

# **An Open Letter to an Elected Official**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

**Elected Official, member**

**Any Legislative Body**

**Any Political Jurisdiction, USA**

**Dear Honorable Elected Official:**

**In the name of fairness, equity, and intellectual honesty, I am calling on your legislative body to affirm the following:**

**1. Its commitment to preserve the history of the United States intact and keep the history of the United States immune from political influence.**

**2. Its commitment to protect the historical record of historical persons, including but not limited to Christopher Columbus, Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón, Hernando de Soto, Tristan de Luna, Amerigo Vespucci, Juan Ponce de Leon, Giovanni da Verrazzano, Henry Hudson, Captain Christopher Jones, Captain John Smith, Matoaka a.k.a. Amonute a.k.a. Pocahantas, Rene-Robert de la Salle, George Washington, Major General Horatio L. Gates, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Hancock, Captain,**

**Meriwether Lewis, Lieutenant William Clark, George Mason Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, Andrew Jackson, Martha Washington, James Madison, James Madison, King Louis XVI, Major General Marquis de La Fayette, Major General Baron von Steuben, Brigadier General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and Captain John Paul Jones who played important roles in the creation and founding of the United States.**

**3. Its commitment to formally recognize and accept that some of the persons who founded the United States owned slaves and that said ownership of slaves, which was legal in the United States until 1865, in no way alone diminishes, negates, or tarnishes their accomplishments as soldiers, law-makers, and political activists, e.g., George Washington owned slaves but that fact notwithstanding, he was the General of the Continental Army and first President of the United States; e.g., Thomas Jefferson owned slaves but that fact notwithstanding, he was the principle author of the Declaration of Independence, the first United States Secretary of State, and the third President of the United States. To deny the accomplishments of Washington and Jefferson solely on the grounds that they owned slaves would be tantamount to extinguishing the history of the United States and destroying the cultural foundation of an entire nation.**

**4. Its commitment to extend respect, praise, admiration, and gratitude to the memory of the HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of Americans who died in the Civil War to abolish slavery. save the nation from destruction, and thereby preserve intact the legacy left by those who founded the nation.**

**5. Its commitment to formally recognize and accept that the Confederate States of America is a part of American history and whose existence is a fact that cannot be omitted or marginalized without destroying the history of the United States, and further that President Jefferson F. Davis, General Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant General Thomas G. Jackson, General Joseph E. Johnston, and Lieutenant General James Longstreet are as much a part of the history of the United States as the persons who founded the nation and fought to preserve it, and while they do not necessarily warrant admiration, the record of their actions warrants preservation.**

**Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**

**Phillip W. Weiss**