FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to lend my voice of support to the movement on the part of well-meaning Americans who have joined in the difficult task of removing some of the Confederate monuments from the landscape of America. Let’s face it, Robert E. Lee and Jeff Davis committed treason in the Civil War and led an army of rebellion against the United States of America.

In the minds of all well-meaning Americans, monuments to Lee, Davis and other Confederates should conjure up images of traitors who defiled the American flag, killed US soldiers and did their best to split the Nation into two countries -- one slave and one free.

In addition, Charlottesville reminded us that Nazi sympathizers, Ku Klux Klan activist and other extremists are emboldened by these Lost Cause Civil War monuments and symbols and rally to them in support of their violent notion of white supremacy.

At the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum in Washington, D.C. we offer an alternative example of a Monument and Museum whose cause is worthy of Commemoration because they uphold the American ideals of freedom and Union.

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The Spirit of Freedom Monument consists of a bronze statute surrounded by the Wall of Honor, which lists the names of 209,145 members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) on engraved stainless steel plaques.

Listed among the names are 7,800 white officers, who led black soldiers into battle. One of the officers was Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed by Confederate soldiers in the Battle of Ft. Wagner. When Shaw was killed, Captain Luis Emilio, a Hispanic officer, took command of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry and led them into battle. In addition to Captain Emilio, there are more than 1,500 soldiers with Hispanic surnames scattered throughout the Wall of Honor.

The enduring Legacy of the Civil War is that Lincoln prevails, America remains united under one flag, and slavery, the buying and selling of black Americans, is abolished. The framers of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments would later argue on the floor of Congress that black men fought their way to freedom, citizenship and the right to vote on the battlefield of the American Civil War.

There should be more monuments to the bold Americans who rallied around Lincoln, saved the Nation and stood for Freedom and Union.

ABOUT THE MEMORIAL

The African American Civil War Memorial was dedicated in 1998 near 10th and U street NW Washington, D.C. The monument was created for two purposes to correct a great wrong in American history which ignored the contributions of the United States Colored Troops in keeping America united under one flag and ending slavery in the United States. The second purpose was to aid in the economic revitalization of the historic U Street community which was devastated by the 1968 riots. The museum is directly across Vermont Ave, from the memorial and admissions is free. To support the mission of the Museum donate by visiting the website at www.afroomcivilwar.org
MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

FIELD TRIPS TO THE AACW MUSEUM

The Museum would like to welcome all students to learn about the service and legacy of the United States Colored Troops.

- Explore the legacy of freedom through interactive exhibits
- Tour the Museum with a fun scavenger hunt
- Engage with a Civil War interpreter in the School of the Soldier program
- Learn how the Civil War changed the nation

FREE buses are provided for qualifying schools in the District of Columbia. To schedule your fieldtrip contact the museum at education@afroamcivilwar.org.

OCTOBER 13TH
6:30pm to 8:30pm: Teachers' Night Out

OCTOBER 14TH
1pm to 3pm: Lincoln Group DC presentation: The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War

NOVEMBER 11TH
11am: Veterans' Day Wreath-Laying Program

NOVEMBER 18TH
8am to 6pm: Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade & Tour

DECEMBER 14TH
6:30pm to 8:30pm: AACW Museum’s Civil War Holiday Open House

Visit the website www.afroamcivilwar.org for more information about events and how to RSVP. Check out pictures from past events and more.

STUDENTS LOOKING AT A MODEL OF CAMP BARKER

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...@AFROAMCIVILWAR

#USCTFACT
#SEEITBEINSPIRED
TEACHER PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 13, 2017

6:00pm to 8:30pm: Enjoy an evening at the AACW Museum and walk away with plenty of curriculum resources to jump-start your Civil War lesson plans.

JULY 23–27, 2018

Join us for a week-long teacher workshop focused on Civil War Memory, Myths and Monuments.

“\textit{I enjoy bringing students to the African American Civil War Museum because it provides them an opportunity to see and hold artifacts from the Civil War era, hear well documented and engaging presentations on the contributions of African Americans in the War and to view the wonderful monument that pays tribute to those who gave their lives to end the oppression of slavery.}” - Sandra, History Professor

SUMMER TEACHER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
The staff at the AACW Museum were busy all month long with the 8th Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Appreciation Event, Descendants' Presentations, the Congressional Black Caucus Digging Trough History Lecture on African American World War II soldiers in the Netherlands, and the It's a Youth Thing Arts Festival. We still took time for a field trip to Harpers Ferry to learn about John Brown's raid there.
The African American Civil War Memorial Wall lists the names of 209,145 soldiers who served in the Union army during the Civil War. These names represent unknown and notable figures who served to end slavery in the United States.

The greatest source of information on soldiers is contributed to the Museum by their descendants. Each month we invite descendants to share their ancestor’s story. William Cook presented in September and spoke about his ancestor Harry Biggs of the 11th United States Colored Infantry. Contact the Museum today to schedule your presentation.

**DESCENDANTS OF HARRY BIGGS, MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER LEE JACKSON & DIRECTOR FRANK SMITH**

**APEEK INSIDE THE COLLECTIONS**

Commissioned by General Benjamin Butler, the Butler Medal was also called the Colored Troops Medal. It was issued in 1865 near the close of the War and was intended to recognize meritorious service of African Americans at the Battle of Chaffins Farm. The medal is solid silver and issued to over 200 soldiers. The medal is inscribed, in Latin, *Ferro iis libertas perveniet* (Freedom Will be Theirs by the Sword). This artifact will go on display in the exhibit "Glorious March to Liberty" in the newly-renovated Museum.

**BACK AND FRONT VIEWS OF BUTLER MEDAL**