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From: Paul Fleisher <<u>pfleishe@earthlink.net</u>> Date: Sun, Nov 29, 2020 at 12:30 PM Subject: Barbara Johns deserves a place in the U.S. Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I encourage you to recognize the heroism, courage and leadership of Barbara Johns by selecting her to represent Virginia in the National Statuary Hall

Paul Fleisher

2781 Beowulf Ct.

Richmond VA 23231

www.paulfleisher.com

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From: Dave & Jane Kearney <<u>kearneyd@rcn.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 10:35 PM Subject: Request for Proposals; Virginia's U. S. Capitol Statue Commission To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

To: Virginia's U.S. Capitol Statue Commission From: David and Jane Kearney, Richmond, Virginia kearneyd@erols.com

Date: November 27, 2020

In response to your request for proposals, our top three suggestions for the "second" of Virginia's statues in the U.S Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection, to replace the statue of Robert E. Lee, are, in no particular order:

- Abraham Lincoln
- Pocahontas
- · Maggie Lena Walker

The strengths of the foregoing three proposed candidates have been covered very well by many others. We would stress the following elements:

Abraham Lincoln

As researched and pointed out by Virginia's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee, Abraham Lincoln had "deep Virginia roots."

The Subcommittee noted that Lincoln's great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents lived in Virginia; his parents met, married; and lived for a time in the Shenandoah Valley; and his great-grandparents and multiple relatives are buried in Virginia in the Lincoln Cemetery at the Lincoln Family Homestead in Rockingham County. There are Lincoln descendants living in the Shenandoah Valley today. During the Civil War, Lincoln's family in Virginia were slave owners and Confederates, and he visited several Virginia localities, including Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederate capital, in April 1865, just a few days prior to his death. Abraham Lincoln is a central figure in American history, and he is inextricably and forever a part of the social fabric of the Commonwealth. Lincoln desired "not only to save his country, but also to make it worthy of the saving, a place where all would have the right to rise."

. . .

See "When in Virginia; Rooted in Virginia: Abraham Lincoln," by Casey (January 18, 2018, retrieved November 27, 2020); "Abraham Lincoln," <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham Lincoln</u> (November 27, 2020). Retrieved November 27, 2020.

We note also the international attention acclaim given to Virginia's clear role as a primary battlefield of the American Civil War, and the critical importance of President Abraham Lincoln in steering America back to the foundations of the Declaration of Independence by way of the tremendous success of the acclaimed Stephen Spielberg-directed movie, Lincoln, filmed in Virginia not so many years ago.

#### Pocahontas

Pocahontas (born Matoaka, also known as Amonute, and as Rebecca Rolfe)

Pocahontas (c. 1596 – March 1617), as has been pointed out by others, was instrumental in ensuring the establishment of the English Colony of Jamestown in North America through her friendship with the English Colonists.

Pocahontas was the daughter of Powhatan, the primary chief of a network of tributary tribes in the area that became Virginia. During hostilities between the English Colonists and the Native tribes in 1613, the English took Matoaka hostage and held her for ransom. While she was held in captivity, the English encouraged her to convert to Christianity and she was baptized as "Rebecca." In April 1614, she married John Rolfe, an early English settler of Jamestown. Powhatan provided John and Rebecca with property spanning thousands of acres just across the James River from Jamestown. In 1616 the Rolfes sailed to London where Rebecca/Pocahontas was presented to the English as the example of a "civilized savage" in hopes of spurring investment in Jamestown. Sadly, she became ill on her and John's return trip to Jamestown in 1617. She died and was buried at Gravesend in England that year.

Although the story of Pocahontas has been romanticized, she became the subject of American art, literature, and film. Many well-known and influential Americans have claimed to be her descendants through her son, including members of the "First Families of Virginia," First Lady Edith Wilson, American western actor Glenn Strange, and astronomer Percival Lowell.

General References: See "Pocahontas," Wikipedia, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocahontas</u> (November 27, 2020).

# # # # #

## Maggie Lena Walker

Maggie Lena Walker (July 15, 1864–December 15, 1934) was an African American teacher, businesswoman, and entrepreneur. She was the first African American woman in the United States to charter a bank and to serve as its president. As a leader in Richmond, Virginia, she achieved many notable successes, with a vision to make tangible improvements in the way of life for African Americans. Disabled by paralysis and a wheelchair user later in life, Walker also became a positive, strong example for people with disabilities.

When she was fourteen years old, Walker joined the local council of the Independent Order of St. Luke (the "Order"), a fraternal burial society that ministered to the sick and aged, promoted humanitarian causes, and encouraged individual self-help and integrity. She served in numerous capacities of increasing responsibility for the Order, from that of a delegate to the Order's biannual convention, to the top leadership position of Right Worthy Grand Secretary in 1899, a position she held until she died.

Walker also was a teacher from 1883-1886.

After leaving her teaching position in 1886, Walker devoted herself to the Order and rose steadily through its ranks. A pioneering insurance executive, financier and civic icon, she established the Juvenile Branch of Order in 1895 while serving as grand deputy matron. The Juvenile Branch encouraged education, community service, and thrift in young members.

In 1902, Walker published a newspaper, The St. Luke Herald. Shortly after, she chartered the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. Walker served as the bank's first president, which earned her the recognition of being the first African American woman to charter a bank in the United

States. The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank's leadership also included several female board members. Later Walker agreed to serve as chairman of the board of directors when the bank merged with two other Richmond banks to become The Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, which grew to serve generations of Richmonders as an African American owned institution.

In 1902, she published a newspaper, the St. Luke Herald. Shortly after, she chartered the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. Walker served as the bank's first president, which earned her the recognition of being the first African American woman to charter a bank in the United States.

In 1905, Walker was featured alongside other African American leaders, such as Mary Church Terrell, T. Thomas Fortune, and George Washington Carver in a poster titled, "101 Prominent Colored People."

She ran for superintendent of public instruction on an all-Black ticket in 1921.

Walker received an honorary master's degree from Virginia Union University in 1925.

Walker's social change activities with the Independent Order of St. Luke demonstrated her keen consciousness of oppression and her dedication to challenge racial and gender injustice.

Walker was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Nu Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority at the Chapter's first meeting in 1926 and was inducted into the Junior Achievement U.S. Business Hall of Fame in 2001. She died in Richmond on December 15, 1934 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

General References: See "Maggie L. Walker," Wikipedia, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maggie L. Walker</u> (November 19, 2020).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need more information.

Dave and Jane Kearney 824 Arlington Circle Richmond, Virginia 23229 kearneyd@erols.com

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From: Jennifer Ahn <<u>ikahn2000@hotmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 9:22 PM Subject: Replacement of Lee statue To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> I am emailing in support for the replacement of the Lee statue. It is about time changes like this are implemented for our community!

