



DALE KOOYENGA STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

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Resolution Urges Renaming Base for Edward S. Bragg, Wisconsin Hero

MADISON, Wis. – A resolution circulated in the Wisconsin State Senate today by Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) urges a federal commission to rename Fort Bragg, a U.S. military base in North Carolina—to Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg is currently named after a Confederate general, Braxton Bragg. Instead, the resolution proposes changing the man the base honors to his cousin, Union General Edward Stuyvesant Bragg of Wisconsin. While they shared a surname, the two couldn't have been more different.

U.S. General Edward Stuyvesant Bragg, a resident of Wisconsin, volunteered for the Union Army at the outset of the Civil War. With no previous military service, Bragg impressively reached the rank of brigadier general by 1864. He took command of the Iron Brigade, the unit famed for its valiant sacrifices in several famous bloody attacks of the Civil War. Upon retirement from the Army, Bragg continued his career as a civil servant in a wide variety of roles, ranging from Wisconsin State Senator to Consul General abroad.

Fort Bragg is currently named after Bragg's cousin, Braxton Bragg, who served as a Confederate general. Braxton Bragg fought against the nation he previously pledged allegiance to as a graduate of West Point. Even his Confederate subordinates considered him quick tempered with an inability to lead, resulting in the needless slaughter of men and his eventual resignation from the Confederate army.

In contrast to the man it currently honors, Fort Bragg creates some of America's greatest leaders, men and women who dedicate themselves to principles that stand in sharp contrast to Braxton Bragg's principles. In fact, Fort Bragg better resembles the ideals of Wisconsin General Edward S. Bragg, not his cousin.

Statement from Sen. Dale Kooyenga:

In transferring the commemoration of Fort Bragg, we reflect on the historical significance of the Civil War, acknowledging that dedication to the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles drove patriots to fight for the preservation of the nation. Those principles transcended even family ties. I encourage the renaming of a distinguished military installation after one of Wisconsin's most honorable men in uniform.

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About Fort Bragg

Since its establishment in 1918, thousands of Wisconsin residents have passed through Fort Bragg. The base houses the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), Joint Special Operations Command, and 82nd Airborne Division. The historical contributions of the troops of Fort Bragg range from combat operations since World War I, to more recent humanitarian efforts in response to natural disasters.

Why Now?

The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandates that all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily for the Confederacy be removed from all assets of the Department of Defense. An eight-member commission is tasked with planning the process, and we now have the opportunity to encourage them to honor an individual who epitomized the exemplary service of an American citizen.