



1 **Associated Student Government**

2 *University of Arkansas*

3
4 *ASG Senate Resolution No. 2*

5 Author(s): Senator Sophie Hill, GPSC Research Council Chair Will Teague

6 Sponsor(s): Senator Colton Simpson

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8 **A Resolution To Support GPSC Resolution 3-1**

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10 Whereas, The attached legislation was passed by GPSC unanimously in July
11 and was adopted by the Faculty Senate at 92% in September; and

12
13 Whereas, The student government at the University of Central Arkansas
14 passed this legislation in August.

15
16 Whereas, The state flag is considered to also be a university flag (see: board
17 policy 100.6 “State Flag University of Arkansas Flag” policy put in
18 place on November 8th, 1940). Therefore, this is directly an
19 institutional issue and merits the opinion of the student body.

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22 **A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE REMOVE ALL
REFERENCES TO THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ARKANSAS STATE FLAG BY
REDEFINING THE CONFEDERATE STAR TO THE UNITED STATES STAR AND THAT IT DO SO BY
ADOPTING ARKANSAS HOUSE BILL 1736**

23 Author(s): Will Teague, GPSC Research Council Chair

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the Arkansas State Flag currently has four blue stars that surround the word
26 “ARKANSAS” with a single star positioned above the state’s name that commemorates the state’s
27 membership in the Confederate States of America (CSA);ⁱ

28
29 **WHEREAS**, commemorating membership in the former CSA is degrading to African Americans
30 and non-African Americans alike in the state as the Civil War was fought over states’ rights to
31 own African Americans as property and to deny them citizenship, basic human rights, and dignity;

- 32
33 i. The Declaration of Clauses of Seceding States uses the words “slave” or “slavery” 83 times.
34 Comprised of statements made by the legislatures of Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina,
35 Texas, and Virginia, each state made it plainly clear they abandoned the United States of
36 America in favor of the maintenance of slavery. As the Mississippi legislature candidly

37 stated, “our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery – the greatest
38 material interest of the world.”ⁱⁱ

39 II. The Constitution of the Confederate States of America uses the words “slave” or “slavery”
40 10 times. In article 1, section 9 the CSA constitution states that no “law denying or impairing
41 the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed.” The document makes it clear that
42 African Americans were to be considered property by using that word in the same sentence
43 as “slave” 3 times.ⁱⁱⁱ

44 III. The Arkansas state constitution drafted after it joined the CSA in 1861 uses the words
45 “slave” or “slavery” 7 times. In article 7, section 3 the document reads “the General
46 Assembly shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves.”^{iv}

47

48 **WHEREAS**, the Confederate star is an insult to the legacy of the thousands of Arkansans that remained
49 loyal to the United States and fought in its armies and to those that created resistance movements that
50 resulted in being hunted and killed by Confederates;^v

51

52 **WHEREAS**, the state flag design was first adopted in 1913 and contained to reference to or
53 commemoration of the Confederacy;^{vi}

54

55 **WHEREAS**, the star commemorating the state’s membership in the CSA was added to the flag ten
56 years later in 1923, and nearly five decades after the end of the Civil War and the dissolution of
57 the CSA,^{vii} and therefore, cannot be part of the Reconstruction Era or a reconciliation effort;
58 furthermore, the star’s meaning was re-confirmed in 1987 when then Governor Bill Clinton
59 signed Act 116;^{viii}

60

61 **WHEREAS**, the star’s initial adoption was at a time of significant racial strife and hatred both in
62 the state and the nation;

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64 IV. In 1915 the second iteration of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was born in part due to the
65 commercial success of the film *Birth of a Nation* which depicted the organization as heroic
66 and African American men as bestial, violent, and a menace to white women.^{ix}

67 V. In 1919, the state of Arkansas experienced and subsequently attempted to minimize to the
68 greatest extent possible and at all levels of government one of the worst race massacres in
69 American history when black sharecroppers, some of which were veterans of World War I,
70 were slaughtered by a white mob in Elaine, Arkansas, after attempting to unionize in order
71 to profit from their crops and escape from the peonage system imposed upon them by the
72 white minority of Phillips County.^x

73 VI. In the 1920s the state of Arkansas witnessed at least 22 lynchings of black men, many of
74 which were the results of unproven accusations of speaking to or acting indecently toward
75 white women. Two of these lynchings occurred the year the state legislature added a
76 commemoration of the CSA to the state flag.^{xi}