Thank you and best regards. Jennifer Ahn

From: Barry Griffin <<u>barryigriffin@aol.com</u>> Date: Sun, Nov 29, 2020 at 3:03 PM Subject: Statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I would like to recommend that a statue of Oliver Hill fabricated to replace the Robert E Lee statue

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From: Tamke, Annaliese Finn - tamkeaf <<u>tamkeaf@dukes.jmu.edu</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 9:12 PM Subject: Barbara Johns To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Hello!

I'm writing today in regards to putting up a statue of Barbara Johns! I believe her story is an inspiration to all and she would be an excellent choice to stand tall in the capitol. Thank you for your time and consideration! Take Care, Annaliese Tamke

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From: Sara Und <<u>saraunderwood00@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 9:10 PM Subject: Barbara Johns Statue To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

To whom it may concern,

Barbara Johns should be the next statue in the capitol. There needs to be more representation of women, specifically Black women. Her story will inspire millions of students who visit the Capitol every year. Please take this into consideration.

Sincerely, Sara Underwood

From: Ford Johnson <<u>atanie2@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 8:53 PM Subject: Replace The Robert E. Lee Statue in nThe US Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> I support having Attorney Oliver White Hill, Sr. replace the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capitol.

--Ford Johnson

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From: BILL MOVIUS <<u>candym45@aol.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 8:00 PM Subject: Oliver White Hill, Sr. To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I would like to nominate Oliver White Hill,Sr. as the replacement statue for Robert E. Lee in our U.S. Capital.

Sincerely,

Carol Movius Roanoke, Va.

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From: Anita Showers <<u>showersanita9@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 5:22 PM Subject: Barbara Rose Johns To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Commission, I recommend that Virginia's second statue in the u. S. Capitol be of Barbara Rose Johns of Farmville. Best regards, Anita Showers 37 Stonewall Rd. Palmyra, Va 22963

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From: Sandra Sawyer <<u>shsawyeresq@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 5:05 PM Subject: Virginia's Replacement Statute Recommendation To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I am writing to have Attorney Oliver White Hill, Sr. replace the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capital from Virginia. Attorney Hill is deserving of such an honor.

Regards,

Sandra H. Sawyer, Esq. (state: LA) Accredited Veterans Law Attorney

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From: ANNE HALL (Richmond-Grove) <ANNE.HALL@Longandfoster.com> Sent: Friday, November 27, 2020 4:39 PM To: <u>USCapitalCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitalCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> Subject: Fw: George C Marshall

Dear Commission Members, the letter below was submitted to The Capitol commission in October, but it may have missed your deadline by a few minutes. In order to be sure you received this support for General Marshall, which comes with a small personal connection, I am resending it today.

Some highly qualified individuals have been nominated, but the humble Marshall was a quiet giant among men. I truly hope the extraordinary Marshall will receive your support for this richly deserved honor for which his qualifications are immense. It is hard to imagine a more outstanding Virginian in Statuary Hall unless it is George Washinton. They are both almost without pier.

Please scroll down.

Anne K. Hall

Richmond, Va

Noc. 27, 2020

Anne K. Hall, CRS, GRI

(804) 288-8888 (O)

(804) 512-6466 (Cell/Text)

Anne.Hall@LNF.com

Long & Foster Realtors®

5702 Grove Avenue

Richmond, Virginia

Licensed in the Commonwealth of VA

From: ANNE HALL (Richmond-Grove) Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:02 PM To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> Subject: George C Marshall

I am writing to respectfully support George C Marshall as the Virginian who's statue should replace that of Robert E Lee in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol.

Because General Marshall's accomplishments are so exceptional and wide ranging, I cannot imagine anyone among the outstanding candidates you will consider,

who is more deserving of this honor than he.

Marshall's life exemplifies so much that is good in American history. Marshall, an advisor to President Franklin D Roosevelt and Army Chief of Staff, was deeply

involved in organizing the Allied war against the Nazi war machine. From 5 star general, to Secretary of State, to launching the Marshall Plan for western European relief

and later as president of the American Red Cross, Marshall embodies service to his country and to his fellow man. Winston Churchill, who worked closely with Marshall

during World War II described Marshall as, "the noblest Roman of them all." He received the Nobel Peace Prize for the Marshall Plan.

In October,1940, as American involvement in the war was looming, the organization of a medical evacuation hospital out of Charlotte Memorial Hospital (now Carolinas Medical Center)

was proposed to General Marshall at a party in Charlotte, N. C., by Dr Paul Sanger, a local surgeon. Medical evacuation hospitals in that era were usually sponsored by medical schools

such as MCV, so this would be a different beginning. Dr Sanger convinced Marshall that the Charlotte area was a medical center with the skills and ability to staff such a venture.

The General promised to consider the proposal.

Within 3 months the 38th Evacuation Hospital unit formation began. The 38th officers included 33 doctors plus nurses and a large group of enlisted men. The original officers of the unit

were all volunteers. My late father, Major Vaiden B Kendrick, an oral surgeon, was among those officers. The 38th, a 700-800 bed evacuation hospital, served in North Africa

and Italy with an excellent record of success and service medically. The unit, when possible, also treated prisoners of war as well as civilians in need. During the war,

the unit appeared in LIFE and TIME magazines and was featured in a chapter in war correspondent Ernie Pyle's first book in 1943, HERE IS YOUR WAR.

None of this would have been possible without the support, in the beginning, of General George C Marshall.

Thank you. Anne K Hall Richmond, Virginia

Anne

Anne K. Hall, CRS, GRI

(804) 288-8888 (O)

(804) 512-6466 (Cell/Text)

Anne.Hall@LNF.com

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5702 Grove Avenue

Richmond, Virginia

Licensed in the Commonwealth of VA

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From: Sue Morgan <<u>suemorgantutor@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 4:22 PM Subject: George Marshall To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.Virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I support George Catlett Marshall for Statuary Hall.

Sue W. T. Morgan

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From: <<u>lucystumom@aol.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 3:53 PM Subject: George Catlett Marshall for Statuary Hall To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.Virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I understand today is the last day to vote for the statue for Statuary Hall at our nation's Capitol. I vote for George Catlett Marshall in Statuary Hall. I also felt the whole low key way you handled this thing lacked transparency. It was as if I had to patrol your facebook page to hear about your meetings and opportunities for public to comment. It was a studious effort by your commission not to be noticed. MARSHALL for me!

Mary Stuart Smith

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From: <<u>bobanddinah@charter.net</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 4:09 PM Subject: National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> Kate Waller Barrett (1858-1925) would be a Virginian of distinction to be honored for her civil service to The People of the United States by including a statue of her in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United Stated Capitol.

