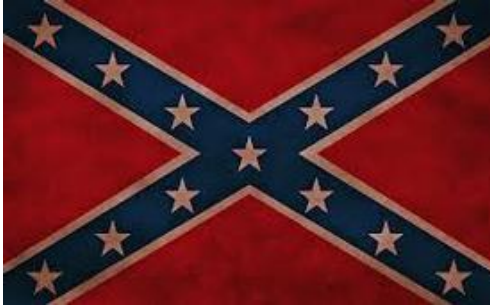




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(S.D.)-Confederate Flags Fly Again At VA Hospital In Hot Springs



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/24/2013 08:46 AM

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) - Confederate flags are flying again at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Hot Springs.

Two confederate flags were removed from historical displays at the southwestern South Dakota hospital last week after some patients complained that they represented racism.

VA Black Hills Health System Director Steve DiStasio says that the flags were returned to the displays Tuesday as "a reflection of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for America." He says the original purpose of the Hot Springs hospital was to care for Civil War veterans.

Desert Storm veteran Craig DeMouchette says he understands the historical value of the flags but still objects to their display in a government building. He says they belong in a museum.