

# The National Standard

BULLETIN OF THE VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

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**LOOK AWAY:**  
The 1974 Hays High School "Rebel" featured the battle flag. Courtesy eBay merchant shopnobids.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BANS CONFEDERATE FLAG

Texas public officials continue to wrestle with the public display of Confederate imagery. This time, it's school trustees for the Hays County school district just south of Austin.

On December 18, 2012, the Hays Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees voted 5-2 to immediately bar the display of the Confederate battle flag entirely on district property and at district-sponsored events. The vote, recommended by the district's administrators, amends the district's student code of conduct to prohibit the display of writings or images that are discriminatory, harassing or threatening, including the display of the Confederate flag.

"I think that we're in the business of educating children," Trustee Merideth Keller said. "If a student has trouble taking her math test because another child is wearing the Confederate flag, well, we can't support that."

The new policy reads:

The district prohibits any clothing, grooming, or display of images that cause, or in the principal or designee's judgment may reasonably be predicted to cause, disruption of or interference with school activities. The district also prohibits the wearing or display of pictures, writings, images, or symbols that: 1) are lewd, vulgar, sexually-explicit, or obscene; 2) seek to demonstrate or recruit gang membership; 3) are discriminatory, harassing, or threatening towards others on the basis of their race, sex, disability, ethnicity, religion, or gender (including, but not limited to, display of the confederate flag); or 4) advertise or promote tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited by policy.

In 2000, the board voted to phase-out the official use of the flag, but

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## YOU KNOW IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON...



**GIMME ME A "T"!**: The world's largest Texas flags form part of the half-time pagentry at University of Texas Longhorn football games at Texas Memorial Stadium. *Courtesy Dan Morales Photography*

### WILLIAM WHARTON AWARD HONORS TEXAS VEXILLOLOGY

VAST recognizes distinguished contributions to vexillology in Texas with the William Wharton Award. Named for the Texas senator who authored the legislation in the Congress of the Republic of Texas that established the Lone Star Flag as the flag of Texas, it is given only when there is a worthy recipient.

Recipients of the William Wharton Award are:

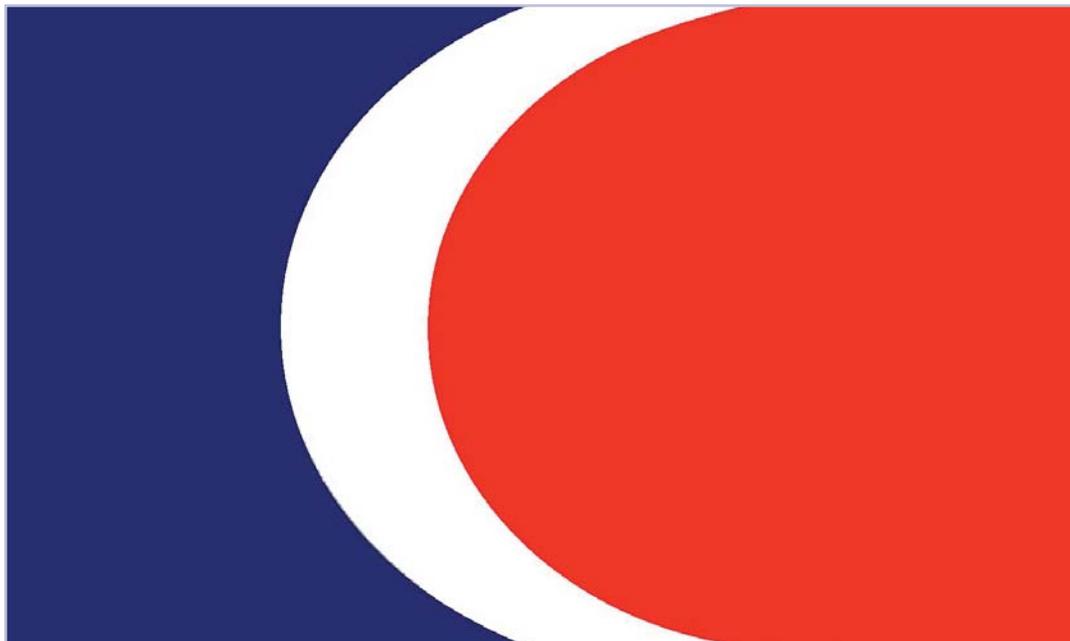
- Robert T. Maberry, Ph.D., for *Texas Flags*, the seminal book on Texas's flags (2008).
- Whitney Smith, Ph.D., for his NAVA 43 presentation "Women, Flags, and Communication," a study of quilts by Texas women incorporating the Texas flag (2009).