Rather than list the accomplishments of this influential woman here, I refer you to an article by Gayle Converse and Pat Miller founders of Alexandria Celebrates Women. The link follows:

### https://alextimes.com/2020/06/honoring-alexandrias-kate-waller-barrett/

Thank you for the opportunity to give the Commission For Historical Statues input to help its members select the next American to be honored in the collection hall.

Sincerely, Dinah M. Everett Isle of Wight County, Virginia

From: Chris Wade <<u>chriswade09@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 4:05 PM Subject: Statue for U.S. Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I would like to add my voice to the recommendation that Barbara Rose Johns be selected to represent Virginia in the U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall. Her bravery and vision—"reaching for the moon"—will certainly be an inspiration to the visitors who see her image there. Christopher Wade Scottsville, VA 24590

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From: S <<u>stuartbollingsmith@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 4:05 PM Subject: Statue suggestion vote To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I vote for a statue of Ralph Northam at that politically incorrect party he went to. Hopefully this will force him to address whether he was in black face or dressed as a klansman. If the statue has to be of someone historical, then George C. Marshall jr.

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From: Chuck Wagner <<u>Chuck.Wagner@gc.k12.va.us</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020, 4:00 PM Subject: Pocahontas Statue Nomination To: julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov> Cc: stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov <<u>stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>, Rick Tatnall <<u>rick@pocahontasproject.org</u>>

Dear Director Langan-

On behalf of Cody Brown of the Pocahontas Leadership Cooperative at Gloucester High School, as well as Rick Tatnall of The Pocahontas Project, I am pleased to provide you important information regarding the nomination of Pocahontas for a statue in National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol!

Native to the Gloucester region, Pocahontas was an early Virginian of noteworthy prominence and significance, and an ideal candidate to represent Virginia in National Statuary Hall. Recently, the PLC@GHS sponsored an opportunity for the students and citizens of Gloucester, VA to learn more about the woman most famously known as Pocahontas and the significant role she played in local history, as well as early colonial American history. Part of this educational effort included an opportunity for students and citizens to either support the nomination of Pocahontas, or to nominate another prominent Virginian of their choosing.

We are pleased to provide you with the attached Pocahontas Support Binder containing the following information:

Pages 1-13: Pocahontas Support Form full data file, including names of 277 supporters, supporting comments, and other demographic data; Page 14: Pocahontas Support Form summary data; Pages 15-18: Pocahontas Support Form comments; Pages 19-22: Printed copy of the actual Pocahontas Support Form that remains available for citizens to indicate their support for Pocahontas.

In addition, we have included a link below to a newspaper article featured in today's edition of The Virginia Gazette. We're proud of the efforts of Cody Brown and her fellow PLC students at Gloucester High School, and we're hopeful that Pocahontas is selected to represent Virginia in National Statuary Hall.

https://www.dailypress.com/virginiagazette/va-vg-pocahontas-statue-us-capitol-gloucester-high-1125-20201125-ghjf2te7zbezpeewp72cop6kga-story.html

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help to answer any questions, or if you may need additional information. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!

With warm regards,

Chuck

Charles A. Wagner, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Gloucester County Public Schools** 

6099 TC Walker Road

Gloucester, VA 23061

O: 804.693.1115

[Note by DHR: See separate Pocahontas Support Binder (pdf) on Commission webpage.]

From: cpeajohns7@aol.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 4:00 PM
Subject: Oliver White Hill Sr. to replace Robert E. Lee Statue
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Cc: lizrice1940@hotmail.com lizrice1940@hotmail.com>

U.S. Capitol Commission :

As a native Richmonder, an alumna of Virginia Union University, a Richmond 34 Supporter and a child of the 60's, I believe a statue of Oliver White Hill Sr. Esq is the perfect replacement for the former Robert E. Lee Statue in the Capitol.

" Mr. Oliver White Hill Sr. (May 1, 1907 – August 5, 2007) was an American civil rights attorney from Richmond, Virginia.[1] His work against racial discrimination helped end the doctrine of "separate but equal." He also helped win landmark legal decisions involving equality in pay for black teachers, access to school buses, voting rights, jury selection, and employment protection. He retired in 1998 after practicing law for almost 60 years. Among his numerous awards was the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which U.S. President Bill Clinton awarded him in 1999." Reference from Wikepidea

Pearl Inez Johnson Virginia Union University alumna '80

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From: Caroline Cardwell <<u>caroline.cardwell@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 3:59 PM Subject: Barbara Johns Statue Support To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov></u>

We support the selection of Barbara Johns for a statue representing Virginia in the U.S. Capitol.

There are 100 statues in the collection. Only seven are women. Zero are Black women. And zero are teens.

Barbara Johns organized and led the walkout and strike at her segregated school in Farmville. The students (convincing attorneys Spotswood Robinson and Oliver Hill) brought a court case that was folded into Brown v. Board of Education, which transformed education throughout the U.S.

Their case was the only one brought by students. Her story will inspire the millions of students who visit the Capitol every year.

Caroline and John Cardwell Richmond, Virginia

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From: Harold K <<u>knudsenh11@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 3:05 PM Subject: Keep the Robert E. Lee Statue in the Capital To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear US Capitol Commission,

I am a Virginia resident, and I oppose this misguided cleansing of our history. I take pride in Robert E. Lee and his actions in one of our nation's most difficult periods. His statue should remain where it is, as son of Virginia, as one of America's great generals, a Virginia gentleman, and an exemplar of Christian decency.

The false narratives that Lee "is controversial," or "not inclusive," are complete lies. There is no proof or evidence he was "controversial," or "not inclusive." He never did anything wrong to anyone, and fought a brutal war with chivalry and decency toward his opponents. He has been revered by Americans on both sides of the war, and indeed, all Americans to this day across the country.

Even liberal Democrat President Franklin D. Roosevelt, once traveled to Dallas to officiate at the unveiling of a giant bronze statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at a city park renamed in Lee's honor. According to the headline of the Dallas Morning News, Friday, June 12, 1936: "FDR Pays Tribute to American military genius and Christain leader." In his remarks he said the following:

General Robert E. Lee is recognized throughout the United States as one of the great American Generals and one of the greatest American Christians, President Roosevelt told the giant crowd Friday afternoon at ceremonies at which the Chief Executive unveiled the bronze equestrian statue of the Southern leader in Robert E. Lee Park, formerly Oak Lawn Park.

"I am very happy to take part in the dedication of this memorial to General Robert E. Lee," Mr. Roosevelt said....

