

Hollywood's Time

by Billy (Hollywood) Grooves
Crockett, TX.

**Confederate Flag Continues
to Stir Controversy**

Crockett, TX.- School Board Members from across the state of Texas attended the Texas School Board Institute in Santa Fe New Mexico recently. Among those were Dr. Ruth Watson a longtime Houston educator, formerly of Crockett. Dr. Watson is a Crockett High and Sam Houston State University graduate. The Institute was hosted by former TEA Commissioner, Dr. Mike Mosley and former HISD Board President Dr. Don McAdams, founder of the Center for Reform of School Systems. Kudos go out to Dr. Watson. She is the daughter of Ms. Earlie Grooves and the mother of Destiny who plays basketball for Spring High School.

At the time of me writing this article, the two Houston County Sheriff Deputies accused of or alleged to have violated the civil

rights of a 20 year old Black man, were still on paid administrative leave. They were alleged to have kidnapped, beaten, tazed, pistol whipped and left him on a rural county road with no shoes. This incident has racial overtones. The HCSO deputy with the most alleged involvement recently organized a Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter in Crockett.



I personally believe that any individual or group involved with any kind of Confederate Organization (this is the United States of America consisting of 50 states) should not, I repeat should not be a part of any legitimate law enforcement agency anywhere in America.

The Confederate Rebel flag, its logo and its symbols have always been used by hate groups such as the KKK, Neo Nazis, Aryan Brotherhood and Skin Heads, to intimidate black people.

Since the incident with the young man, many people have expressed their sentiments about my take on this alleged abuse.

Some insane *sounding* black man by the name H. K. Edgerton wrote

one of the newspapers for which I write a column, chestising me for attacking the Confederate Rebel Flag. He said he was born in the deep south and had donned a Confederate Rebel Uniform in 2002 and marched 1,606 miles from Asheville, North Carolina to Austin, Texas. He said he did it again in 2007 for the five year reunion.

Edgerton said he wanted to set the historical record straight and according to him Black men and women earned a place of honor and dignity under the glorious banner(Confederate Rebel Flag). He said he is a proud honorary life member of the Texas Division of Confederate Veterans and probably holds more memberships in Confederate Sons organizations than any man alive. When I first read about Edgerton, I said to myself, this man is either the biggest "fool" in the world or he's the biggest "tool" in the world. Well, it turned out he is a "tool" of those who are using him to distort history. What Edgerton failed to mention is the multitude of Black people who were enslaved, raped, intimidated, beaten, bodyparts cut off, hanged and murdered

in various other ways under the Confederate Rebel flag. People don't want to talk about it, but read your American History.

I can't find research to back it, but I'm sure some Black people did support the South during the Civil War; however, if they did, they were fighting to keep themselves and their brothers and sisters in slavery, because that's what the Civil War was all about. After I read Edgerton's letter I had a chance to read one by Tommy Holmes, white man, who said he is a recruiter for the Sons of the Confederate Veterans of Carthage, Texas. He went on to say they are not a racist organization. He said they have members who are doctors, lawyers, and other professional people. He also said he has met many young African Americans at National SVC Conventions and reunions who are proud to be a part of the SVC and support the heritage of their family's participation in the Civil War. I will say this to Tommy Holmes, real African American men and women do not and will not honor a flag that is the symbol of hated acts cast against them and their ancestors, which caused damage to them that our race has not yet overcome.

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