

The Supreme Council

MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD

OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

JAMES D. COLE, 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

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ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING PIKE STATUE

On June 19th, 2020 a statue of Past Grand Commander Albert Pike was toppled from its pedestal in Washington, D.C.

The statue celebrated Pike's humanitarian successes and his leadership of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The statue was gifted to the people of the United States in 1901. Even though the Scottish Rite no longer had any ownership rights to the sculpture, this Supreme Council has repeatedly voiced its strong support for any governmental decision to remove the statue, because we recognized that its existence could be a concern among some citizens.

We can never condone unlawful acts; otherwise the foundation of our society would crumble. However, the statue has belonged to the people since we gave it to them more than a hundred years ago. Our prayer is that the removal of the statue can be at least a small step toward healing our nation's wounds.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we prefer to step forward with our fellow citizens, consistent with the Scottish Rite Creed: *Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.*

 *James D. Cole* 
Sovereign Grand Commander