AN ACT

To create a commission to dedicate the monument erected by the state of New York, at Andersonville, in the state of Georgia, to commemorate the heroism, sacrifices and patriotism of more than nine thousand New York soldiers, who were confined as prisoners of war in Andersonville prison, Georgia, of whom more than two thousand five hundred died in the prison, and making an appropriation therefor.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. A commission is hereby created to consist of thirteen members — three senators, to be appointed by the president of the senate, five members of assembly, to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, and five veterans of the civil war, who enlisted from the state of New York, who are survivors of Andersonville prison, and who are at present citizens of the state of New York, to be appointed by the governor, such appointments in each case to be made within thirty days after the passage of this act.
§ 2. This commission so created shall have complete charge of the ceremonies to dedicate the monument erected by the state of New York, at Andersonville, in the state of Georgia, to commemorate the heroism, sacrifice and patriotism of more than nine thousand New York soldiers, who were confined as prisoners of war in Andersonville prison, Georgia, of whom more than two thousand five hundred died in the prison. Immediately after their appointments, the commissioners shall meet and select a chairman and secretary.

§ 3. Twenty thousand dollars ($20,000), or as much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this act, the same to be paid by the treasurer on the warrant of the comptroller, on proper vouchers, duly certified by the chairman and secretary of this commission.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

April 14, 1914

Dear Sir and Comrade:

We are sending you herewith an application blank for transportation and subsistence from New York City to Andersonville, Ga., and return. It includes berth in Pullman car and meals enroute.

The bill, which passed the Legislature unanimously, making an additional appropriation of $30,000, has failed of approval. If we could have secured that it would have enabled us to provide also for your fare from your home to New York City and return. This we are now, alas, unable to promise.

If you can go, fill out this blank and return at once in enclosed addressed envelope, this application must reach us not later THAN MONDAY, APRIL 20TH.
If any friends, or members of your family, desire to accompany you at their own expense, they may do so. It will cost from New York to Andersonville and return, including berth and meals, approximately $60 each. The name or names should accompany your application, also check for above amount, payable to Wm. B. Carswell, Treasurer.

Great promptness is now imperative, that we many have time to book the necessary reservations.

Fraternally yours,

A.J. PALMER

Chairman

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY KILLGORE

Mr. Chairman, Comrades and Friends:

I am not a stranger to some of you. If ever I wished for the ability of a Demosthenes it is now; yet if I possessed it the effort would be avain one, because no words of mine, nor of the English language whichever were coined, could tell you half; no pen can write it — the most eminent artist of the world, or all that ever lived, could not paint the scenes which were enacted here fifty years ago so that the pictures would adequately express the truth. These graves and monuments bear silent testimony to the awful tragedy of Andersonville. The skeleton forms of many, the livid, swollen, distorted figures of others, and all a scene of desolation and death, is beyond the power of your imagination. It is difficult for me, in speaking now, to control my emotion.

Before attempting to say another word in relation to the sufferings and sacrifices of our comrades, it may be proper for me (possibly as your representative) to say a few words about the magnanimity of the great State of New York (applause) and to point out a few of the
members of the Legislature who aided in bringing you here. I appreciate their services and thank each one of them most cordially, particularly so because before I undertook the mission for you I was told repeatedly that in going to Albany my errand was a useless one, that the bill would never be passed, but much to our gratification it became a law by unanimous vote. I wish to introduce to this audience, through the courtesy of the chairman, three of the men who did so much to secure its passage. The bill was introduced in the Senate by the Hon. William B. Carswell. (Senator Carswell, will you stand up?) (Applause.) The vote in the Senate was unanimous, and in the Assembly the same, where it was in charge of Hon. William Pinkney Hamilton, Jr. (Mr. Hamilton, will you stand up?) (Applause.) (I wish the boys to see you, gentlemen.) It was carried to the Governor of the State by Senator A. J. Palmer, our chairman (applause), so that you now see some of the men who were responsible for the bill in the Legislature. I am betraying no secret when I tell you that before its unanimous passage by both houses the Governor had personally assured me of his sympathy and support. Any reference I may make to my efforts, please do not think they are uttered in a spirit of self-laudation, because what I did was in your name, and the great State of New York listened to you and granted your request. Hon. Wm. Sulzer added to his reputation as the friend of the soldier and deserves our warmest thanks. I cannot refrain from referring to the great service of Senators Robert F. Wagner, Elon R. Brown, and others, and in the Assembly to Speaker Smith, Mr. Levy, Mr. Hinman and others. We thank everybody in both houses.

