



*29<sup>th</sup> Division Association*  
*Office of the National Commander*  
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*Our mind's made up, don't confuse us with facts & logic!*

## **29th Patch - "A Symbol of Unity"**

I regret that our fight to save the 29<sup>th</sup> Division patch is not going well. While the continuing update remains, "the Commission has not made a recommendation," every indication is that they have concluded our historic patch is a "symbol of the Confederacy." We are particularly appreciative of the efforts of MG Tim Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia and Post 29 to tell the story of the patch in Virginia as a symbol of unity, not diversity. Unfortunately, the appeal appears to be falling on deaf ears. It causes one to question, "what are we missing?" Our position is historical and so well supported. Could it be we never really had a chance to influence the Commission's thinking? It's time to begin asking, "How did we get here?"

The Commission went to work almost a year ago, initially researching the names of military bases and ships. Soon however, they expanded their work, requesting the Department of Army provide a list of military "symbols" that could be considered "honoring the Confederacy," basically anything that had the color gray in it. This now brought into consideration combat streamers, unit crests, emblems, badges, etc., a very extensive list. After examining these items, the Commission obviously made decisions, which resulted in site visits to determine the cost of removing the targeted bases, monuments, displays, markers, anything in DoD they considered related to the Confederacy. While our French supporters met with the Commission's Public Affairs Officer in Vierville, it appears they were not successful in changing the Commission's decision regarding the 29th Division patch.

While the patch was designed over fifty years after the Civil War as a symbol of unity, the Commission seems to believe that the color gray in the 29<sup>th</sup> Division patch, "honors the Confederacy." This leaves your Association but one option to prevent the proposed patch revision, an appeal to the Congress of the United States to block the Commission's recommendation. The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress has the final authority and vote, but before that occurs, we intend to inform each and every member that the patch in no way honors the Confederacy. It was instead designed as a symbol of unity, bringing together units from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and the District of Columbia!

So, you can continue to believe the threat is not real and wait to see what Congress does with the Commission's final report in October, but if you recognize what is happening, please help us before it is too late. We will need to hire professional lobbyists to tell the true foundation of the 29 Division patch to Congress. This appears to be our only remaining option, but it will require funding. We need your **immediate** help! Please go to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division website, click on the Donate link and then click on the "29th Let's

Go Fund.”. A contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Join the list of existing donors who saw through what was happening months ago. *It is not too late to save the patch!* For all who have served in the 29<sup>th</sup> Division, our Veterans, families, and friends, I appeal to you, **29 Let's Go!**

Theodore G. Shuey, Jr.  
BG (Ret.)  
National Commander



Our 29th Division monument in the Vierville Draw was visited in January by Commission PAO Stephen Baker, fourth from the left, next to D-Day hero Charles Shay and some of our French supporters