

The Arlington Monument Issue

by Ed Williamson

Recently the Naming Committee made a recommendation to remove the Confederate Memorial Statue from Arlington National Cemetery. This push seems to be in line with what happens when socialism creeps into the politics of a democratic republic. There is a need under socialism to remove the memories of the past to enable the changes required to become a socialist state. Here is the history of the memorial and why it needs to stay where it is.

On Dec. 14, 1898, four days after the Spanish-American War ended, President William McKinley kicked off his “Peace Jubilee” nationwide tour with a speech in Atlanta in which he proclaimed, “in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of Confederate soldiers.... Sectional feeling no longer holds back the love we feel for each other. The old flag again waves over us in peace with new glories.”

In 1900, after McKinley's speech and a huge amount of national pressure from people believing that Confederate warriors were in the end, American Soldiers and deserved the same amount of respect as Union Soldiers, Congress authorized Confederate remains to be reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, which designated a special section for them in Section 16. (By the early 1900s, it had become tradition to establish a new section at Arlington for the dead from a particular war, followed by a commemorative monument.) The creation of a Confederate section and memorial followed customary practice at Arlington.

In this context, the U.S. government reassessed its policies on Confederate burials. Although the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns likely contained the remains of both Union and Confederate dead, Arlington had been a U.S. Army cemetery, and for years after the Civil War, Confederate veterans could not be buried there.

On June 6, 1900, Congress appropriated \$2,500 for the removal and reinterment of Confederate remains. By 1902, 262 Confederate bodies were interred in Section 16. Unlike the orderly rows in the rest of the cemetery, graves in the Confederate section were arranged in concentric rings. Their headstones also looked different: while having the same dimensions as regular government headstones, the Confederate headstones featured pointed tops. The cemetery added more Confederate graves over the years, eventually totaling more than 400.

On June 7, 1903, the first Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies were held in Arlington's Confederate section. President Theodore Roosevelt sent a floral arrangement, beginning a tradition continued by nearly every U.S. president. (In 2009, President Barack Obama modified the tradition, sending two wreaths: one to the Confederate Memorial, the other to Washington D.C.'s African American Civil War Monument.)

In 1906, the United Daughters of the Confederacy began raising funds to build a memorial in the Confederate section. In 1914, the Confederate Memorial was designed and erected by Moses Jacob Ezekiel, a Confederate veteran and the first Jewish graduate of Virginia Military Institute. Now, almost 120 years later there is a push to take this memorial down.

Under President Obama, funds were scaled back for the maintenance of Confederate monuments and headstones in all National Cemeteries. This affected the condition of the Arlington Confederate Memorial to the point that moving it would make it impossible to put it somewhere else and in the end, destroy it!

Many of you reading this article might think, "What's the big deal?" Why is it so important to save this memorial? Let me turn the question around. Let me ask: "Why is it so important to our current government to spend billions (that we do not have) to remove something that is best left where it is? What is their final agenda and how are they getting there? I am trying NOT to sound like a conspiracy theorist but it begs the question, "Are we in the middle of a movement to take over our government and tell us how to live?"

Simple observation would tell us that it is happening. Critical Race Theory has been banned from most schools; yet teachers continue to be revealed to be teaching it clandestinely! The Second Amendment is constantly being fought by our liberal politicians, most recently our Colorado state government. Parental authority is undermined by abortion and gender change politics. I recommend that we all take a stand and save the Confederate Memorial. In this way we push back against the socialist movement that threatens us all! Please call or write your congress person and then consider donating to: <https://www.sshfl.org/chipintodefendarlington>.

(Many thanks to the website: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil for information found in this article.)