February 6, 2013

Donald E. Williams                          Martin M. Looney                          John McKinney
President Pro Tempore                      Senate Majority Leader                    Senate Minority Leader

Brendan Sharkey                            Joseph Aresimowicz                         Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr.
Speaker of the House                       House Majority Leader                      House Minority Leader

James Tracy
Executive Director
Office of Legislative Management
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 5100
Hartford, CT 06106

Gentlemen,

Please allow me to thank each of you for your attention to recognizing the importance of Connecticut’s history. As you know our State has played an important role in the story of America, and as co-chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission I have had the honor to plan and participate in a wide variety of 150th anniversary events related to Connecticut’s involvement in the Civil War. The Commission’s primary mission has been and continues to be reflecting on this nation altering event and educating the public broadly on its history.

I write today to formally request that the General Assembly accept the Forlorn Soldier monument for placement in the North lobby of the State Capitol Building. As you will see from the two enclosed documents - “The Forlorn Soldier: A Proposal for his Placement at the Connecticut State Capitol” and “Connecticut State Register of Historic Places Registration Form” – the monument possesses a unique and very important role in our state’s history. Proper conservation necessitates that he be placed indoors and there is no more proper place than the State Capitol Building, which is a shrine to the Civil War and was built by James G. Batterson, the same man who created the Forlorn Soldier.

The State Capitol Preservation & Restoration Commission has voted and accepted the monument for placement in the Capitol, and the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Commission on Culture and Tourism has approved the monument’s placement on the State
Register of Historic Places. I have also recently spoken with Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Schwartz, who supports placement of the old soldier in the Capitol Building.

Funds for the Forlorn Soldier’s conservation and relocation are already in place and those working on the project await only the General Assembly’s approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to someday soon standing with you in the North lobby when we unveil the Forlorn Soldier in his new home. His proper conservation is long overdue.

Respectfully,

Matthew Warshauer, Ph.D.
Professor of History – CCSU
Co-chair, Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission