

July 23, 2020

Edward H. Sebesta

Dallas, TX 75216

edwardsebesta@gmail.com

Barbara M. Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Barrett:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Department of Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion.

I am writing you asking that you and your board ask the United States military to stop colluding with neo-Confederate groups. Though the United States military colludes in multiple ways with neo-Confederate groups I am going to limit this letter to specifically how the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program colludes with the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) and the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC).

I am a published academic regarding the neo-Confederates, editor of two university press books, published in peer-reviewed academic journals, and also published in *Black Commentator*. I was awarded the Spirit of Freedom medal by the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C. I enclose a copy of my curriculum vitae which is online at <http://templeofdemocracy.com/curriculum-vitae.html>.

I enclose with this letter an article by A.C. Wilson III, National Chairman of the H.L. Hunley Award, in the January/February 2014 issue of the *Confederate Veteran*, the official publication of the SCV, about their purpose in giving out the H.L. Hunley awards to JROTC cadets (pp. 62-64). It is about using the awards ceremony and the prestige of the U.S. Military to advance their ideological program to gain respectability and to gain influence both with other community organizations and with the high school which has a JROTC program. You will note on page 63 how pleased they are with getting young African Americans students to become supporters of the Confederacy.

They like to showcase giving African American young people the H.L. Hunley Award. I enclose a copy of the November/December 2013 *Confederate Veteran* (pp. 56-57) article about the Hunley Award. When local SCV camps give out the award they like to have a photo published in the *Confederate Veteran* and there usually is in each issue one or two photos, often with non-white students, being shown being given the H.L. Hunley Award.

Lest you think that the SCV is just another heritage organization I wish to point out that the Head and Deputy Head of the SCV Heritage Committee are Walter Donald Kennedy and James Ronald Kennedy. They have a web page to sell their books and promote their ideology. <http://www.kennedytwins.com/> The book "The South Was Right!" has a vitriolic denunciation of the Voting Rights Act. The "Myths of American Slavery," angrily denounces the Southern Baptist apology for slavery, and argues that if a slave ran away the slave is violating the Golden Rule. I can supply copies. However, the book which would make most people gasp, is the book, "Punished With Poverty," in which the poverty of the South is blamed on the fact slaveowners weren't compensated for their slaves. They demand reparations for slavery, BUT IN THIS INSTANCE IT IS REPARATIONS FOR THE SLAVEOWNERS, and they do calculate what they think the former Confederate states are owed and they have a plan on how to use this money. Note the books, "Rekilling Lincoln," and "Lincoln's Marxists," in which the Lincoln administration is supposed to be some type of communist conspiracy.

At this point in describing the SCV I get usually get some explanation, excuse, of a few rogue characters but the SCV as a whole is about sentimental nostalgia. I enclose an article I had published at *Black Commentator* in 2013 http://blackcommentator.com/526/526_confederacy_sebesta_guest_share.html. There is anti-Semitism, religious extreme, pro-slavery ideology and theology, and of course white supremacy. There is even an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory about race and Intelligence Quotients.

If someone wants to assert that the SCV is no longer extremist, I have written up a review of articles published in 2018 and 2019 in the Confederate Veteran and the direction of the SCV leading up to these articles showing that they were extremist all along. I have it online at <http://templeofdemocracy.com/information-resources-about-the-sons-of-confederate-veterans.html>.

These JROTC cadets are young adults in our high schools and they trusted you and the U.S. military allowed neo-Confederate groups to exploit them. Now they will be trying to keep being a recipient of this award a secret and hoping no one find out and what their explanations they will have to give to friends, co-workers, relatives, and their children and grandchildren as to why they accepted this award. From the articles and website there has been at least 500 of these awards given out and that was reported in the past. Probably over a thousand JROTC have been allowed to be victimized by the U.S. military.

What will recruits think of officers which have accepted a Confederate award? How believable will the (Confederate) officer's excuse for having accepted such an award be? What will parents in general think of the U.S. military being the agency the means by which neo-Confederates crept into their high schools with their agenda?

I would like to point out that the H.L. Hunley's attack resulted in the death of American sailors. An American ship was sunk. I would like to point out that the Confederates were traitors.

In regards to treason the focus has been that the Confederates were traitors. Indeed in the Congressional Record, until very early in the 20th century, the Civil War was called “The War of the Rebellion,” before treason became normalized.

However, I think that this is a limited view of the matter. We are a multi-racial nation. Good positive racial relations in our nation is a fundamental, **the** fundamental, basis of our national security. A nation divided is an easy prey for any hostile power regardless of what military apparatus they might have. Nations fragment into pieces when there isn't a common national identity. This action of the U.S. military in enabling the handing out of H.L. Hunley Awards is a direct attack on the security of our nation.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, seeing the success of the SCV JROTC program, has started on of their own medal for JROTC cadets these last couple years, but the information I am able to get is limited.

It isn't like this is an atavistic hold over from a historically earlier era like the UDC awards at the U.S. Military academies which started in the 1940s. The November/December 2009 *Confederate Veteran* has an article which explains that the program was launched in March 2009 (pp. 52-53). Also, in 2015 I wrote letters to the U.S. Military that this activity be stopped and was rebuffed.

I would like the U.S. Military to do the following:

1. Stop neo-Confederates from participating in JROTC activities, especially those activities involving awards.
2. Identify all cadets that were given an award and give them an official apology.
3. Identify all JROTC personnel involved in allowing these awards to be given and review with them the inappropriateness of having neo-Confederates groups being involved with U.S. Military activities.

In 2020 it would be a good time for the U.S. military give up the Confederacy and this would be a good start.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward H. Sebesta

CC: See table on next page.

No.	Name & Title	Address
1	Mark T. Esper, Secretary of Defense	1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000
2	David L. Norquist, Deputy Secretary of Defense	1010 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000
3	Gen. David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps	3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-3000
4	Hon. Kenneth J. Braithwaite, Secretary of the Navy	1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652, Washington, DC 20350
5	Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army	101 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670
6	Gen. James C. McConville, Army Chief of Staff	200 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20310-0200
7	Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	9999 Joint Staff Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-2000
8	Adm. Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations	2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
9	Gen. Joseph L. Lengyl, Chief National Guard Bureau	1636 Defense Pentagon, Ste. 1E169, Washington, DC 20301-0001
10	Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force Chief of Staff	1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670
11	Matthew P. Donovan	Under Secretary of Defense,(Personnel and Readiness) 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000
12	Ramón Colón-López, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	9999 Joint Staff Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-2000
13	Air Force Brigadier Gen. Troy Dunn	1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670
14	Navy Capt. Judy Malana	2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
15	Army Maj. Wrencla Lopez	200 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20310-0200
16	Army Maj. Randy Fleming	200 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20310-0200
17	Marine Capt. Oludare Adeniji	3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-3000
18	Navy Lt. Cassandra Chang	2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
19	Army Capt. Chrystal Ware	200 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20310-0200
20	Navy Master Chief John Diaz	2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350-2000
21	Army Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Harvey	200 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20310-0200
22	Air Force Master Sgt. Deondra Park	1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670
23	Air Force National Guard Master Sgt. Jessica Todd	1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670
24	Space Force Technical Sgt. Tysheena Brown-Jefferson	1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20330-1670

Those in the light yellow color cells are members of the Department of Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion. Their address will include Dept. of Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion.