

## LETTERS

### Senate vote on patent will cause more division

**JERRY HUGHES**  
Natchitoches

How would you as an American citizen feel if two men who represent you in the U.S. Senate were to stand up in Congress and say, "The veterans of the Vietnam War are not to be honored because they lost the war"?

J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux, in effect, did just that on July 21. Our two senators voted against the United Daughters of the Confederacy in their effort to renew a logo patent that contains the image of the Confederate flag. This patent has been in effect for 95 years.

The motives of the two Louisiana senators were to appease a vociferous senator from Illinois who delivered an emotional plea and asserted that the symbol was offensive to black people. Perhaps the senators wanted to be "politically correct."

Our nation is a pluralistic society that prides itself on tolerance and peaceful co-existence. Racism is not diminished by destroying someone else's symbols. In fact, slander and destroying others' symbols only cause more division. Our beloved nation has room for all. Racism can be eliminated only by a change of the human heart.

Today, many Southerners still care about their ancestors and still honor them. Furthermore, they still hold certain symbols to be sacred. Winston Churchill said, "Any people with contempt for their heritage have lost faith in themselves and no nation can long survive without pride in its traditions."

I do not support abortion, but federal law permits the slaughter of innocent ones. Yet, I do not spit on the American flag that symbolizes the federal government.

We, as citizens, must elect politicians who represent all the people and who have the moral fortitude to know real values.

In closing, let me say that organizations such as the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans are historical and patriotic organizations. They seek to stay out of politics. They are in no way connected to hate groups who

have stolen those sacred symbols of the South to use in perverse ways.



L.A. Times Syndicate

### Why teach youngsters to be what they can't?

**JAMES Q. WELLBORN**  
Bossier City

There are some things that are being sold to young people with this image-building that is going on. This business of an athlete who can move with the grace and agility of a deer telling young folks that they can be anything they want to be is at the least untrue and at most psychologically unhealthy for them.

As every athletic coach knows, speed and agility cannot be taught; it can be enhanced but not taught. It would seem then, to tell young people that just by wanting to be and working hard at it they can become a superstar is a lie of the greatest magnitude.

Everyone is born with mental and physical limits. In view of this, wouldn't it be much better to stick with the old, "be all you can be" theme?

What a disappointment it must be to young people who have set about to be something that they can't be and, therefore, fail. Most people who have spent any time in education at all know that given enough failures, young people come to think of themselves as failures.

And, it is hard enough to teach young people what they don't want to learn,