"All over the United States of America, we regard him as a great leader of men and a great General, but also all over the United States I believe we recognize him as something even more important than that.

"We recognize Robert E. Lee as one of the greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen."

"One of the greatest American Christians." If anything indicates in a small handful of words how great an American Lee was, and why he deserves a place in our Capitol building. Please take these points into consideration about Robert E. Lee, and help ensure his statue stands proudly as one representation of Virginia in our nation's Capital. It is culturally and historically important to our state and our nation.

Kind regards,

Harold Knudsen

1204 W. Braddock Rd.

Alexandria, VA 22302.

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From: Warren Kennedy <<u>zarrwig4@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 2:39 PM Subject: NOMINATION OF OLIVER HILL To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I NOMINATE OLIVER HILL ESQ TO REPLACE THE STATUE OF ROBERT E. LEE IN THE U.S. CAPITAL.

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From: Darrell Johnson <<u>djohnsonampg1@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 2:29 PM Subject: Nomination of Oliver W. Hill, Sr. for Capitol Building Statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to nominate Atty. Oliver W. Hill, Sr. to replace the Robert E. Lee Statue in the U. S. Capitol building in Washington, D. C. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darrell Johnson Columbia, South Carolina

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From: Bill Fleming <<u>wwfleming@hotmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 2:25 PM Subject: Lee statue replacement To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> Rather than replace the Robert E. Lee statue with some other individual who has supposedly accomplished something notable, I recommend replacing the statue with a bronze of a dead Civil War soldier who would represent the over 600,000 U.S. citizens who were needlessly killed by the so-called leaders who started and perpetuated the Civil War. This would truly reflect the death and destruction caused by the Civil War, the legacy of which we are still experiencing.

The replacement statue should be based on a photograph that had been taken at the time and be from a battle that occurred in Virginia. I

personally think this photograph taken at Spotsylvania Court House would be a good choice.



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# From: Hylton, Raymond P <<u>RPHylton@vuu.edu</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 2:15 PM Subject: Nomination To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> Cc: Hylton, Raymond P <<u>RPHylton@vuu.edu</u>>

I nominate Attorney Oliver W. Hill, Sr. from Virginia for inclusion amongst the Capitol statuary.

Dr. Raymond Pierre Hylton, Ph.D.

Full Professor of History

(804) 257-5670

"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God" - Benjamin Franklin

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From: VIOLA BASKERVILLE <<u>vbaskerville@comcast.net</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:59 PM Subject: Barbara Johns in the US Capitol To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.Virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of a statue of Barbara Johns be placed in the US Capitol to represent Virginia. There are no statues of African American women or of any teens in the Capitol. As a sixteen year old student, Barbara Johns led a student strike and walkout against segregated schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia. This student activism led to the court case of Prince Edward v. Davis that eventually became part of the Brown v. Board of Education cases heard before the United States Supreme Court in 1954. Activism leading to social and positive policy changes have been so much a part of America's history. Barbara John's story must be shared and made known by all who visit the Capitol, especially our students.

Sincerely, Viola O. Baskerville

From: ELVATRICE BELSCHES <<u>belschese@prodigy.net</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:23 PM Subject: Nomination for US Capitol Replacement Statue for Virginia To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Hello,

I am writing to nominate Oliver Hill, Sr. and Spottswood Robinson III for the second statue in the US Capitol from Virginia.

Thank you,

**Elvatrice Belsches** 

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From: Anne Brooks Rich <<u>brook.rich@me.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:17 PM Subject: Statue in US Capitol To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I would like to write in support of a statue of Barbara Johns in the US Capitol. Her statue and story will inspire millions of students who visit the Capitol each year and would be the first statue honoring a female, African-American teenager.

Respectfully, Brook Rich

From: Mike Gray <<u>megray1@aol.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:16 PM Subject: Oliver W. Hill, Sr as Robert E. Lee Statue (Replacement) To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I am respectfully submitting Oliver White Hill, Sr. as a replacement for the Robert E. Lee Statue at the Monument Avenue site.

I think this is a fitting tribute, as Mr. Hill was a true pioneer for unity and racial equality in our great State of Virginia.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my suggestion and thanks to The Commission for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Gray

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------ Forwarded message ------From: Mary-Helen Sullivan <<u>sulgray4@verizon.net</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:15 PM Subject: proposing a statue of Barbara Johns To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.Virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse the placement in the US Capitol of a statue of Barbara Johns, a brave Black woman who as a teenager took actions that helped to lead to the Brown v Board of Education lawsuit.

We need more statues of women, more of Black people, and more certainly of people who might inspire other young people to take actions that benefit our country.

Thank you, Mary-Helen Sullivan 2023 Grove Ave Richmond 23220

From: Cathy Levy <<u>cglevy01@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:14 PM Subject: Barbara Johns Statue To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Commission Members,

Representation Matters. Statues placed in prominent places like our Capitol could be better.

Please seriously consider adding one for our very own ... Barbara Johns.

Thank you, CG Levy

2201 Stuart Ave RVA 23220

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From: Stephanie Bilimoria <<u>karpdmb@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:09 PM Subject: Lee Replacement Statue Entry To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Karina Bilimoria. I am a 4th-grade student at Charles Barrett Elementary School in Alexandria, VA. I would like to suggest that the Lee Statue be replaced with Ruth Bader Ginsburg (also known as Joan Ruth Bader). She should be the replacement because she did a lot of good things for women and our country. I recently read The Story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Susan B. Katz. I really enjoyed learning about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and all the good things she did for our country. Thank you for considering my entry.

Sincerely,

Karina Bilimoria

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From: William Prettyman <<u>prettyman.william@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 11:46 AM Subject: A Suggestion For Virginia's New Statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Commission Members,

My name is William Prettyman. I am an historic interpreter and a resident of Richmond Virginia. Having studied the history of our great state and interpreted it to people from all over the world for years now, I write to you to inform you that I have who I believe to be an excellent candidate for our new statue within the Capitols collection.

Having reviewed your preferences and expectations for the values that you wish this statue to send, I can think of no other Virginian more worthy than Kate Waller Barrett (1827-1925). Her work as a

suffragist, social reformer, as well as a voice for the "outcast woman, the mistreated prisoner, those lacking in educational and social opportunity, the voteless woman, and the disabled war veteran." Her willingness to also challenge the racial issues that had still heavily cemented themselves into the social norms of her day could also serve as a perfect guiding light for today's Americans, as we continue to struggle with the racial issues that continue to trouble us.

It is my sincere belief that a statue honoring her and her extraordinary (as well as sadly little known as of today) contributions to Virginia and it's people, regardless of race, creed, or gender, will send an excellent message to not just Virginians, but all Americans of the need to come together in peace, as well as the benefits of charity and good will toward each other.

