

Letters to the editor

Monument’s move ‘applauded,’ financial assistance pledged

Dear editor:

I am writing to applaud the decision of the Louisburg Town Council to move the Confederate statue to the Oakwood Cemetery, which I’ve been following from afar. While I don’t live in Franklin County, I’ve spent a lot of time in Franklin County. Both of my parents were born and raised in Franklin County and their lines go back to the 1700s, before Franklin County was even called Franklin County. As an adult, I’ve studied the history of my family, all of whom fought for the Confederacy, including multiple casualties: my great-great-grandfather James Martin Dickerson (wounded at Gettysburg), great-great-grandfather James Dallas Pearce (wounded at Cold Harbor, VA), and 4th-great uncle Solomon Pearce (killed at Sharpsburg/Antietam). Solomon’s father Nathan — my 4th-great-grandfather who shares my grandfather’s name — owned slaves. While they may have believed they were fighting for a just cause at the time, everything we know today shows that the cause was wrong. More importantly, the symbols that revere a time that is now in the distant past are making it harder than ever to move forward into the future. As we grow up, our understanding changes as we spend more time in the world. Growing up in North Carolina, I loved the Confederate flag and kept a Confederate Army hat in my room. I never thought about what the Confederate cause and its symbols might mean to others. But I grew up and learned the hurt that those symbols represented to people I cared about, and I put them away for good. As the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:11: “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” In a similar spirit, it is time for Louisburg and Franklin County to move forward by putting this monument in its rightful place. It is time to face the future together, not dwell on a divisive past. It is notable to me that the plan to move the monument adopted by the town council closely mirrors the one proposed by Will Hinton just two years ago. We owe Will Hinton our gratitude for having the vision, integrity, and love for the community to raise difficult questions two years ago and for risking his reputation by taking an unpopular position and speaking out about it. History is filled with people who did the right thing at great cost to themselves while alive, only to be recognized only after death as right. I believe Will Hinton should be celebrated today. As a tribute to his vision, I would like to offer the Town of Louisburg \$10,000 towards moving the monument to its rightful place. I know many in my family there in Franklin County will not agree with me. Doing what is right doesn’t always create harmony. Ultimately, I believe we honor the memories of our ancestors by doing what is right today. It is time to replace the divisive symbols of yesterday with symbols of unity. Thank you, Will Hinton, for your courage and to the members of the Louisburg Town Council who cast the right vote.

Chad Dickerson
Brooklyn, NY

From communist handbook

Dear editor:

People who want to remove Confederate monuments and memorials are filled with hate of the South (Dixiephobia) and especially everything related to the Confederacy (Confederaphobia). Yet, these same people preach tolerance and diversity. However, they are among the most intolerant people and despise diversity. They cannot tolerate anything related to the South and especially the Confederacy, which illustrates their hatred of diversity. They say that Confederate monuments and memorials are hurtful: They hurt the feelings of Blacks. Thus, they must come down. Yet, these Confederaphobes care nothing about the feelings of the people who revere these monuments and memorials as honoring their ancestors who defended their homeland from the invading horde during Lincoln’s War. Confederaphobes are extremely self-centered and selfish people who demand all be sacrificed to satisfy their bigotry, prejudices, and desires. They do not want any remembrance of the Confederacy or even the South. According to my wife, who is a refugee from a Communist country, among the first things that the Communists did when they started taking over the country was to tear down historical and cultural monuments and memorials. The destruction of Confederate monuments and memorials comes right out of the Communist handbook.

