



Department of New York

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

“Rally Round the Flag Committee Report”

April 21, 2018

Committee Members

Richard E. Straight, PCC Chairman, Camp # 154

Vincent M. Jockimo, Camp # 154

Leo McGuire, PCC Camp # 154

Frank Rogler, Camp # 154

Commander VerStreate and Brothers of the Department of New York,

April 25, 2017, One week before the 134th State Encampment I received a 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 2017 budget.

The above April 25th, 2017 phone call from Senator Amedore office informing the Rally Round the Flag Committee of another failed attempted to move forward using the New York State Senate or Assembly for flag preservation, is at this point in time not a worthwhile pursuit, and has been from the start a waste of the Committees time. It has been four years since the “Rally Round the Flag Resolution” was adopted at the 131st Encampment, and the “Rally Round the Flag Committee formed. The committee feel like it is still day one, and we haven’t progressed with the approach we have been using to complete the mission that was defined under the Rally Round the Flag Resolution.

November 17, 2016 Received list of 472 National and Regimental Flags listed for preservation when funding becomes available.

January 28, 2017 “Rally Round the Flags Committee” met to deliberate ways to increase backing within the State for conserving and storage of the flag collection. We decided to create a data base listing the 472 flags that the Division of Military and Naval Affairs have in their possession that still require conservation and restoration. Committee Member Brother Frank Rogler volunteered to create the Data Base. The data base will identify each of the flags with a regimental number, which will indicate as to where in the state each battery, company and troop were recruited 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 472 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. Also added to the data base are the current political leaders of these various government units. The purpose of this action is to gain the support of these political leaders, possibly a contribution from their organization and more important have them contact their State Senator or Assembly Member to increase the funds available to conserve the Civil War Flags. In writing 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. In recent years the number of flags that could be conserved has been one per year. The cost per flag is between 6,000. and 7,000 dollars. The objective is to improve the number of Civil War flags conserved on an annual basis from one to twenty or thirty flags per year.

March 14th 2018 Due to Brother Rogler perseverance, I am happy to announce that the data base with 472 flags needing preservation is now about 100% complete, the data base breaks down as to where the regiment that carried a particular flag was raised and mustered into United States service. We have associated about 30 percent of current local governmental units with these flags. The 500 Civil War Flags that were previous preserved by the state have also been added to the database. This information will allow the committee to personalize our correspondence whether it is to State Senator, Assemblymen, County Legislature, City or Town Official it will allow us to send them information pertaining to the Flags and the Regiments recruited in their district, county, city, town or hamlet.

The committee has decided to focus our attention **and** concentrate on one county (Albany) as a trial county; we are in the process of writing a couple of letters to the County, City and Town governmental leaders, and hope to have them in the mail shortly. Hopefully the next committee report will be more promising and we will be able to report that we are finally see some of these flags preserved.

Respectfully submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Richard E. Straight, PCC Committee Chairman