77 VII. In the early 1920s the Arkansas KKK first formed in Little Rock and had 7800 members at its
78 peak.^{xii}

79 VIII. In the 1920s KKK rallies attracted hundreds and thousands in Arkansas, including a rally of
80 1800 men in Poinsett County in 1922 and between 3500 and 5000 men in the same county
81 in 1923.^{xiii}

82 IX. In the election of 1922, the Klan successfully elected KKK members for four state
83 representative seats and the state senate seat from Pulaski County (Little Rock).^{xiv}

84 X. In 1923 the Women of the KKK was founded in Little Rock. By the end of that year it had
85 spread to all 48 states.^{xv}

86 XI. In 1924 two other KKK organizations were formed in Little Rock and Arkadelphia.^{xvi}

87

88 **WHEREAS**, the star's adoption also came while the wrongly accused African Americans of the
89 Elaine, Arkansas, race massacre languished in prison in 1923;^{xvii}

90

91 **WHEREAS**, the star's adoption was pushed by a Pulaski County state congressman, Neil
92 Bohlinger, a known member of the KKK;^{xviii}

93

94 **WHEREAS**, evidence demonstrates that any symbol or representation of Confederate icons in
95 the state of Arkansas may be viewed as a symbol of violence and oppression of African
96 Americans and other minority groups;

97

98 XII. Commemorations in the form of statues, flag design, street names, bridges, parks, schools,
99 etc., proliferated during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras in order to serve as a reminder to
100 African Americans of their subordination in the community and the nation.^{xix}

101 XIII. In the 1920s the State of Arkansas erected at least 6 monuments to and created 3 other
102 commemorations of the Confederacy. Before 1900, the state only had three total tributes
103 to the CSA. Since 1900 the state has created a total of 64 commemorations to the CSA.^{xx}

104 XIV. In 1957 the Little Rock 9 were harassed by white Arkansans that displayed Confederate flags
105 while screaming obscenities and racial slurs at African American children that only wished
106 to attend school. Eight of those students are alive today and have provided oral histories
107 documenting their experiences, emphasizing both the racism and violence they endured.^{xxi}

108 XV. In 1994 a KKK rally was held on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol. A Confederate flag
109 was flown at that rally.^{xxii}

110 XVI. The current head of the KKK has an office in Harrison, Arkansas. The entrance to his office
111 features multiple Confederate flags, and he has bought billboards that read "Diversity is a
112 code word for #whitegenocide".^{xxiii}

113 XVII. At Bikes, Blues, and BBQ in Fayetteville in 2017 the Confederate flag was sold by vendors
114 alongside swastikas and Nazi SS merchandise.^{xxiv}

115 XVIII. The KKK is a designated hate group that continues to exist and fly the Confederate flag in
116 Arkansas today.^{xxv}

117
118 **WHEREAS**, former CSA states have set a recent precedent for the removal of the Confederate
119 star by removing CSA symbols from publicly owned places and objects;

120
121 XIX. In July 2015, South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from statehouse grounds after a
122 white supremacist, Dylan Roof, committed mass murder of African Americans attending a
123 church service.^{xxvi}

124 XX. In October 2015, Confederate Boulevard in Little Rock, Arkansas, was renamed. The mayor
125 of that city noted that “This debate should only make us stronger and more tolerant of one
126 another. Let’s hope we can all go forward.”^{xxvii}

127 XXI. In March 2017, Arkansas decoupled Robert E Lee Day from Martin Luther King Jr Day. When
128 signing the bill Governor Asa Hutchinson commented, “This is an education bill in which the
129 discussion educated each of us, and we learned that history needs to be viewed not just
130 from our own lens, but through the eyes and experiences of others.”^{xxviii}

131 XXII. In June 2020, the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, removed a Confederate monument. The
132 mayor said that the statue “was erected during the United Confederate Veterans Reunion in
133 1911, a period of rampant segregation, inequality, and oppressive Jim Crow laws. It does
134 not represent the values of our city today nor the diverse citizenry who stand for unity and
135 justice for all.”^{xxix}