If you wish for me to comment further, or have any need to reach out to me, I am more than willing to go above and beyond to help people become aware of this woman's extraordinary works. I am in close contact with many of her living descendants, who would all love to see her honored. I also am relatively close professionally with the College Of William And Mary, who do have a dormitory named after her. I have attached an excellent article for further resources on Kate Waller Barrett.

I thank you for giving the people of Virginia this excellent opportunity to lend their voices to this effort to honor our state.

Sincerely,

William Prettyman.

https://alextimes.com/2020/06/honoring-alexandrias-kate-waller-barrett/

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------ Forwarded message ------From: Caroline Lynch <<u>ccel2019@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 11:21 AM Subject: Barbara Johns in the US Capitol To: <<u>Uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Barbara Johns should be the subject of the statue for the US Capitol. I am a college student and I find it shocking that there is no one near my age represented in the collection. Furthermore it is an insult to all women that a mere 7 of the 100 statues are of women. It's appalling that there are no Black women represented. Virginia can lead the way and correct these troubling omissions by sending a statute of a student civil rights leader who will inspire ALL students who visit the Capitol.

Barbara John organized and led the walkout and strike at her

segregated school in Farmville. Ultimately the cause of the Moton School students was folded into what became Brown v Board of Education which ruled segregated schools were unconstitutional SHE inspired lawyers Spottswood Robinson AND Oliver Hill by his own admission.

Her story is included in the standards of learning for the state but the world needs to learn of her courage and conviction. Barbara Johns is the perfect person to pair with Washington - our other statue in the US Capitol. Washington had power, money, position, and rank. Barbara Johns was a citizen. A citizen exercising her rights and compelling others to follow her lead.

PS: Pocahontas is already represented in the US Capitol.

Sincerely, Caroline Lynch

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From: Karen Elyse Peters <<u>mkjpeters@comcast.net</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 11:15 AM Subject: Barbara Rose Johns statue To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

### Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my desire that Ms. Barbara Rose Johns be given the distinction of an honorary statue in the US Capitol. This Virginian and teenager of color organized and led a walkout and strike to help end segregation in her own high school. The NAACP eventually took up the case and it was folded into the Brown vs. Board of Education that ended school segregation. It is my understanding that out of 100 statues there are only 7 women and no women of color. This is not acceptable. It does not represent American ideals nor the people of this nation.

I have attached below an article describing Ms. Johns amazing contribution and respectfully ask that she be honored with a statue.

https://motonmuseum.org/learn/biography-barbara-rose-johnspowell/?fbclid=IwAR0WgygTJOb3ILA2FtQ08fVGHf1IZr9szcnmIGAO0ICAeYCP56LrOGgWjcM

Thank you,

Karen E. Peters

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Carmela M. Hamm <<u>carmelahamm@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 10:23 AM Subject: Nomination of John M. Langston To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>> John Mercer Langston was an American abolitionist, U.S. Congressman, and the first African American in the United States elected to public office, when in 1855 he ran for Town Clerk in Ohio.

Born in Louisa County, VA, he was the son of Ralph Quarles, a white plantation owner, and Lucy Langston, a slave of mixed African and Native American heritage. His parents died when he was five, and upon his father's death, all of his slaves were freed in compliance with wishes expressed in Quarles' will. Langston and his brothers then moved to Oberlin, Ohio, to live with family friends.

Langston enrolled in Oberlin College at the age of fourteen, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree from the institution. He became a member of the Ohio bar in 1854 and was the first African American to be admitted. He was later admitted to the Virginia Bar, and quickly developed a reputation as an eloquent and persuasive orator, with a unique gift for impromptu speaking.

John Langston went on to be an active participant in the Abolitionist movement, organizing anti-slavery societies on both local and state levels, helping runaway slaves escape to the North through the Underground Railroad. He was a founding member and President of the National Equal Rights League, which fought for the voting rights of African Americans. During the Civil War, Langston recruited African Americans to fight for the Union Army, enlisting hundreds for duty in the United States Colored Troops. After the war, in 1868 President Johnson appointed him Inspector General for the Freedmen's Bureau, a Federal organization that assisted freed slaves.

Langston established and served as Dean of the Howard University School of Law - the first African American law school in the country becoming President of the school in 1872; appointed to the Board of Health of the District of Columbia by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1875; resigned in 1877 to become U.S. Minister to Haiti; returned to his beloved Virginia in 1885 and was named the first President of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, now known as Virginia State University, an Historic Black College or University (HBCU).

In 1888, Langston ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican. He lost to his Democratic opponent, then contested the election results, and after an 18-month fight, was declared the winner and awarded the Congressional Seat. After serving the remaining six months of the term, he lost his bid for re-election. Langston was the FIRST African American elected to Congress from Virginia and was the only one allowed to do so for another century until post-Reconstruction.

He is also the uncle of social activist, novelist, playwright, esteemed poet laureate, and a leader of the Harlem Renaissance - James Mercer Langston Hughes. [DHR note: Please see attachment for James Mercer Langston (pdf) posted to the Commission's webpage.]

From: Greg Marra <<u>gwmarrastudios@gmail.com</u>> Date: Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 12:58 AM Subject: Desmond Doss To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Capitol Commission

Desmond Doss, the only medal of honor recipient who refused to carry a combat weapon into battle as a conscientious objector from Virginia is hands down the bravest man of all time. He deserves to replace Lee. My recommendation was interrupted by technical difficulties. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desmond\_Doss

No civil rights activist nor General Lee nor General Marshall has displayed the courage Mr. Doss did saving 75 lives in combat without a weapon.

I also ask to be the sculptor to sculpt him for statuary hall. Please read the recommendation letters by congressman Westermann in Arkansas for me to sculpt their replacement in statuary hall.

Gregory W. Marra M.F.A President / Lead Sculptor <u>www.gwmarra.com</u> (302) 521-3024

"God gifted talent immortalizing your vision"

From: Colleen Schweninger <<u>cocoschweni@gmail.com</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 26, 2020 at 11:09 PM Subject: Abraham Lincoln US Capitol Statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Nominating the distinguished homeschooler, Abraham Lincoln, who upheld Virginia's exceptional words "Created Equal", to represent the State of Virginia in the US Capitol would be a powerful testament to ending white supremacy/hatred/bigotry that is currently represented by the Robert E. Lee

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From: WILLIAM PITTS <<u>billpitts\_98@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 26, 2020 at 9:33 PM Subject: Replacing R. E. Lee stature To: <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I nominate Attorney Oliver Hill to take the place of the Lee stature.

