

Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

“Rally Round the Flags Committee”

Committee

Richard E. Straight, Chairman, Camp # 154

Vincent M. Jockimo, Camp # 154

Leo McGuire, CC Camp # 154

May 2, 2015

Dear Commander Weinmann and Brothers of the Department of New York,

The “Rally Round the Flags Committee” was established pursuant to Department Order number 3, dated June 7, 2014 in accordance with a resolution adopted at the 131st Encampment of the Department of New York held in Rochester, NY, in May of 2014.

In accordance with that resolution, the committee has been working toward that goal of restoring funding that will provide the money needed for the preservation and creation of a flag archive for the conservation, storage and study of New York State Battle Flag Collection. The committee decided that its first objective would be to seek out both a state Senator and Assemblyman that together would work with the our flag committee to meet the criteria of the “Rally Round the Flags” resolution the Department passed at the last meeting.

Once we have secured our Champions in both the Assembly and Senate, their staffs will have an opportunity to investigate the present Flag Preservation Project. They can peruse the problems that have disrupted the project and associated funding over the last several years. We can then move forward in seeking the funding needed to continue and bring this project to fruition.

Our committee met in August to work on our course of action in approaching legislative support. We decided to table our quest until after November, as all seats in the Senate and Assembly were up for election or re-election.

On March 5, 2015, I contacted Senator George A. Amedore Jr. through a mutual friend about the Sons flag project and asked if he would be interested in supporting our mission in working toward the preservation and archiving of the New York State Battle Flag Collection. I included a copy of the “Rally Round the Flag” presentation and the adopted resolution. Subsequently, I was contacted by Senator Amedore’s, Legislative Director, Kaitlyn MacLeod, that our appeal for support was being considered by the Senator’s office.

On April 27, 2015, I received the following letter.

From the office of Senator George A. Amedore Jr.

I trust that our future committee meetings with Senator Amedore’s office will be successful in finding the recommendations and proposals needed to ensure that we succeed with our noble cause. We still need to secure support in the assembly and the committee would appreciate any input fellow brothers could offer.

Respectfully submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Richard E. Straight,

Committee Chairman