136 XXIII. In June 2020, Mississippi removed the Confederate flag from its state flag design.^{xxx}

137
138 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, BECAUSE THE CONFEDERACY EXISTED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PERPETUATING
139 THE SUBJUGATION AND ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS; BECAUSE THE STAR INSULTS THE LEGACY OF THE
140 ARKANSANS THAT NEVER LEFT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND DIED DEFENDING IT; BECAUSE THE STAR WAS ADDED
141 AT A TIME OF RACIAL VIOLENCE AND ANIMOSITY IN BOTH ARKANSAS AND THE NATION; BECAUSE THE STAR WAS ADDED
142 BY A STATE GOVERNMENT RUN IN PART BY MEMBERS OF THE KKK; BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL CITIZENS OF THIS STATE
143 THAT POSSESS A LIVING MEMORY OF THE RACISM ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONFEDERATE FLAG; BECAUSE IT IS
144 CATEGORICALLY UNDENIABLE THAT THE KKK PROUDLY FLIES THE CONFEDERATE FLAG IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
145 CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS POLICIES OF WHITE SUPREMACY, THE GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
146 CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FINDS THE STATE FLAG’S COMMEMORATION OF THE CONFEDERACY TO BE
147 EXCLUSIONARY, DIVISIVE, AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE; FURTHERMORE, THE GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
148 CONGRESS FINDS THE SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE’S DECLARATION THAT THE FLAG IS “A PROUD BANNER THAT FLIES
149 FOR ALL ARKANSANS,” TO BE CULTURALLY INSENSITIVE, AHISTORICAL, AND PATENTLY FALSE.^{xxxi}

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151 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, THE GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS REQUESTS IN THE NAME OF
152 HISTORICAL ACCURACY, HUMAN DIGNITY, RACIAL RECONCILIATION, INCLUSIVITY, AND
153 MUTUAL RESPECT THAT THE ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE ADOPT HOUSE BILL 1736 SO
154 THAT THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA IS NO LONGER REPRESENTED BY ANY
155 COMPONENT OF THE STATE FLAG, THAT THE STAR COMMEMORATING ARKANSAS’S

156 MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONFEDERACY WILL BE REDEFINED TO INSTEAD COMMEMORATE THE
157 STATE'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED OF STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE CURRENT STAR
158 DESIGNATED TO THE UNITED STATES WILL INSTEAD REPRESENT THE NATIVE AMERICAN
159 NATIONS THAT ONCE HELD JURISDICTION OVER THE STATE'S TERRITORY SO THAT THE FLAG
160 CAN INDEED SERVE AS A PROUD BANNER FOR ALL ARKANSANS.

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162 Be it therefore resolved: That the ASG Senate supports changing the flag
163 because it is a university issue.

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165 Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate bands
166 with GPSC, Faculty Senate, and UCA SGA to support
167 that the Arkansas State Legislature remove all
168 references to the Confederate States Of America on
169 the Arkansas State Flag by redefining the Confederate
170 Star to the United States Star and that it do so by
171 adopting Arkansas House Bill 1736^{xxxii}.

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173 Be it further resolved: A copy of this legislation will be sent to Chancellor
174 Steinmetz.
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176 *Official Use Only*

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178 Amendments: _____
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180 Vote Count: Aye _____ Nay _____ Abstentions _____

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182 Legislation Status: Passed _____ Failed _____ Other _____
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184 _____
185 Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate _____ Date

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187 _____
188 Julia Nall, ASG President _____ Date

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Figure 1: The blue star above the word “ARKANSAS” was added in 1923 to commemorate Arkansas’s membership in the Confederate States of America.

From left to right, the three blue stars on the bottom currently represent the nations that have held jurisdiction over Arkansas: France, Spain, and the United States.

ⁱ See Figure 1.

ⁱⁱ Civil War Primary Sources, "The Declaration of Causes of Seceding States," <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/declaration-causes-seceding-states> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Constitution of the Confederate States of America." <https://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/selections/confed/trans.html> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

^{iv} "1861 Arkansas Constitution," Arkansas Secession Convention. <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/constitutions/4/> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

^v Jeannie M Whayne et al., *Arkansas: A Narrative History*, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2002, 183 – 184; Thomas A DeBlack, "Civil War through Reconstruction, 1861 through 1874," December 11, 2018 <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/civil-war-through-reconstruction-1861-through-1874-388/> Last Accessed July 3, 2020.

^{vi} Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston, "The Story of the Arkansas Flag," <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/education/arkansas-history/history-of-the-flag/story-of-the-flag#:~:text=The%20twenty%2Dfive%20stars%20mean,and%20Michigan%20to%20the%20Union.> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

^{vii} Ibid

^{viii} Igor Bobic, "As Governor, Bill Clinton Kept 'Confederate' Star on the Arkansas Flag," *Huffpost*, June 22, 2015. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/bill-clinton-arkansas-confederate_n_7638542 Last Accessed July 3, 2020.

^{ix} Foner, Eric & John A Garraty, eds., *The Readers Companion to American History*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991, 625 – 626.

^x Stockley, *Blood in Their Eyes*.