William M. Pitts 30 Old Sellers Way Richmond, VA. 23227

From: Christopher McNulty <<u>chris@mcnulty.in</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 26, 2020 at 5:46 PM Subject: Replacement for the Robert E. Lee statue To: <u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I recommend that the Robert E. Lee statue be replaced with a statue of Pocahontas. A native American woman, one of the first Virginians. Bridged multiple cultures, married to a prominent colonist. I think she would make an excellent representative of Virginia in the U.S. Capitol.

Chris McNulty 3033 N. Dickerson St. Arlington, VA 22207

From: Rich Coon <<u>richcoon1@gmail.com</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 26, 2020 at 5:13 PM Subject: Statue for Replacement of Robert E. Lee To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Richard W. Coon 2710 Annakay Crossing, Midlothian, VA 23113 <u>Richcoon1@gmail.com</u> JMU alumnus

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to suggest using a statue of George C. Marshall, Jr. to replace the statue of Robert E. Lee.

Marshall was a graduate of VMI in 1901 and went on to become a 5-star General. He became chief advisor to President Roosevelt in the conduct of WWII and saved hundreds of thousand American lives through his astute planning and leadership. He received high accolades and awards from every country who was fighting against the Nazi's and Japan. One of his greatest accomplishments was the creation of the Marshall Plan after WWII which fed a war ravaged Europe and prevented a communist takeover of Western Europe. General Marshall won the Nobel Peace Prize for his Plan in 1953.

I sincerely hope that you will give my suggestion serious consideration for the statue to replace Robert E. Lee.

Respectfully, Richard W. Coon

From: Jon Jewett <<u>jjewett3@verizon.net</u>> Date: Thu, Nov 26, 2020 at 12:00 PM Subject: Recommendation for Statuary Hall To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I worked on Capitol Hill for eight years, and frequently walked through Statuary Hall (also known as the Old Hall of the House). I noticed that very few visitors paid attention to the statues. Statuary Hall was a regular stop on the standard tour, but it was of interest because of the unusual acoustics and its history as the House chamber, not because of the statues. One reason is because so many of the statues are of very obscure figures, who are not even well known in the states they represent. I urge you to keep in mind that Statuary Hall is a national venue. Virginia should be represented by a national figure, who will be recognizable to visitors. For example, Ella Fitzgerald is a national figure; Oliver Hill, fine a man as he was, is not and never will be. And if you think that placing a statue of someone in Statuary Hall will of itself make a person more famous, please take a look at the list of the people who are currently represented in Statuary Hall and see how many you do not recognize.

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From: Daniel Costanzo <<u>danielcostanzo@aol.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 8:42 PM Subject: Recommended Replacement Of Confederate General (& Virginian) Robert E. Lee's Statue In The U.S. Capitol: A Statue Of Virginian William ("Billy") Lee To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Virginia Department of Historic Resources Members,

Since you are jettisoning Confederate General Robert E. Lee's (REL's) statue from the U.S. Capitol as one of the two statues representing Virginia (while keeping the statue of Virginian George Washington), I recommend that you replace it with the statue of another Virginian named Lee: William ("Billy") Lee.

According to David McCullough's bestseller 1776, William ("Billy") Lee was George Washington's Black slave body servant and steady companion during the American Revolution's Siege of Boston. Lee was a familiar figure then as he rode with GW around the siege works surrounding Boston, carrying a large spyglass in a leather case slung over one shoulder ready for GW's immediate use.

It would be fitting to replace REL's statue with that of a Black Virginian who was both a slave and named Lee.

Also, in this way GW and Billy Lee can be seen together again, this time in statuary form in the U.S. Capital, representing Virginians

White and Black who fought and won the American Revolution, thus beginning the American Experiment that continues today.

\* Daniel Costanzo

From: <<u>lisamas@mail.regent.edu</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 7:32 PM Subject: Replacement of Robert E. Lee Statue in U.S. Capital To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I understand that there is an opportunity to submit suggestions for a historical person to replace the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capital. I wanted to suggest to have Attorney Oliver White Hill, Sr. be the replacement.

Thank you,

Lisa Marie

Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 5:14 PM Subject: Fw: Removal and Replacement of Robert E Lee statue in US Capitol To: Rr US Capitol Commission <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Attached is a revised copy of the document I sent I sent you on Nov. 17. Please replace the original document you placed on your website (Clary attachment) with this document to correct errors, omissions and grammatical changes in the original document. Respectfully,

Donald L Clary COL (R) US ARMY <u>dlclary67@yahoo.com</u>

[DHR Note: The revised "Clary" attachment (pdf) has been reposted as requested]

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From: Avis Thomas <<u>a a thomas@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 4:31 PM Subject: Nomination of Dr. Robert Russa Moton to replace the Robert E. Lee Statue at the US Capitol To: Rr US Capitol Commission <<u>uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Good Afternoon:

I am please to forward the attached PDF <u>change.org</u> petition with 552 signatures of people who all support and wish to nominate Dr. Robert Russa Moton as the historical figure to replace the Robert E. Lee Statue, and represent the great state of Virginia at the US Capitol. I emailed the commission, and spoke at the hearing on 10/8/2020 about my Great Great Uncle. I was excited to see my uncle listed as one of the suggestions in a NBC article, and have shared that article with more family, including Dr. Moton's Great Grandson, Stephen Moton, who, along with other family members, eagerly signed the attached petition. Reviewing the criteria, I believe Dr. Moton fits all the requirements, and it would be a great honor for him to receive this honor. Along with the petition, I have also attached another copy of an essay detailing his life and accomplishments. I thank you for this opportunity to present my uncle to the Commission, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions. Thank you.

Sincerely, Avis Thomas

[DHR note: Please see "Thomas" PDF attachments posted on Commission's webpage.]

From: Jessica Brooks <<u>bankston.jessica@gmail.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 4:27 PM Subject: Nomination of Oliver White Hill Sr statute at the US Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Commission for Historical Statues in U.S. Capitol Soliciting Nominations for New Honoree to Replace R. E. Lee Statue:

I support the nomination of Attorney Oliver White Hill, Sr. to replace the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capital.

