

## Renaming Military Bases Honoring Great American Generals

Dear Senator Perdue,

It is an incredibly sad time in American history when a small percentage of people can pressure Senate leaders into making decisions which affect us negatively. If someone says, "something offends them", what really is their goal? Are they speaking on behalf of most Americans? I think not! What about those directly offended by this fact-less allegation?

What are their rights?

As a retired New York State Correctional Superintendent, holder of a Master of Justice Administration degree and a member of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, as well as a decorated Marine Corps veteran of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam, I am saddened at what is going on within our country today. I would entitle it "un-American"! My Georgia ancestors on my father's side served honorably for the Confederate Army with General John B. Gordon of Georgia.

Am I proud of them, absolutely; they are my blood! Do I take offense at the negative inferences against the South and particularly those who served the Confederacy whether they were black or white? Absolutely!

History is history whether someone likes it or not, to re-write or destroy history during "our watch" is absurd! These accusers need to do some fact-finding regarding history. No one felt slavery was ok; it was a terrible thing, but if the African chiefs had not brutalized

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the poor people of Africa it never would have started its vicious cycle hundreds of years ago. In fact, most of these people who complain today were never even related to slaves from Africa and for the few who are, their fight is with the African tribes who brutalized and sold their people.

The Civil War was not about slavery but about the oppressive tariff and violations of the Constitution of the United States which the Southern states, who succeeded, could not bear any longer (States' rights); soldiers did not fight for slavery, they fought for freedom and the wellbeing of their families. I suppose it was ok for General Sheridan to destroy my relative's homes and steal or kill everything of value from them while my great grandfather, his brother and their father were fighting up North? They were just doing their duty for their Country and State. **They, too, were United States Veterans at war's end!** They faced the horrors of war because they **loved Georgia** and they wanted the very best for their families. So now our brave Southern veterans are falsely accused, while their very bodies lie in Confederate or Union cemeteries, as well as private cemeteries. Many of their relatives continued to defend our country and our way of life, even to this day; many of these Southern, as well as Northern, veterans have been trained at these very bases which bear the names of those gallant Southern Generals. They are proud to exclaim their attachment to these famous bases. Let's look at what is happening, a small group of people want to falsely accuse all Confederates, including our great Generals and desecrate their sacred burial ground or dishonor the very statues and monuments dedicated to honor them, which were more than likely purchased with the hard-earned money by people who wished to honor their war dead. Most of the Confederate statues and monuments were purchased by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and/or the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Many of

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these memorials, as well as military bases, honor leaders who have graduated from prestigious academies, like West Point, and fought honorably for our country. Many became great Confederate Generals who are studied to this day by future military leaders. They are part of the backbone of this great Nation!

What kind of people desecrates cemeteries, statues, and monuments dedicated to American veterans, or want to change the names of military bases bearing their names as a symbol of honor, whether they fought for the North or South? Un-American I would say! Have they stopped there, no sir, they go after other American symbols.

Exactly what have these accusers contributed to the history of this great Nation? They will go down in American history as nothing more than agitators; socialists trying to undermine our Country by re-writing history, to destroy the very heritage which made our country the greatest Nation on Earth! Many of the young white agitators claim that things are not “politically correct.” This socialist phrase was designed to attack and undermine the very roots of our Nation! In fact, this phrase is not legally recognized anywhere! ANTIFA and Black Lives Matter are communist socialist groups who are manipulating blacks, whites, and hispanics to destroy our Nation, so they can proceed with their socialist manifestos. It is not about race, but they will use race to divide and destroy our Country for their own means. Incredibly sad indeed if one bows down and capitulates to their demands. I love my Country, its history, good or bad, and I will continue to legally defend my ancestors, my Southern Georgian roots, my Country, and its Constitution against degradation whether it is foreign or domestic. Everyone’s First Amendment rights are to be respected but once they falsely accuse, degrade or assault us or uses it to erase our Country’s rich history in a

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move to radically change America, “the buck stops there.” This is a time when our great Nation needs to work together, not be divided by dissidents. Our ancestors would be extremely upset to see what is happening within our Nation today. Our Nation’s history is deep rooted by an honorable people who fought for what was right and proper. If we disagree, we do it in a civilized manner, not by degrading and/or eradicating our history, destroying property, stealing, harming others, or renaming military bases, schools, streets, etc.! Our history is one forged by the lives of honorable and dedicated men and women who loved this Nation and forged this Nation into one of the strongest on Earth with a Constitution which protects all of its citizens regardless of race and we must continue to “carry this torch on our watch”! A majority of the people polled across this great Nation do not want our history changed; they agree, leave the Confederate designated statues, monuments, cemeteries, military bases, schools, etc. alone; the South has a rich history which must be preserved.

I certainly hope that this letter of concern is taken in the way it is presented; honorably and respectfully of all-American citizens who honor our veterans, and yes, Confederate veterans are honored American veterans! We need to respect all Americans regardless of race, all lives matter; we need to protect our Nation’s history and its wellbeing! Long may she live!

Thank you for your time to hear the concerns of a soon to be 77-year-old who loves his Country and his Southern relatives of Georgia-the Greshams!

Semper Fi,  
Paul W. Annetts/Gresham-M.J.A./USMC