^{xi} Brent E Riffel, "Lynching," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/lynching-346/> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

^{xii} Dianne Dentice, "Ku Klux Klan (after 1900)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/ku-klux-klan-2755/> Last Accessed, June 22, 2020.

^{xiii} Whayne, *Arkansas*, 310.

^{xiv} Charles K Alexander, "White Robes in Politics: The Ku Klux Klan in Arkansas, 1922 – 1924," *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 1963.

^{xv} Jacqueline Froelich, "Women's Klan Rises in Arkansas," July 26, 2017. <https://www.ualpublicradio.org/post/womens-klan-rises-arkansas> Last Accessed: June 22, 2020.

^{xvi} Dianne Dentice, "Ku Klux Klan (after 1900)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/ku-klux-klan-2755/> Last Accessed, June 22, 2020.

^{xvii} Grif Stockley, *Blood in Their Eyes: The Elaine Race Massacres of 1919*, Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2001.

^{xviii} Steve Brawner, "A Facebook star and a star on the flag," March 13, 2019. Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston, "The Story of the Arkansas Flag," <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/education/arkansas-history/history-of-the-flag/story-of-the-flag#:~:text=The%20twenty%2Dfive%20stars%20mean,and%20Michigan%20to%20the%20Union.> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020. Last Accessed: July 1, 2020.

^{xix} Miles Park, "Confederate Statues Were Built to Further a 'White Supremacist Future,'" August 20, 2017. <https://www.npr.org/2017/08/20/544266880/Confederate-statues-were-built-to-further-a-white-supremacist-future> Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.

^{xx} "Whose Heritage: Public Symbols of the Confederacy," Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W4H2qa2THM1ni53QYZftGob_k_Bf9HreFAtCERfjCIU/edit?pli=1#gid=1205021846 Last Accessed: June 21, 2020; It should be noted that in 2015 and 2017 the state of Arkansas removed two such commemorations of the CSA by renaming a street in Little Rock and by decoupling Robert E Lee Day from Martin Luther King Jr Day.

^{xxi} "Oral history clips," National Park Service, Little Rock Central High School, April 10, 2015. <https://www.nps.gov/chsc/learn/historyculture/oral-history.htm> Last Accessed: July 2, 2020.

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- ^{xxii} “Ku Klux Klan Rally,” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/media/ku-klux-klan-2499/> Last Accessed: June 22, 2020.
- ^{xxiii} Bret Schulte, “The Alt-Right of the Ozarks,” April 3, 2017. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2017/04/what-harrison-arkansas-fight-with-the-klk-says-about-the-alt-right.html> Last Accessed: June 22, 2020.
- ^{xxiv} Leslie Newell Peacock, “Swastikas, SS bolts, Confederate flags: Biker wares in Fayetteville,” September 22, 2017. <https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2017/09/22/swastikas-ss-bolts-Confederate-flags-biker-wares-in-fayetteville> Last Accessed: June 22, 2020.
- ^{xxv} Southern Poverty Law Center, “Hate Map by State,” <https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map/by-state> Last Accessed June 22, 2020.
- ^{xxvi} Stephanie McCrummen and Elahe Izadi, “Confederate flag comes down on South Carolina’s statehouse grounds,” *The Washington Post*, July 10, 2015. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/07/10/watch-live-as-the-Confederate-flag-comes-down-in-south-carolina/> Last Accessed: July 1, 2020.
- ^{xxvii} Steve Barnes, “Arkansas capital renames street long known as Confederate Boulevard,” *Reuters*, October 20, 2015. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-arkansas-Confederate/arkansas-capital-renames-street-long-known-as-Confederate-boulevard-idUSKCN0SF02920151021> Last Accessed July 2, 2020.
- ^{xxviii} Associated Press, “Arkansas Ends Robert E Lee-Martin Luther King Jr Holiday,” *NBC News*, March 22, 2017. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/arkansas-ends-robert-e-lee-martin-luther-king-jr-holiday-n736976> Last Accessed: July 2, 2020.
- ^{xxix} “City of Little Rock removes Confederate monument from MacArthur Park,” *KARK News*, June 18, 2020.
- ^{xxx} Kate Smith, “Mississippi to remove state flag, the last to display Confederate battle emblem,” *CBS News*, June 29, 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mississippi-state-flag-remove-Confederate-battle-emblem/> Last Accessed: July 1, 2020.
- ^{xxxi} Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston, “The Story of the Arkansas Flag,” <https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/education/arkansas-history/history-of-the-flag/story-of-the-flag#:~:text=The%20twenty%2Dfive%20stars%20mean,and%20Michigan%20to%20the%20Union>. Last Accessed: June 21, 2020.