Thank you, Jessica Brooks

From: Phil Hill <<u>phil.hill.bv3n@statefarm.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 4:12 PM Subject: Nomination for New Honoree To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I am a native of Richmond & like to submit my support for Attorney Oliver White Hill to replace Robert E. Lee statue in the US Capital. Mr. Hill has representative various Communities in the Richmond area thru an outstanding Law Practice for years. He has upheld the teachings of our Lord Jesus as "Thou shalt Love thy neighbor as thyself" Mat 22:39. Also as followed the US Constitution to the letter. It will be a great Honor for this individual of integrity being a symbol in the US Capital. Thank You Philemon Hill

From: STAN PENNY RUSSELL <<u>stanrussell62@msn.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 2:44 PM Subject: Recommendation To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I strongly recommend George C. Marshall

#### Stan Russell

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From: <<u>ruthsnead@aol.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 1:07 PM Subject: Virginia Statue To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

General Robert E..Lee Statue

Thank you, Ruth Snead Richmond, Va

From: Colleen Hall <<u>colleenphall@me.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 12:33 PM Subject: Re: nomination for replacing statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to advocate for a statue of Barbara Johns to represent Virginia at the U.S. Capitol. As a society, the integral role of women and women of color has been largely ignored by such public honors and making this right is long overdue. Women have been the backbone of this country. It is time we honor the women who despite their unequal treatment, stepped forward and worked for progress. Barbara Johns is a wonderful example of such leadership and courage. In 1951, at the young age of 16, and as an African American woman, she stepped up and out to demand change and the construction of a new school to serve the African American population. She had the foresight to contact Virginia NAACP attorney Oliver Hill and agreed to sue on the basis of desegregation. This case was incorporated into the 1954 landmark decision Brown v. Board of Education which struck down school segregation as unconstitutional. While Prince Edward County went on to cut off funds for all of its public schools from 1959-1964 as a part of Virginia's Massive Resistance, the brave initiative shown by Barbara Johns started the important movement towards equality.

It is long overdue to recognize the role of women in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I do hope you will consider Barbara Johns as remarkable representative of Virginia as a brave citizen who moved the state further along the path of progress and equality.

In addition, I do hope you will equally consider commissioning female artists to render this statue as it would seem appropriate to also finally acknowledge women artists!

Sincerely,

Colleen Phelon Hall 2114 Buford Rd. N. Chesterfield, VA 23235

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From: Franklin Leep <<u>franklinleep@outlook.com</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 11:08 AM Subject: Replacement of Lee statue at U.S.Capitol To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I recommend George C. Marshall as a replacement for the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capital. He demonstrated powerful leadership in the Second World War and was the most powerful leader in rebuilding Europe after the war. His plan brought stability, economic growth and democracy to Europe.

My second choice would be to retain the Robert E. Lee statue. His work after the Civil War to reunite the country was outstanding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

O. Franklin Leep

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From: Bob Radspinner <<u>radspin221@comcast.net</u>> Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 7:52 AM Subject: Replacement statue from the Commonwealth of Virginia For the National Statuary Hall To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of having a statue of George Catlett Marshall installed in the National Statuary Hall representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The statute for this action suggests " [...] the President is hereby authorized to invite each and all the States to provide and furnish statues, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services,"

Marshall's service during one of the world's most difficult time has immortalized him to peoples throughout the world. He was the architect of the United States military victory during World War II and his "Marshall Plan" successfully rebuilt Europe after that conflict had ended. This effort gained him the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1953.

I have had two opportunities to tour the US Capitol and visit statuary

hall. It would be tremendous for Virginia to have a statue of someone so famous that a visitor would immediately know and recognize George Marshall.

Kind regards,

Robert E Radspinner

830 McBryde Drive

Blacksburg, VA 24060

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From: Anita Cary-Wright <<u>anitacw1460@gmail.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 8:42 PM Subject: Suggestion for new Statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I suggest a statute of multiple people; York, manservant of William Clark, Lewis I suggest a statute of multiple people; York, manservant of William Clark, Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea, her baby, Jean-Baptist, and Seamen. These individuals would represent a slave, two explorers of the land west of the Mississippi River, a Native American and baby, and man's best friend, a dog. As a slave, York was a faithful member of the Corps of Discovery. He was employed as a soldier with a gun, hunter, he voted on issues related to the expedition, he saved the notes and maps of Meriwether Lewis, he delivered Sacagawea's baby. Yet, after the expedition, his voting rights were taken away along with his gun. He was not paid as the other soldiers were and he returned to the status as a slave. Lewis and Clark, owned slaves, but should be honored as great explorers who were hired by Thomas Jefferson ("all men are created equal) (Jefferson hated slavery) simply because they trusted York to help them to establish America. Thomas Jefferson did educate his sons born to him by Sally Hemmings Sacagawea represents our Native Americans. The Jamestown settlers saw these wonderful people in 1607, the true owners of the land which Richmond is built upon. Jean-Baptist (Sacagawea's baby) would represent our youth of Richmond. Seamen, a dog, represent faithfulness to its owner. There are many dog lovers in the city of Richmond. This statue would be one displaying diversity. Let's educate Richmonders on the contributions of these four pioneers. Anita Cary-Wright, retired Hanover County Teacher and Clark, Sacagawea, her baby, Jean-Baptist, and Seamen. These individuals would represent a slave, two explorers of the land west of the Mississippi River, a Native American and baby, and man's best friend, a dog. As a slave, York was a faithful member of the Corps of Discovery. He was employed as a soldier with a gun, hunter, he voted on issues related to the expedition, he saved the notes and maps of Meriwether Lewis, he delivered Sacagawea's baby. Yet, after the expedition, his voting rights were taken away along with his gun. He was not paid as the other soldiers were and he returned to the status as a slave. Lewis

and Clark, owned slaves, but should be honored as great explorers who were hired by Thomas Jefferson ("all men are created equal) (Jefferson hated slavery) simply because they trusted York to help them to establish America. Thomas Jefferson did educate his sons born to him by Sally Hemmings Sacagawea represents our Native Americans. The Jamestown settlers saw these wonderful people in 1607, the true owners of the land which Richmond is built upon. Jean-Baptist (Sacagawea's baby) would represent our youth of Richmond. Seamen, a dog, represent faithfulness to its owner. There are many dog lovers in the city of Richmond. This statue would be one displaying diversity. Let's educate Richmonders on the contributions of these four pioneers. Anita Cary-Wright, retired Hanover County Teacher

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From: elzora rowe-reddish <<u>eljararowe@msn.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 7:39 PM Subject: Attorney Oliver White Hill or Rev. L. Frances Griffin To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Please consider one of these men to replace the Robert E. Lee stature. Both men were instrumental in the reopening of Prince Edward County Schools when they closed in 1959 to avoid desegregation.

Thanks for your consideration.

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From: Tom Leback <<u>tomleback@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 4:53 PM Subject: Replacement of the Robert E. Lee Statue in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Dear Commission members,

I write in support of George C. Marshall for Virginia's second statue in Statuary Hall. His service to our country during World War II and its immediate post-war years was exemplary and transformative. It has been recognized not only nationally, but also internationally, as evidenced by his receipt of the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize. As WWII and its post-war years fade in our memories, we are losing our appreciation for the dire worldwide threat posed by the war and for the post-war recovery struggle in Europe.

