



Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



The tradition of designating specific places to memorialize important events is as old as mankind. The ancient patriarchs of the Old Testament often followed this practice. For example, Jacob (Israel) had a night vision from God at Bethel of a ladder between Heaven and earth traversed by

angels. The next morning, Jacob exclaimed, "How awesome is this place!" (Gen. 28:17) He took a stone and set it up as a pillar and anointed it with oil to mark the location and serve as a silent teacher and reminder to future passersby of what transpired there.

There is also historical precedent that those who seek to rewrite history, uproot tradition, supplant values, or by some other means decimate a culture understand the significance of place. When David bought the threshing floor of Ornan in Jerusalem (I Chron. 21:25), he purchased what is now known as the Temple Mount and the prophesied focus of the world's attention. It is and will remain the most valuable and contested piece of real estate on earth. The Syrian conqueror Antiochus IV (175-163 BC), in his attempt to replace the Jewish culture with Hellenism, defiled the Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar. (I Mac. 1:39) Today, the Moslem Dome of the Rock continues to defile the site from which the Jews have been forcefully evicted but to which they have never relinquished the deed.

The National Park Service and its director, Jonathan Jarvis, have formed a committee to identify prominent homosexuals and those otherwise confused about their sexuality for the purpose of giving special recognition to their history and accomplishments. This special recognition will be made by the committee's selection of geographical locations to be included in the National Register of Historic Places, designated as national historic landmarks, and memorialized by national monuments. This process seeks to glorify, preserve, promote, and solidify the brazen and militant coming-out movement of sodomites through a concrete and visible inclusion into

America's national narrative. Jarvis said, "The Park Service is, in my view, America's storyteller through place. It's important that the places we recognize represent the full complement of the American experience."

According to Jarvis, national parks, which are government property, should be places that give recognition and tell the stories of all who have contributed to America's history. Yet, at Mt. Soledad National War Memorial near San Diego, a cross that had stood there since 1913 was recently removed by court order. In 2001, a judge forced the removal of a cross from Mojave National Preserve that had, since 1934, honored Americans who died in WWI. In 2002, a federal judge compelled Alabama's chief justice, Roy Moore, to remove the Ten Commandments from the court's building. In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that a display of the Ten Commandments in the McCreary County courthouse in Kentucky was unconstitutional. The recently invented but already worn out excuse of conflict between church and state, a false antithesis that was given no credence during the first 200 years of America's existence, cannot be used to justify other desecrations that are being carried out across America. In 2003, Missouri governor Bob Holden unilaterally ordered the removal of Confederate flags that had flown over the Confederate cemetery at Higginsville and Ft. Davidson at Pilot Knob. The Memphis, Tennessee, city council changed the names of Forrest Park to Health Sciences Park, Confederate Park to Memphis Park, and Jefferson Davis Park to Mississippi Park. The California legislature enacted a law banning the display and sale of Confederate items on state property. The state flag of Mississippi is currently under attack because it bears the Battle Flag in one corner. Why is special recognition now being extended to those whose only claim of identity is sex, but the traditional and historic recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of Christians, Jews, and southerners is being withdrawn? The blatant and selective application of hypocrisy and malevolent biasness is appalling. None of this makes sense, but then, it does not have to if brute force replaces reason. By their actions, it is clear that the National Park Service is intent on using national parks as tools of propaganda. Like



Antiochus IV, Jarvis' statement testifies of his plan to defile and desecrate America's national sites.

Our Confederate ancestors lost their valiant fight to save the southland. Now, we who are their descendants are fighting just to save cemeteries, parks, and enough ground for a flagpole. We have not and should not lose our sense of the importance of place. But the real battleground is not on *terra firma*; it is in the mind. "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Rom. 12:2) We must work to renew the minds of the uninformed and misguided so they can be enabled to distinguish the difference between bias hypocrisy and truth. However, when reason fails to soften stiff necks, we must prepare to strategically position ourselves to employ justified force for the common good. The duty associated with our birthright demands it; the future of America depends on it!

Fr. Richard Rudd
Hughes Camp Chaplain