

Proud of Confederate flag

Every now and then, articles appear in *The Item*, that if allowed to go unrebutted, contribute to the general apathetic diet that we Southerners are being fed by those who count themselves as the intellectually elite. My reference is to the column in *The Item* of April 23 drafted by Fred Horlbeck regarding the battle flag of the Confederacy. I, for one, believe that this discussion has waxed long enough.

I am proud to be a descendant of a private that served with Maginault's Regiment of Infantry in that most terrible conflict, and my heart does swell a bit when I see the banner of the Confederacy flying. Knowing full well that some misguided individuals will automatically brand my feelings as "racist" or "red-necked," I must nevertheless stand firm in the conviction that this emblem of a time of devotion to God and Country, as it was believed by those gallant men and women who gave their lives during and following the Civil War, is a symbol of the grace, culture and elegance that is the South.

Winston Churchill once stated, "Any people with contempt for their heritage have lost faith in themselves, and no nation can long survive without pride in its traditions." I am PROUD of my Southern heritage, and that pride will not tolerate the willful demeaning and slandering of the flag that my ancestors fought and died under. It matters not that the perpetrator of that slander be a racist faction, a liberal coalition, or simply a member of the press.

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