



Statement of North Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

The point of the debate about moving the Confederate statues and monuments from the State Capitol grounds is not whether or not everyone agrees with the points of view of everyone else on these symbols of our history. Certainly, different people will have different opinions.

But, the point to remember is that North Carolina law does not allow these statues and monuments, and other memorials like them, to be moved except in cases where the public safety is at risk — and, also, where a statue can be moved to a place of equal prominence. The legal meaning of public safety is straightforward: It means that the physical condition of a monument creates a danger to people nearby and that the monument cannot be repaired where it stands.

Public safety does not come into play just because a statue or a monument may offend someone. Nor does public safety come into play when there is a threat that a mob may try to tear down a monument it dislikes.

In addition, it is disingenuous to say that there is any place to put a monument that would be as prominent as the Capitol grounds, as the law demands in the case of any relocation. The State Capitol is the very center of government; no other location in North Carolina is of such prominence.

Here's the bottom line: Government should not give in to a mob. Instead, government should uphold the rule of law. Playing to a mob is simply politics. Our government should defend the law, even the laws some people dislike. And people should respect the law even when they disagree with it.

R. Kevin Stone
Commander

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