



NAACP Cookeville-Putnam Branch 56AA-B
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Renouncement of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Confederate History Month Proclamation

As the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SOCV) continue to push for "Confederate History Month" in the various states, cities, and towns in the South, the Cookeville-Putnam Branch of the NAACP renounces their efforts as an attempt to whitewash the history of oppression and atrocities perpetrated against Black Americans in those Confederate states during its history of chattel slavery. The revisionist history the group propounds as "The preservation of liberty and freedom as the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution" is an insult to intelligent Southerners and the descendants of enslaved Black Americans who full well know how their ancestors suffered at the hand of their "masters" in that shameful era in the South's history.

To add insult to injury, individuals in the SOCV exploited their friendship with a Black American Mayor to obtain his signature on a Confederate History Month Proclamation in an attempt to lend an air of legitimacy to their campaign. Be it known that we do not and will not accept that deceitful action as elevating the SOCV's cause to any level of legitimacy. The irony of this action is that had the Confederacy prevailed in that Civil War conflict does anyone truly believe that a Black man would have been sitting in that Mayor's seat?

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans claim they are not a racist organization but one that is dedicated to "preserving the history and legacy of those heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause" (text from their website). One cannot talk about the "Southern Cause" without acknowledging its racist oppression of Black Americans which was at its core.

The Cookeville-Putnam Branch of the NAACP renounces the views of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and their tactics in promoting their sanitized version of the history of the Confederacy. The truth in history must be told lest we repeat it.

About the NAACP: Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

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