

July 8, 2012

We believe Mayor Miyagashima was upset by the confederate flag flown on our float which happened to take the grand prize in the electric light parade.

The theme of the parade was the history of the State of New Mexico. We were to celebrate the last 100 years of our history as a state. This is not where we started, however. There was a lot of history that defined our state prior to 1912. We showed how we fought for our statehood and the sacrifices we made along the way, along with our triumphs.

We started with the beginning and showed ALL the flags that flew over our state, even when it was a territory, and before. That included the Spanish and Mexican flags as well as the confederate flag which flew over our state. Unfortunately, the Spanish flag did not arrive in time to put it on the float and the Mexican flag got shredded in the windstorm prior to the parade and it would have been disrespectful to display that flag. "On March 10, a scouting party of southern troops entered the evacuated capital, and for more than two weeks, the Confederate flag flew over the ancient Palace of the Governors." (excerpt from "A Cuarto Centennial History of New Mexico" by Robert J. Torrez)

<http://www.nmgs.org/artcuar6.htm>

All of the flags on our float flew over our state at one time or another with the exception of the military flags flown on the truck and the "Appeal to Heaven" and "10 Commandment" flag as well as the Israel flag. We were historically correct and went to great lengths to get some of the flags we flew, such as the first New Mexico flag flown from 1915 to 1920. The only one we know in existence is currently on display at the Farm and Ranch museum and photographs cannot be taken of it.

We also put on a display along the sides of the float of various events which shaped our history as well. The Pancho Villa raid, the shuttle landing at White Sands, several astronauts from New Mexico, the events at Roswell, the events at

the Trinity Site, etc. We portrayed an accurate development of our state from the early beginnings, before it became a state, to the present. Before the Mayor complained so loudly perhaps he should consult the historical records of our state to see why it is there. We cannot rewrite history. It has already happened. All we can do is give an honest and complete replay to those who are interested.

We hope the El Paso Electric Company won't give in to the strong arm tactics being implied by the Mayor, as it seems the judges on the panel knew the history of our nation and state and voted with an educated perspective.

Signed:

Las Cruces Tea Party