



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 23, 2018

The destruction of the Boy Soldier on the campus of the University of Carolina-Chapel Hill on August 20 must be condemned, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

This struggle concerns more than appeasing the feelings of some when they walk past statues commemorating a past that offends them. Permitting the destruction of public or private property without regard to due process of law or property rights, but only to satisfy one's own political beliefs, results in anarchy and the destruction of the fabric of society.

Modern historians have chosen to interpret 19th-century history through their 21st-century lenses and have declared that all Confederate monuments were erected to glorify the institution of slavery. This is simply not the case. While the defense of slavery was one of the larger issues at the time, the majority of the fighting forces were not slaveholders, but rather owners of small farms or townspeople defending their homes and their families from their own countrymen, invaders who were burning, stealing and destroying their land.

The mothers, the sisters, the fathers all grieved their loss, just as families grieve today for their loved ones who fall in battle. The "Silent Sam" statue, for instance, was funded by University of North Carolina alumni and members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy as a memorial to the students – sons and brothers all – who left their classes to join the fight. Mothers the world over for time immemorial have built monuments to honor their loved ones who have fought and died. The mothers of these Confederate soldiers were no different – their sons fought a losing battle, but their loss was deeply felt nonetheless.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy continues today to honor those who fight to defend this country. We are deeply patriotic and proud of our country's heritage as a melting pot, where differing opinions, beliefs, races, languages, and customs are accepted and even celebrated. We support any group's right to demonstrate or peacefully protest what it sees as needing to change. This ideal, however, cannot be taken for granted. If a group is allowed to unlawfully escalate a protest into the destruction of private or public property to suit their own agenda, then our unity is destroyed as well, and our country is in danger.

We urge the administration of the University of North Carolina and the courts and law enforcement authorities to take action to punish those who have destroyed property that does not belong to them to satisfy their own whims and to prevent others from doing the same in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Peggy Johnson, President