins*

*Elizabeth Adkins  
Student Body President*

Appendix A

To whom it may concern:

The Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government and the Senate of The Graduate and Professional Student Federation of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill write to express their profound disappointment in the lack of action on the part of the General Assembly, Board of Governors, and the Board of Trustees to remove the Silent Sam monument from its location in McCorkle Place. The student body believes that the monument should be moved to another site on campus where it can be better contextualized. The removal of the statue from McCorkle Place in the heart of the UNC campus will also symbolize Carolina's commitment to inclusivity of students of diverse backgrounds.

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*WJ* Speaker *CA* UGSBP

The majority of the student body wants the removal of the monument for the following reasons:

(1) In his dedication speech<sup>1</sup> for the monument, Julian Carr made clear that the statute is not solely meant to memorialize North Carolina Confederate war veterans, but to celebrate the United States' system of institutionalized slavery, discrimination, and racially-motivated violence.

During the course of his speech, Julian Carr endorsed the Confederate cause in the Civil War by characterizing it as primarily a white supremacist project, stating,

*"The present generation, I am persuaded, scarcely takes note of what the Confederate soldier meant to the welfare of the Anglo Saxon race during the four years immediately succeeding the war, when the facts are, that their courage and steadfastness saved the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South."*

He also shared an anecdote that graphically described violence he personally perpetrated against a black woman, describing his actions as a "pleasing duty."

(2) The names of the alumni of UNC who died fighting for the Union, as well as the Confederacy, are listed on the Carolina Alumni Memorial in Memory of Those Lost in Military Service<sup>2</sup>. This memorial in front of Memorial Hall is a moving testimony to the heroism of those who fought to preserve the rule of law and died defending their country. The Silent Sam monument does not memorialize those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America, but rather stands as a sentinel, facing due north in defense of the largest rebellion to occur in American history.

(3) Many of our peer institutions, including the University of Texas at Austin<sup>3</sup>, the University of Louisville<sup>4</sup>, and Duke University<sup>5</sup>, have recently chosen to remove Confederate memorials from public spaces on campus. These memorials will be preserved in museums or in libraries to protect the memorials, but also to provide necessary historical context for the erection of the monuments. With the resources of UNC's excellent library system, the Silent Sam memorial could be cared for and used as a valuable teaching resource.

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KS Speaker GA UGSBP

The student body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill does not wish to wipe out our history, but we also do not want to see racism celebrated. The Silent Sam monument was erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy not only to memorialize the dead, but also to celebrate a way of life that resulted in the degradation and violence towards thousands of North Carolinians. We insist you to remove the monument so that it can be preserved and contextualized for future North Carolinians in a museum or library collection while making it clear that we do not glorify our violent past.

Sincerely,

Katharine Shriver  
Speaker of the Undergraduate Senate

Brian Coussens  
Vice President of The GPSF

Elizabeth Adkins  
Student Body President

Madelyn Percy  
President of The GPSF

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*Student Governments of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

*Frank Porter Graham Union*

*Campus Box #5210*

*Chapel Hill, NC 27599*

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<sup>1</sup><https://exhibits.lib.unc.edu/files/original/c1160e4341b86794b7e842cb042fb414.pdf>, accessed 25 August 2017

<sup>2</sup><http://www.unc.edu/interactive-tour/landmarks/carolina-alumni-memorial-in-memory-of-those-lost-in-service/>, accessed 27 August 2017

<sup>3</sup><http://kut.org/post/ut-austin-removes-three-remaining-confederate-monuments-campus>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/confederate-monument-near-university-louisville-campus-removed-n686256>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-protests-duke-idUSKCNI1AZ019>