

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, Camp # 154

Frank Rogler, Camp # 154

May 6, 2017

Dear Commander Ellis-Graham and Brothers of the Department of New York,

April 25, 2016, Received phone call from Senator Amedore, Legislative Director, Kaitlyn McLeod informing the committee that the line item directed for \$150,000 for flag preservation failed to be included in the 2016 budget.

The Senator’s Office is still working to secure funding for the Battle Flag Collection, but as of now there will be no money allocated to the preservation and storage of the New York State Battle Flag Collection.

This is how last year’s Flag Committee Report ended and I’m afraid to report that this year’s report ends the same way, that the line item directed again for \$ 150,000 for flag preservation failed to be included in the 2017 budget.

May 26, 2016, Text of letter from Senator Amedore to Commissioner Rose Harvey, of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

May 16, 2016

Commissioner Rose Harvey

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

330 Capitol

Albany, NY 12248

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

I respectfully request your assistance in securing funding for the preservation of the New York State Battle Flag Collection located in the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs NY.

New York State has an extensive battle flag collection. Currently there are one thousand five hundred (1500) battle flags that need to be restored and preserved. There are about 500 battle flags from the 19th century that are deteriorating at a rapid rate. These flags need to be restored and preserved as soon as possible or we risk losing them. Each battle flag costs between \$ 8,000 and \$ 12,000 to repair and archive. This dedicated funding will enable the museum staff to begin working on preserving the oldest battle flags in our collection.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,
George A. Amedore, Jr.
45th Senate District.

The above request was again a dead end, as no funding was available from the Office of Parks and Recreation. (Just a reminder that the New York State, Office of Parks, Recreation and **Historic Preservation** , are the people that do the preservation work on the flags for the New York State Military Museum which falls under New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs.) needless to say an never ending problem, like trying to deal with a brainless three headed monster.

June 15, 2016 “Rally Round the Flags Committee” Richard Straight met at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga with curator Chris Morton and asked for a list of the remaining flags that needed to be preserved, he explained he would have to get permission from the director before making the list available. The Committee finally received the list of the National and Regimental flags six months after my request.

November 17, 2016 Received list of over 500 National and Regimental Flags listed for preservation when funding becomes available. List of Flags attached.

January 28, 2017 “Rally Round the Flags Committee” met to deliberate ways to increase backing within the New York State Senate and Assembly for conserving and storage of the flag collection. We decided to create a data base listing the 500 flags that still need to be conserved, the Data base will connect each of the flags with regimental number, what townships and cities within those counties each company or regiment was recruited in and mustered into US Service. Using Records Compiled and listed in Phisterer’s, *New York in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865, The Communities of New York and the Civil War, The Recruiting Areas of New York Civil War Regiments*. Each of the 500 flags will have a home area where the regiment was raised. Those areas will now be identifiable to each flag or flags needed to be preserved. In writing to Senator or Assemblymen asking for their support we will be able to personalize our request by including a list of regiments/flags within their voting district that need preservation. We will also collect information on each County Legislature and cities in the state, and will notify them of the need to save the collection and ask for their support. The committee is researching and collecting information to add to our Data base.

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Respectfully submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Richard E. Straight,

Committee Chairman