United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 24 2015

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Associate and Assistant Directors

Attention: All Park Superintendents

From: Director Jonathan B. Jarvis

Subject: Immediate Action Required, No Reply Needed: Confederate Flags

The tragic events in Charleston, South Carolina, last week have raised issues regarding the display and sale of the Confederate flags in national parks and associated sites such as national heritage areas. The National Park Service seeks to tell the complete story of America. We and, as an extension, our cooperating associations, partners, and concessioners provide educational materials that incorporate multiple points of view. In the telling of the historical story, the Confederate flags have a place in books, exhibits, reenactments, and interpretive programs.

In regard to sales items, however, the NPS has requested that cooperating associations, concessions, and our other partners voluntarily withdraw items that solely depict a Confederate flag as a stand-alone feature, especially items that are wearable and displayable. Books, DVDs, and other educational and interpretive media where the Confederate flag image is depicted in its historical context may remain as sales items as long as the image cannot be physically detached. Confederate flags include the Stainless Banner, the Third National Confederate Flag, and the Confederate Battle Flags. All superintendents and program managers should personally evaluate which sales items fit this description, have educational value, and are appropriate for the site.

Confederate flags **shall not be flown** in units of the national park system and related sites with the exception of specific circumstances where the flags provide historical context, for instance to signify troop location or movement or as part of a historical reenactment or living history program. All superintendents and program managers should evaluate how Confederate flags are used in interpretive and educational media, programs, and historical landscapes and remove the flags where appropriate.

Please contact Julia Washburn, Associate Director for Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers at 202-208-4265 with questions or for further clarification.