Thomas Allen
Franklinton

My Turn

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Instead, he suggested, it’s time we pale faces just listen to the voices of this movement and try to learn from what we hear. That seemed to be pretty insightful advice, especially after having so recently faced my own inability to imagine how a child might have felt and been affected by blatant racism that happened, not 150 years ago, but during my lifetime. So, I’m going to spend a lot of time listening, learning and trying to sort through what I hear from the many and varied voices on all sides. But that’s not all I’m going to do, however. While I — maybe, we if you’ll join me? — may not be able to understand how blatant prejudice affects others so deeply, we can do our part to help lessen the incidents of racism in the community, state and nation where we live. The first goal, I think, should be the easiest to achieve but, in reality, will be the most difficult because there are so many forces in play that tip the scale of justice. We all — every one of us — need to commit to the concept, the ideal, of equal justice for all — and whenever we get the chance, to do and say whatever we can to further the ideal that everyone should be treated equally and fairly under the law. The second goal, locally at least, is to work to help find things for young people — black, white, Hispanic, Asians and others — to do. We must create better recreational opportunities for all local children — and make sure that they have access to the programs that exist. So many of our recreational programs now tend to be geared for adults, and that’s fine. We understand, adults vote and pay taxes. But we need more and better facilities — and means of access — so that local young people have positive things to do, to keep them busy, help them set goals, learn to work and play with others and become the kind of adults that our community needs. And yes, without a —doubt, we need a swimming pool — or pools, not only for recreation but also for safety. Franklin County has talked about this need since the end of World War II. It’s time to shut up — and get to work building it (or them!) We also need to look at housing opportunities and find ways to make housing for the less fortunate less expensive and much more efficient. It’s a downward cycle when so much of our housing for the poor is of such poor quality that their utility bills are through the roof. They can’t get ahead in a system that, for whatever reason, is rigged against them. Next, we all have to commit to the idea of free and fair elections — and giving everyone the opportunity to vote. We’ve all seen — and sometimes pretended not to see — increasing efforts at voter suppression in recent years and that is wrong, wrong, wrong. It seems so simple. One man (or one woman), one vote. But we all have to become vigilant about voter rights — and voter opportunities. To my knowledge, we haven’t had a major problem with voter suppression here in Franklin County and we have to be sure that success continues. But at the statewide — and increasingly at the national level — that’s not

All birds matter

Dear editor:

Have you looked out your window or been outside and watched birds coming and going. I’m amazed by the colors birds wear and the voices they have. According to the Birds of North Carolina website, 156 species of birds live in Franklin County North Carolina. Now I am not a big time bird watcher, I feed birds with sunflower seeds occasionally. They like my neighborhood with the trees and ground cover. I can truly say it’s nice having birds around. There has been an exception for me. Every year around this time I have a few blueberry bushes that produce tasty berries that I enjoy picking, can-

Mike Anderson
Louisburg

An ‘end run’ around state laws?

Dear editor:

I cannot help but find the recent actions of our Governor disturbing. I quote, “I have ordered Confederate monuments on Capital grounds to be moved to protect public safety.” This statement was made after a group damaged the monuments. Am I to believe that the inanimate monuments that have stood for over 100 years are the problem versus a mob that was damaging public property? This decision is an end run around state laws concerning historical monuments. Good thinking Governor Cooper. This statement and subsequent actions to remove the monuments have basically sent a message that any monuments from Murphy to Manteo that a mob would choose to damage, or tear down should be removed to protect public safety. This demonstrates that our Governor will not help if a lawless mob overcomes local enforcement. The action suddenly affects the town of Louisburg. I am not a resident of Louisburg nor do I own a business in town. I have read about the Town Council meeting and I respect the opinions and votes of every individual. Living in Franklin County, it would be irresponsible to challenge or question the decision of the Council. To have the town experience rioting and looting that has been seen in other cities and towns in the state would be unfortunate. We would not want to see our law enforcement overwhelmed by a mob from outside this county. It is interesting that the one person arrested during the demonstration at the monument was from Charlotte. This standoff is not worth damage to homes and businesses and certainly not worth the loss of human life. Conversely the fact that certain residents of this county invited these groups to “demonstrate” is far less than honorable. I really do not see these individuals as contributing to the good of Louisburg and Franklin County. Rest assured this action to remove monuments will not satisfy the mob. There is also talk of damage to churches and monuments that have nothing to do with the War Between the States. Many have been vandalized and or torn down. I do not believe this local group is only interested in Confederate Monuments. In fact, I do not think they are honest about any of their activities. I find it disturbing that so many of the people that make up these mobs have little if any historical knowledge. It would be nice to have someone well versed in history from the terrible Dred Scott decision in 1847 by the US Supreme Court to the Civil Rights bill in 1964. This assignment would challenge most educators. You might want to read some of the quotes attributed to Lyndon Johnson after the Civil Rights bill was signed. Franklin County has been the home of many learned historians. Unfortunately, many have passed away and been replaced by educators that have been too lazy to really learn about American History. It is reported that Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, has recently removed the portraits, in the halls of congress, of several previous speakers because they fought with the Confederate Army. My goodness, Thomas D’Alessandro Jr., who was the father of Speaker Pelosi, dedicated the Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee Monument in Baltimore in 1948 while he was the mayor. Even with Washington packed slam full of pious, arrogant people, this really takes the cake! I had a boss years ago that I really did not like, but I heard him say time and again. “If you expect more out of others than you are willing to do yourself, you will always be disappointed.” People that take a knee during The National Anthem should read that twice. Karl Marx would approve of the modern-day mobs. And no, he is not the brother of Groucho Marx! I think Governor Cooper is up for reelection in November.

Warren Harris
Justice Community