The award itself is a ivory-colored china plate made by Pickard & Co. with a cobalt-blue center and the handles, edging and the state seal all in 24-karat gold. It is accompanied by a certificate signed by the president of the Association.

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#### VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**JAMES T. LISTON** President | **HUGH L. BRADY** FF Vice President | **CHARLES A. SPAIN, JR.** Secretary-Treasurer



The NAVA 46 meeting flag. Courtesy NAVA

## REPORT: NAVA 46: COLUMBUS, OHIO

The North American Vexillological Association held its 46th Annual Meeting from October 5-7 at the Renaissance Columbus Hotel, Columbus Ohio.

The meeting was organized by the Great Waters Association of Vexillology, with president David Breitenbach chairing the local organizing committee, which included Peter Kinderman and Bill Belanich

On Friday, NAVA President (and Association Vice President) Hugh Brady and Association Secretary-Treasurer Charles Spain presided at a memorial reception for Dr. John M. Purcell, a former NAVA president and GWAV co-founder, who died in June. Dr. Scot Guenter and other leading vexillologists delivered tributes to John, while Spain read condolence messages from Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques President Michel Lupant and Secretary-General for Congresses Graham Bartram.

Participants toured the Ohio Historical Society for a display of the Society's holdings, including ten conserved Ohio regimental flags from the Civil War.

The Association was represented at NAVA 46 by Brady, Spain, and Guenter. Brady was re-elected to a fifth term as NAVA president, and Guenter and Pete Van de Putte were re-elected as members of the NAVA nominating committee.

Several awards and honors were presented at NAVA 46 by Brady:

- Steven A. Knowlton, a librarian at the University of Memphis, received the Captain William Driver Award for his paper "Pragmatic Unity and Visual Synecdoche in Tennessee Flag Culture."
- Dr. Purcell posthumously received the inaugural John Purcell Award for advancing the public understanding of vexillology. The award was accepted by his sister, Patricia J. Pyles.
- William Belanich, the meeting flag designer, received a meeting flag.
- Great Waters Association of Vexillology received a presidential citation for "excellence in promoting vexillology on the regional level in North America through its regular meetings and publications," noting that "[i]ts work sets the standard by which all regional vexillological associations should be measured and reflects the attitude of devoted support of its founders to the success of" NAVA.
- Anne M. Platoff and Edward B. Kaye with certificates to mark their retirement from the NAVA executive board as second vice president and treasurer, respectively.

## HAYS SCHOOLS BAN BATTLE FLAG FROM CAMPUS

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allowed students to wear the flag and use it on signs at district sporting events; trustees voted “[f]or Hays CISD to begin to immediately phase out the Confederate battle flag or any likeness of the flag from school funded property or any uniform group, but do not ban the flag from student personal property to include, but not limited to, student apparel, cars, personal signs at sporting events, etc.” In 2009, the board let district administrators decide if the flag should be flown or displayed on individual campuses.

In May, a racial epithet, “KKK” and the words “catch em, kill em” were inscribed on the classroom door of a Hays High School black teacher. Two 14-year-old male students were charged after the incident. The teacher, who had already resigned, left the district.

“If a teacher feels undermined because students are wearing the Confederate flag, I don't think we can support that,” Keller said.

School officials did not point to any specific reason for the policy change, which had been contemplated since the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Since September, there had been reports of student-administrator conflict over the flag's display. School officials booted the car of a student who had a Confederate flag sticker with the words “Rebel Cheerleader.” The student's mother said the girl had been driving the car with the sticker on it to school for the last two years without incident. Football players who used shoe polish to paint the Rebel flag on their car and truck windows were allegedly taken out of class to wash the imagery off the windows.

After the board asked for an examination of the flag issue, district administrators made their case for the change at a November meeting.

Several parents and students addressed the board before the vote, asking that the trustees not take any action, which would violate students' freedom of expression.

Tiffany Deichmann, told trustees that she loved the Confederate battle flag and wanted her senior ring to have the flag on it.

Trustee Marty Kanetzky voted against the change, telling her colleagues that the new policy did not address public confusion over whether the flag was allowed on campus.

The high school's fight song remains “Dixie.” Board president Willie Tenorio Jr. told the Austin American-Statesman that the trustees might select a new fight song but that the song did not raise the same emotional response as the flag.

Hays County and Hays High School are named for John Coffee Hays, a pioneering Texas Ranger who saw service during the Texas Revolution and the Mexican War. Hays moved to California before the Civil War, and was neutral during the conflict. The school's mascot is named Colonel Jack in his honor, but wears a gray Confederate Army uniform. Until 2000, he was usually depicted with a Confederate flag belt buckle. Tenorio did not indicate if the trustees contemplated any action related to the mascot. Similarly, the name of the school's yearbook remains “The Rebel.”