

# MONUMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Haddix, a native Southerner and noted civil rights attorney, had the following comment regarding the monument:

“At the most basic level, there is no dispute about the fact that the monument celebrates the Confederacy. The statue is engraved “Our Confederate Heroes.” There should be no historical dispute that the Confederacy existed to defend slavery, specifically (and explicitly) enslavement of African-Americans. It’s written in Section Nine of the Confederate States of America (CSA) Constitution. Therefore for the County to allow that statue to occupy our public space constitutes government hate speech in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and Article I, Section 19 of our state constitution. It must be removed.”

*Chatham County Line* published a three-part series written by Pittsboro resident Will Sexton in the October, November and December issues of 2018. The series delved into the history of the monument, how it got installed in Pittsboro, who was responsible for it, what the day of dedication was like and musings on where we stand at the end of 2018 given the current situation at UNC-Chapel Hill with their statue known as “Silent Sam”. (Readers can view these past issues online [chathamcountyline.org](http://chathamcountyline.org) or in the original four-part blog at [chathamrabbit.blogspot.com](http://chathamrabbit.blogspot.com))

Local communities have had their hands tied since 2015 regarding Confederate monuments by a law passed by the NCGA that for all intents and purposes effectively eliminated the ability of local municipalities and county governments to decide the issue for themselves.

Recent moves by Democrats in the NC General Assembly seek to address the situation. House Bill 10 was filed in the NCGA on January 31, 2019, and it seeks to repeal the aforesaid law from 2015 and thus restore control to local communities.

Chatham County’s state representative, Robert Reives, joined the primary sponsors of the bill representatives Pricey Harrison, Evelyn Terry, Marcia Morey and Kelly Alexander.

In the other chamber, a companion bill to repeal the law from 2015 was filed on February 4th by State Senators Paul Lowe and Valerie Foushee, who represents Orange and Chatham counties via senate District 23.

A local citizens group will present information to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners “BOC” regarding the Confederate Memorial statue in front of the Historic Courthouse as a portion of its 6 p.m. regular session on April 15, 2019.

The presentation is on the regular meeting agenda in order for the BOC to take input and receive information.

According to the County, the standard procedure for new proposals dictates that the Board of Commissioners will not vote on the specific recommendations contained in the proposal at the April 15th meeting.

## ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Due to expected interest in this presentation from the community at-large, the regular meeting has been moved from its normal location at the Chatham County courthouse to the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center on the west side of Pittsboro near the Central Carolina Community College. (The address for the Ag Center is 1192 US 64 Business.)

Since the presentation is not a public hearing, the County has advised citizens who want

to speak to the issue to sign up prior to the meeting and to bring printed copies of their comments for the BOC’s Clerk, Lindsay Ray, to enter officially into the County’s record.

Speakers will have three minutes to address the BOC. Speakers are advised to comport with the adopted rules of the board which include guidelines to a) disagree with others respectfully; b) stick to your time limit; and c) avoid interrupting speakers.

This meeting will be the first public gathering of community members to discuss the Confederate Memorial statue and comes on the heels of the rumored presentation to the BOC on March 18th that caused local law enforcement to protect the monument and ensure public safety as Chathamites mixed with non-Chathamites and milled around the monument.

Given the context of the events around the Lee statue in Charlottesville, VA in August of 2017; the removal of a Confederate statue by force in Durham by protesters on August 14th, 2017; the protest and eventual toppling of “Silent Sam” in UNC-Chapel Hill by protesters on August 20, 2018; and the removal of the statue in Winston-Salem by its city government on March 12th 2019, it is not surprising that online discussions have already gotten spirited and various Facebook pages have been created regarding the future of the Confederate Monument in Pittsboro.

Local artist and farmer Farrell Moose created such a page and had this to say:

*Greetings,  
The Moose family has farmed in North Carolina for hundreds of years. Many members fought and died in the civil war. Our family farm has a slave graveyard from that time. This is our heritage.*

*The Confederate statue in Pittsboro must be removed.*

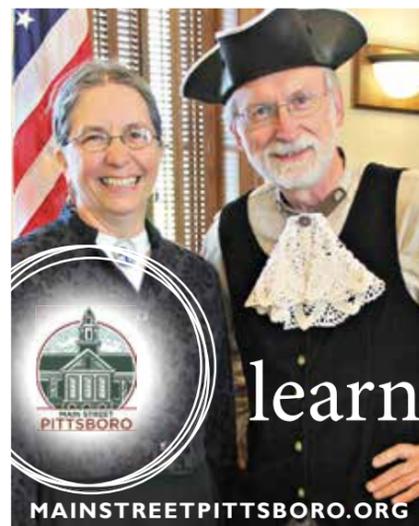
*It stands in front of our community’s courthouse with an unambiguous message of unequal justice for our African American brothers and sisters.*

