

Readers' views

Confederate flag symbol of heritage, not sign of racism

Richard F. Dawahare's April 25 letter concerning the Rebel flag was so confused that I must respond to it line by line. First, states aren't being "discouraged" from flying the flag. What is happening very slowly is a complete erasure of an integral part of this nation's history. I do agree with his contention that it doesn't have to do with political correctness. Instead, it involves a clear case of out-and-out censorship.

As for the remark about "revisionist historians" telling wild tales of the cause of the war: Slavery was an issue, yes, but so was a strong belief in state government that continues to this day all over the country. Still other issues, aside from constitutional rights, were perceived Northern economic wrongs such as forced tariffs on Southern exports and the very real feeling that Southern homes must be protected from a hostile army.

The real problem I have with the letter is the assertion that "to proudly display that emblem is to embrace that philosophy and practice." I proudly display that emblem because it is an important part of my family history. I take offense that he would propose to know my intentions and accuse me of embracing a philosophy that I do not.

The Confederate flag is grossly misused today by a myriad of groups. The answer is not to eradicate and censor, but to educate people on the difference between heritage and hate. Winston Churchill said any people with contempt for their heritage have lost faith in themselves and no nation can survive without pride in its traditions.

Scott M. Furcolow
Lexington