While FDR and Winston Churchill led and inspired the Allied effort during the war, people like General Marshall made the successful U.S. response happen. Churchill referred to him as the "organizer of victory."

While most of us are aware of the Soviet threat to Europe during the post-war years, few of us are aware of Europe's slow economic recovery and the discontent and destabilizing effects it bred. To address these conditions, the Congress passed the European Recovery Program

(ERP) in 1948. The ERP became known as the Marshall Plan because of his advocacy for the program as Secretary of State. The plan did more than just spur Europe's recovery, it forced structural economic adjustments, improved trade relations, and created a cooperative framework that led to NATO. It is hard to imagine what the post-war world would have been like without the successful rebuilding of the Western European economics and the creation of NATO. The Cold War might not have ended so well for the U.S.

In summary, all Virginians have benefited from George Marshall's service and dedication. If the U.S. had not won the war or if the recovery of Western Europe had not been successful, we probably would not have the luxury of addressing issues, such as the environment and social justice.

Tom Leback

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From: Robinson, Bernard <<u>BRobinson@thinknts.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 3:28 PM Subject: Replacing the Statue of Robert E Lee To: <u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u> <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

I am excited that finally, we have the opportunity to do what's right, and replace the statue of Robert E. Lee. Replacing that statue, that symbolizes everything wrong in our society with Oliver White Hill, Sr would be fantastic!!!

Thank you for considering.

Bernard Robinson

President/CEO

Networking Technologies + Support

Direct: 804 858 8001

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From: jonetva <<u>ionetva@gmail.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 2:21 PM Subject: Oliver W Hill statue in the U.S. Capitol To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Oliver W. Hill should replace Robert E. Lee in the U.S. Capitol. What better way to characterize the promise of America?

Jon C.King

From: <u>Clarencedunnaville@comcast.net</u> <<u>Clarencedunnaville@comcast.net</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 1:35 PM Subject: Support for Oliver W. Hill to replace RobertE Lee statute at U. S. Capital To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I strongly support the replacement of the Robert E. Lee statute at the United States Capital with a statute of Oliver W. Hill. I served as a Law Partner, and confident of Oliver W. Hill from 1991 until his death in 2007. I co founded the Oliver White Hill Foundation in the early 1990's, was instrumental in purchasing and restoring his boyhood home in Roanoke, organized his 100th Birthday celebration, and arranged his funeral after his death.

I traveled with Mr. Hill ( who was then totally blind) to assist him with his lectures throughout the Nation during the later period of his life, and I drove him to Washington in 1999, to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I completely agree with Senator Henry L. Marsh, III, that Oliver W. Hill "changed America" He was a giant figure. His image will represent Virginia better than any other hero. He was a voice that rejected the the past, brought us to the present, and most importantly, impacted the future, of all Virginians.

At the outset, I believe that more than any other person, Oliver W. Hill was instrumental in bringing Virginia from it's past image as the racist Capital of the Confederacy, to it's modern position, , as a vibrant, diverse State, and preeminent leader of the South. He accomplished this with humility, dignity and grace.

In the, late 1940's, the Richmond Citizen's Association was the most prominent political association in the City of Richmond. A Task Force headed by the, late Supreme Court Justice, Lewis Powell, was assigned to study the change of the form of the City government. The Task Force reached out to the Black community for support. The result was that a seat on Richmond's City Council was made open to Black citizens, and that Oliver W. Hill was elected to the City Council.

He received a substantial number of white votes, which was the beginning of the long, and still far off, journey towards racial healing; and towards changing the image of Virginia. Remarkably, at that early date, he was endorsed by both the the Richmond Times Dispatch and the Richmond News's Leader(which was then being published).

The race received national attention. It is my firm belief that this was the beginning of the transformation of the image of Virginia, from the racist, Capital of the Confederacy, to the modern Image of a progressive diverse society. There are many examples, too many to name, of Oliver W. Hill's leadership, in the struggle for equal justice under the law, and for a better, racially bias free, Virginia,

over his long life.

During the early years, Oliver W. Hill formed a friendship with Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, that lasted their lifetimes. Together, this odd couple led the slow, still ongoing, struggle for racial justice.

Oliver W. Hill, from those early years, until his death, was a force for change in Virginia and the United States. His role as Attorney, in Brown v. Board of Education, and his fight in the Courts for equality and Civil Rights in America, are well known. However, his very important efforts towards changing the Commonwealth, have generally not been recognized. I believe this is an important additional consideration that should be taken into account in selecting Mr. Hill to represent Virginia in the Nation's Capital.

Having Oliver W. Hill's image standing in the Capital will provide a great symbol for the Commonwealth and for the Nation, especially in light of it's past history, and men such as Harry Flood Byrd, the architect of the One Drop Rule, and Massive Resistance, who dominated Virginia during much of the twentieth century.

Systemic racism in Virginia, and throughout America, is one of the most important concerns facing the Commonwealth, and the Nation. The replacement of Robert E. Lee with

Oliver W. Hill, as the symbol of Virginia, in the Nation's Capital, will be a beacon to all Americans, that Virginia is leading the way in the effort to eliminate systemic racism in America.

As an additional factor, in selecting. Oliver W. Hill, I would point out that he is a graduate of Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C. His class of 1933, was one of the most important, in the fight for Civil Rights. He graduated under the leadership of Assistant Dean Charles Hamilton Houston, who was the Architect of the strategy that led to the success of Brown v Board of Education, and in addition to Oliver W. Hill, included Thurgood Marshall.

In addition to all of the reasons stated by his other supporters, which are substantial, in support of his image replacing the statute of Robert E. Lee; I am confident that Oliver W. Hill's role in making Virginia the diverse, vibrant, progressive State that it is today, as outlined above, is far beyond that of all of the other candidates being considered.

It will be an honor to all Virginians, that his image replaces Robert E. Lee, as the soul of Virginia.

Very truly yours,

Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr.

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From: Lorna Wyckoff <<u>lwyck@mac.com</u>> Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 12:43 PM Subject: New statue To: <<u>USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov</u>>

Hello,

I would like to suggest Oliver Hill. A giant. We should tell his story, over and over.

Lorna Wyckoff Richmond,VA

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Dear Mr. Jones and Commission Members,

I had my voice to those suggesting that Civil Rights pioneer Barbara Johns, who gave birth to the Civil Rights Movement on April 23, 1951 in Prince Edward County, Virginia with the student strike she led against separate and unequal schools for African Americans, be Virginia's statue at the US Capitol, replacing Robert E. Lee. Thank you,

Ken Woodley

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