



Media Advisory

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Contact: Mark Ellison
(804) 521-4141
marke@madisonmain.com

Anedra Bourne
(804) 780-1865 x 16
abourne@tredegar.org

The American Civil War Center Board Votes to Accept Davis Statue

RICHMOND, VA – Christy S. Coleman, President of the American Civil War Center, announced today that the Center’s Board of Directors voted to accept the offer of a statue of Jefferson Davis, commissioned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

“The fundamental mission of The American Civil War Center is to tell the whole story of our nation’s greatest conflict from three perspectives: Union, Confederate and African American,” said Coleman. “We seek to involve our visitors, scholars and patrons in engaging, thought-provoking and academically sound considerations of the Civil War and its legacies.”

The Board of Directors consulted staff and received valuable input from the public, scholars and historians including William J. Cooper Jr., former President of Louisiana State University, and Elizabeth Muhlenfeld, President of Sweet Briar College, before making a decision.

John Motley, Chair of the Board of Directors said, “We appreciate the offer of the statue of Jefferson Davis from the International Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Center’s Board has decided the statue can be used in the execution of our mission – to tell the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation from three perspectives.”

“We recognize this decision may cause some dissention; however, in conformance with our Collections Policy, the Center shall have the right to determine the statue’s use and interpretation.”

“It should be noted that the Abraham Lincoln statue currently on this Tredegar site was gifted to the National Park Service in 2003 by the U.S. Historical Society and is part of their collection,” he said.

We encourage people to experience the wealth of programs available at the Center by visiting www.tredegar.org.

About The American Civil War Center

The Center’s mission is to tell the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation. The Center’s flagship exhibit *In the Cause of Liberty* explores the war’s causes, course, and legacies through artifacts, media, and programs. Our approach is to explore this American story from the three essential perspectives—Union, Confederate, and African American. The Center offers history labs and digital history programming for students K-12, and provides ongoing adult educational opportunities through community dialogues and symposia. The Center is located at Tredegar Iron Works, an 8.3 acre National Historic Landmark site by the James River in Richmond, VA. The 1861 Gun Foundry is home to the 10,000 square foot flagship exhibit.