*Emily has been working hard with an amazing group of people on this issue and they present to the commissioners on April 15 at 6:00pm. Please join Emily and me next Monday night to show support for equal justice in our community.*

*I am tired of modern day racists using my family’s very real history as an explanation for hate. I would like to use my voice to heal this wound and I would not like for our voices to be drowned out by the hate groups that are already organizing.*

*If history is this close for me please imagine the experience of a young African American father rounding the circle.*

*Think about it and let’s show up.*



Of course there are different views on the monument as statue supporter Parker Stockdale advised the BOC on March 18th:

“Some people can’t get over their wounded PC sensitivity and find something else to whine about,” he said. “You can’t rewrite history. If the way we honor our dead bothers you in some way, exercise your hard-fought freedom and get the hell out of here.”

Stockdale feels that some folks have warped the meaning of the statue and he claims relatives who served on both sides of the Civil War. Stockdale also gave an accounting to the BOC of the number of people from Chatham and North Carolina who took part in the Civil War, which was reported by the *Herald Sun* last month.

Oddly, Stockdale and many others such as General Lee’s young courier and monument progenitor, Henry A. London, may be out of synch with the wishes of the renowned General himself.

“He said he was not interested in any monuments to him or — as I recollect — to the Confederacy,” explained James Cobb, history professor emeritus at the University of Georgia, who has written about Lee’s rise as an icon in a 2011 article published in *Humanities* the magazine of the National Endowment of the Humanities.

“I don’t think that means he would have felt good about the people who fought for the Confederacy being completely forgotten,” Cobb added. “But he didn’t want a cult of personality for the South.”

General Lee advocated protection of just one form of memorial: headstones in cemeteries.

“All I think that can now be done,” he wrote in 1866, “is ... to protect the graves [and] mark the last resting places of those who have fallen...”

In addition, Lee biographer Jonathan Horn wrote that Lee didn’t just oppose Confederate monuments, “he favored erasing battlefields from the landscape altogether.”

On March 30, 2019 the Chatham County Democratic Party passed a resolution at its annual convention that concluded with the following call for action:

RESOLVED, That the Chatham County

Democratic Party support a request to be presented to the Chatham County Commissioners to take measures necessary to return the monument in front of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro to its owner, the UDC. (The full resolution is available online at [www.chathamcountyline.org](http://www.chathamcountyline.org).)

With some non-southerners coalescing around the afore quoted views of Mr. Stockdale, Sixth Congressional District Vice-Chair for the Democratic party, Virginia Penley, had this to say:

“What I fail to understand is how natives of non-Confederate states, especially those who had family who fought and/or supported the Union cause, could support the statue in its current locale in front of the Courthouse.

What is the fascination with this statue for non-Southerners, (Yankees) especially white non-Southerners, and why do they support it and/or defend it in the face of native white and native black southerners who want to take a new course of action on this issue in the 21st Century?

Again, this not a question for native Southerners, but rather the non-Southerners who have decided that they like statues that honor the Confederacy and its values.

What is the attraction? It certainly cannot be heritage, since they are not from here. Logically then, it must be something else.

What is it about the values portion of this proposition that is worth defending for them?

Especially in light of the fact that some of these non-southerners had family who likely fought for the Union and perhaps even died for the Union”

*Chatham County Line* reached out via email to the Chatham County Republican Party and its current chairman, Terry Schmidt, for a position on the local monument. No response has been forthcoming and none has been posted on its web site. The current GOP party platform for 2018 does not specifically speak to the issue either.

*Chatham County Line* will continue its coverage of the issue online and in our May edition.



CHATHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Fleet Reddish Dinner

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019  
Governor’s Club Clubhouse  
4-8pm

This 36th annual dinner, named in honor of our former county party chair, Fleet Reddish, is always inspiring and fun as we gather to celebrate our shared values and goals of electing great democrats to office.

Our speaker will be candidate for Lt. Governor Senator Terry Van Duyn. Senator Van Duyn is a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, representing Buncombe County since 2014. Since being elected, Senator Van Duyn has been a strong advocate for progressive values. She has won the Sierra Club’s Green Tie Award and has been endorsed by groups like EMILY’s List, Lillian’s List, and Planned Parenthood.



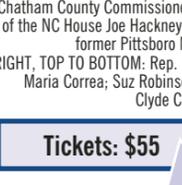
















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