



Gail Ash
Clermont Mayor



Mike Holland
Eustis Mayor



Evelyn Wilson
Groveland Mayor



John Christian
Leesburg Mayor



Barbara Krull
Mascotte Mayor



Pat Kelley
Minneola Mayor



Nick Girone
Mount Dora Mayor



Troy W. Singer
Tavares Mayor

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor
State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We, the undersigned Mayors, are unified in our conviction opposing the controversial plan to bring the statue of Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith to the Lake County Historical Society Museum in Tavares. The bitter irony is the proposed location is a museum located in the same building where 70 years ago the Groveland Four had their lives and reputations ruined.

The decision to move this statue was made by a small group who neither answers to or represents the public. We, eight (8) Mayors, represent 146,165 residents. Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith had no connection to Lake County and his statues presence would create a negative and hurtful message in our community. Each of our Cities have passed resolutions in opposition of the statue relocation to Lake County.

We ask you to use any and all powers granted to you and the Cabinet to prevent the movement of this statue to Lake County. We stand united and ready to assist in any way needed, and we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gail Ash
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