

RESOLUTION OF THE FISCAL COURT OF CALLOWAY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

In regards to the matter of the Confederate Monument on the grounds of the Calloway County Courthouse.

No. _____

WHEREAS, since May, 1917 a Memorial to those Calloway County residents who fought for the Confederacy in America's Civil War has stood on the Northeast corner of the grounds of the Calloway County Courthouse;

WHEREAS, in recent times, a number of groups and individuals have stated their opposition to the monument's continued existence at that location;

WHEREAS, the J.N. Williams Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has claimed ownership of the Monument, and based upon records from the time period in which the Monument was erected, this Court has no reason to dispute that claim of ownership;

WHEREAS, inscribed upon the Monument are the words "In Loving Remembrance" and "Confederate Soldiers", clearly indicating that the Monument's dedicated purpose was to honor those Calloway Countians who had fought, and many of whom had died, for the Confederacy during America's Civil War;

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, approximately eighty (80%) percent of those Calloway Countians fighting in the war fought on the side of the Confederacy;

WHEREAS, this Court is mindful of the negative connotations that the Monument may hold for some of the citizens of Calloway County, and so to them and to all others this Court unreservedly condemns the past evil of slavery and the oppression of any American, past, present or future based on the color of his or her skin by any individual or institution;

WHEREAS, this Court believes that this Monument was erected for the purpose of honoring and memorializing the vast majority of those Calloway Countians who fought in the Civil War, as evidenced by the words prominently inscribed thereon, rather than, as several have argued, for the purpose of promoting continued oppression;

WHEREAS, though this Court does not propose that the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy be mandated to relocate the Monument, should the UDC desire to relocate the Monument at some point in the future, this Court would offer its assistance to the extent it was able to accomplish that goal;

WHEREAS, even though this Court has decided today to allow the Monument to continue to stand as it has for more than a century, the decision to do so has not been made lightly, with Court members having heard from hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Calloway County citizens prior to reaching this conclusion;

WHEREAS, , as with all matters, this Court remains committed to serving the Will of the people of Calloway County, and should that Will change at some point in the future, the Court stands ready to listen and engage on this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF CALLOWAY COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

The Fiscal Court of Calloway County, Kentucky hereby resolves that the Confederate Monument dedicated to the remembrance of those Calloway Countians who fought in the Civil War shall remain standing upon the Northeast corner of the grounds of the Calloway County Courthouse for so long as the owners of that Monument and the citizens of Calloway County are so inclined.

APPROVED, RESOLVED, ADOPTED AND EXECUTED ON THIS 15TH DAY OF JULY, 2020.

KENNETH C. IMES,
Calloway County Judge-Executive

EDDIE CLYDE HALE,
Magistrate

LARRY CRUTCHER,
Magistrate

DON CHERRY,
Magistrate

PAUL RISTER,
Magistrate

Attested to by: ANTONIA D. FAULKNER,
Clerk of Calloway County