Now, boys, there are many things published in connection with the history of the war that are not true. I do not mean to startle you when I say that there never was a war between the North and the South. There was a war for the preservation of the Union, in which many men from the southland took active and prominent participation in its favor. We forget that the answering shot
at Sumter was fired by a southern man, Robert Anderson, of Kentucky. We remember that about this time fifty years ago a great national convention was held in the city of Chicago, Ill, (not by southern men), which declared the war a failure, and one of the planks of the platform insisted that the Government of the United States should exchange the prisoners of war, which meant to give back to the Confederacy forty or fifty thousand fresh troops in place of skeletons, fit only for the graveyard or hospital. Then these northern allies of the Confederacy became busy to have the friends and relatives of the Union prisoners know how deeply our boys were in favor of that particular plank of the platform. A mock election was held in the Confederate prisons, the result of which (if favorable) was to be sent through the lines to be used against Mr. Lincoln. The conspirators thought that with that plank of the platform urged upon the Union prisoners a majority at least would vote a white bean, which represented their candidate, McClellan, and the black beans were for Lincoln. (Applause.) Here were the white beans, which, according to that platform, stood for freedom and life. There were the black beans for Lincoln, suffering and death. But those black beans in the eyes of the Union prisoners were symbolic of the Union and its flag, and when the votes were counted there was one white bean for McClellan to at least one hundred for Lincoln, and the Union prisoners had demonstrated their ability to discount or reverse the famous utterance of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

In that part of our country, then known as the "loyal States," the vote in favor of this platform (the popular vote), was one million eight hundred thousand, but these suffering, starving, dying Union prisoners of war would have none of it.

It may not be necessary for me to say this, but I wish to prove to you that within this cemetery is the evidence of southern loyalty. The record shows that as many men from the six southern, or slave States, of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee,
are buried here as from the six New England States, or from the six western States of Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In this cemetery lie seven hundred and twenty-three men from the Confederate State of Tennessee, as against seven hundred and sixty-seven from Massachusetts, and six hundred and fifty-three from Indiana. I merely refer to this fact that you may understand that the American Union was saved by men of the South, men of the North, and men of the West. The Union men, loyal citizens of this great nation, came from all sections of the country.

In the first place, if it had not been for the encouragement and promises of help which were held out by certain prominent politicians of the North, the southern leaders would never have dared to seduce or coerce their people into secession and war. I am dropping these remarks that the younger people present may understand and know that the Union was saved by the loyal people of the nation without regard to any section. (Applause.) Let me tell you another thing, and those of you who are mathematicians can make your own calculations. It is this, that from these slave, or southern, States there were at least four hundred thousand men who served in the Union army. Let us stop to think just a half minute — take those southern men from the Union army and add them to the Confederate, and you will see what I mean. Let us select a few individuals. Tell me if you can point to any soldier in the Union army who was the superior of that magnificent Virginian, George H. Thomas (applause), then go to the navy, search through its records, look in every direction, and select if you can a more distinguished sailor than that grand old Tennessean, David G. Farragut (applause); then stop and think of three hundred thousand men from six of the southern States; it was easy to enlist in the Union army. North and West. Brass bands were parading the streets. It was a popular thing and it only took a few steps to a recruiting office to enroll your name; then consider the loyalty of the man who will travel more
than two hundred miles across mountains and ravines, taking all sorts of chances, facing every
danger, traveling immense distances, to enroll as a Union soldier. It meant much to him, and
when we gather here rejoicing for the great State of New York and for other northern or western
States, as we see proper to call them, let us not forget the loyal southern man.

I have been delighted and instructed since we left New York and I think yesterday's
exhibition of the feeling of the ex-Confederates should tell to all of us that the war is over and
that the sanctity of our flag is safe; that its future is secure, and that no hand, whether domestic or
foreign, can ever be successfully raised against it. (Applause.)

SOURCE: A Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Patriotism, Being the Report of the Commission to
Dedicate the Monument Erected by the State of New York, In Andersonville, Georgia (Albany,