

Congressional Bill H.R. 926
"Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act"
Sponsored by United States Representative Steve Cohen

Written Testimony Statement
Submitted by
Patricia A. Tyson
Silver Spring, Maryland
301/588-1475

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the subcommittee hearing on this Legislation presented to us as the public. I received my primary education in the D.C. public school system. My elementary school named, **The Military Road School**, began physically in a deserted army barracks after the Battle of Ft. Stevens. (Our educational experience aimed at making us citizens of character and courage for America.)

As an adult, I now understand the deeper meaning of such a period in the history of our country. The Civil War was the turning point as to who we wanted to be and who we are. The Battle at Ft. Pillow has been classified as a "massacre" and its story should be truthfully told and admitted to strengthen our fabric of integrity.

During the period when we celebrated the Civil War Sesquicentennial, I kept running across the saying many of the U.S. Colored Troops used to keep their courage and determination strong for that NEXT Battle. The Battle Cry became:

Remember Ft. Pillow!!!

We Can Do No Less.

It has been said: America is great because she is good, but when she ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.