

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-----

Friday, June 4, 2021

Effective Immediately, Department Commander, Roger Friend, has suspended Hudson Lee-Bishop American Legion Post 464 Charter pending permanent closure. Upon demand, Jim Garrison has also resigned as a Post Officer and we have since demanded that he resign his membership altogether.

The American Legion Department of Ohio does not hold space for members, veterans, or families of veterans who believe that censoring black history is acceptable behavior. We discovered that the censoring that occurred at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Hudson, Ohio, sponsored by Hudson American Legion Post 464, was pre-meditated and planned by Jim Garrison and Cindy Suchan. They knew exactly when to turn the volume down and when to turn it back up. Prior to the event, a copy of the speech was given to Cindy Suchan by Lt. Col., Barnard Kemter, US ARMY (Ret.), of which she then asked him to remove a specific part of the speech regarding a historical event in 1865 in which several newly freed black slaves were among the first to commemorate Memorial Day after the Civil War ended by giving deceased Union soldiers at a Confederate prisoner of war camp an honorable burial and by decorating their graves with flowers and organizing a parade to honor them.

These actions of Post 464, through its authorized representatives or officers in attempting to censor or suppress that portion of LTC Kemters' speech and effectively doing so by reducing the speaker system volume, constitutes a violation of the ideals and purposes of the American Legion, as set forth in the statement of the National Commander of the American Legion dated June 12, 2020, and the 1923 Resolution, affirmed in 2017 by the National Convention, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference thereto. Therefore, good and sufficient cause exists to revoke, cancel or suspend the charter of Lee-Bishop Post #464, Inc.

We are deeply saddened by this and stand in unity and solidarity with the black community and all peoples of race, color, religion, sex, and gender, so that those who are exclusive of such persons will know that this behavior is not acceptable in The American Legion, in our homes, our hearts, our communities, in private, public, or anywhere. We will continue to educate the value of diversity. Being different amongst each other is what makes us better – together.

The American Legion stands firm in a value it established in the form of a national resolution it adopted in 1923:

WHEREAS, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all peoples equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and...

WHEREAS, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in a time of great stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed, or class; and...

RESOLVED, ... That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which create, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own

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hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of the American Legion.

I hope this information has helped you understand The American Legion Department of Ohio is handling this issue and is focused on eliminating any possibility of a similar incident occurring again within the great state of Ohio. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to our office at (740) 362-7478.

For inquiries, please contact:

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