

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4538

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

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Hearing Date: April 19, 2021 10:00 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Martha Hartzog

self; independent historian

Austin, TX

HB 4538: I support this bill on the grounds that it provides some protection to historic monuments and memorials representing all the periods of Texas history.

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing you regarding HB 1186, HB 2571, HB 2713 and HB 4538 . As a youth my father drug me to historical site after historical site. At the time I did not appreciate it. As I grew I began to understand the importance of history in general and in our own history. If history was not important people would not be tearing it down and trying to erase it. History is something we need to learn from. It tells us where we came from and where we need to go. I urge you to vote to send these Bills to the House floor for a vote.

Joe Allport

Self, Texas Historian/Author

Garrison, TX

The Re-burial of General Albert Sidney Johnston, Texas Hero

General Albert Sidney Johnston died on the 6th day of this month at the Battle of Shiloh. The highest ranking American officer to ever be killed in battle, Johnston's body was buried first in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans just weeks prior to the successful Union invasion of that city. The commanding occupation general, Benjamin "Beast" Butler had the grave exhumed because of a rumor there might be treasure in it.

On Oct. 3, 1866, a joint resolution by the Texas Legislature called for the reburial in the State Cemetery in Austin. In January, 1867, there was a grand ceremony in New Orleans when the body was removed with pipe and drums and so forth. The pall bearers were Confederate generals including: James Longstreet, Richard Taylor, John Bell Hood, Braxton Bragg, P.T. Beauregard, and Simon Bolívar Buckner.

Texas was the only state still occupied by Union troops and under martial law by 1866. The government was concerned because Texas was never successfully invaded during the war and Texans did not feel defeated. The commanding general of the District of Texas, General Griffin, forbade "any demonstrations, public or popular" which cancelled the grand plans made by the State of Texas. When the Mayor of Galveston appealed to Griffin's superior, General Sheridan, the response was that he would not approve honors given to the re-burial of a traitor to the United States government.

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When the casket was delivered to Galveston by the Matagorda, it was watched over through the night by 28 old white men and 30-35 black dock workers who wore black armbands. A black hearse carried the General's body along the Strand and other streets leading a long procession of hundreds of people including women and children on a cold bitter day. The Galveston Fire Dept. had draped their fire engines and planned to march in uniform, but the mayor pleaded with them to change their minds because he was fearful of a reprisal by the army.

The same type of observance took place at the next stop in Houston, but the stores were all closed and decked out in black mourning. Crepe was hung from the houses and church bells tolled during the march. The hearse was pulled by "six milky white horses". The train stopped in Hempstead, Chapel Hill and Brenham before the casket was unloaded and taken by wagon to Austin where speeches were given by Gov. Throckmorton and other leaders. The honor guard (no uniforms) this time were young Confederate veterans who carried his body to the Texas State Cemetery where it remains to this day.

Albert Sidney Johnston was a combat veteran, a general in three republics and a veteran of the Mexican-American War, the Black Hawk War, the Texas Revolution and the Utah War prior to the Civil War. General Johnston was an incontrovertible hero and inspirational leader in battle, most famously at Shiloh. Please preserve and protect the monuments to our heroes.

Kathy Hillman

myself

Newton, TX

This bill needs to be passed. Texas has had a rich history since its inception. History books give dates, places and facts. The monuments and markers throughout Texas tell her story. Some of these monuments date back to the early 1900's; thus, they are relating Texas' recent past. In the ensuing years, some people have tried to place their current views on past events. Do not deprive our children of the truths of Texas history. These pioneers of Texas built a foundation that has lasted well over 100 years. Do not erase or alter that history.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I would support HB 4538 if (1) and (2) were combined and both the governing body AND the voters had to approve any actions regarding the monument, etc.

Mary Page Jones

Self--- Student

Austin, TX

My name is Mary Page Jones. I attend Hyde Park Elementary School in Austin and am in the 5th grade. Please support H.B. 4538 because it will protect our history. I don't want to see monuments and statues to our Texas heroes torn down. I have helped my family to put up Historical Markers and monuments to honor the great things people have done in the past. No one should be able to tear down what someone else has worked to put up. Thank you.

Ella Rubel, LLC Member

Self - LLC Member

Burleson, TX

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Please support our unique Texas History. Please support those Texas men who fought for the state of Texas and all of it's people.

Terry's Texas Rangers and Hood's Brigade were Texas men who were asked to put their lives on the lines for Texas ideals and all of it's people.

Stand tall for our Texans and history.

Geri Neemidge

Self

Round Rock, TX

These confederate statues do not belong displayed at courthouses and other public buildings . The confederates surrendered 175 years ago. We don't need to display monuments to the losers who fought a war against OUR country. These monuments were put in place to illustrate white supremacy. That has always been the purpose. They were erected during the Jim Crow era - it is time we moved past that.

Jimmy Crawford

Self Landscaping

Chatfield, TX

I support this bill. These cities and counties controlled by Marxist elites should not be able to destroy a monument or memorial. These monuments may be in their local area, but they are the people of Texas monuments.

Tracie Cantu

Self

Austin, TX

No monuments or memorials related to a losers of the Civil War should be celebrated in Texas; nor allowed to remain on public display. We don't celebrate people who fought against the ideals of our Founding Fathers and lost. We don't honor traitors to our nations; even if they were members of some of our families. It isn't who we are as Texans.

Our state is a state of heroes. I'm sure we have enough local Texans who were not on the losing side of the many wars Texans have fought in, that we could put up new statues celebrating the power of Texas and Texans in the United States of America.

Timothy Kelley

Self

DEER PARK, TX

I strongly support this bill. Our monuments and memorials need to be protected.

Cynthia Kelley

Self

Deer Park, TX

I strongly support this bill. Our monuments and memorials need to be protected.

Russell Rogers

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Self

Sealy, TX

The monuments and statues of Texas belong to the historical and educational resources due all Texans, and to the state of Texas which is in it's own right a Republic of the United States and only to a legitimate Union as a contributor of the Union. We identify as a country with a partnership with the United States and should not give up our rights as a free and solitary entity in our own right.

Timothy Kelley

Self

DEER PARK, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. I had previously commented here that I was in favor of HB 4538 BUT, after further investigation, I am opposed to it.

Cynthia Kelley

Self

Deer Park, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. I had previously commented here that I was in favor of HB 4538 BUT, after further investigation, I am opposed to it.

Scott Wilpitz

Self (Certified Professional Landman- Petroleum)

Dallas, TX

Please vote for this Bill. We are facing a crisis in our State and Nation as we systematically remove statues/monuments/historical markers which don't agree with the "current" regressive movement to erase the true history of our country. We have made mistakes as this great experiment has moved from it infancy to what it has become, but please tell me why people from all over the world risk so much to get to America. Destroying our monuments is historically tied to the Marxist belief system which is inherently oppressive and evil- is that what we want? I pray for those for those that in authority as governments ordained by a sovereign God. May God continue to "shed His grace" on us! Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Doris Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Darlene Sanderson

Self, This Is Texas Freedom Force

CONROE, TX

I support this bill because local municipalities would call for a vote by Texans to remove a monument

Darlene Sanderson

Self, This Is Texas Freedom Force

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Conroe, TX

I wish to change my vote to I am AGAINST this bill because of the partisan politics that plaque certain areas. Texas history should be decided at a state level.

Carole Haynes, Ph.D.

Self

Hickory Creek, TX

I support this bill. We should not be caving to Marxists who intend to remove our heritage under the guise of racism. The monuments have been in place for decades and the only thing that has changed is the Marxist revolution that is going on in our nation. Stop the cancel culture everywhere. No more removing or renaming or altering.