

Emails Posted November 16, 2020

From: **Doniel Kitt** <dkitt49@aol.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 2:34 PM
Subject: Replacement for Robert E. Lee statute : James Longstreet
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

“There are former Confederates who sought to redeem themselves—one thinks of James Longstreet, wrongly blamed by Lost Causers for Lee’s disastrous defeat at Gettysburg, who went from fighting the Union army to leading New Orleans’s integrated police force in battle against white-supremacist paramilitaries”

The Myth of the Kindly General Lee

The legend of the Confederate leader’s heroism and decency is based in the fiction of a person who never existed.

Ryan Melgar

- *Story by Adam Serwer*

• **JUNE 4, 2017**

POLITIC

From: marckcrpntr <marckcrpntr@verizon.net>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:20 PM
Subject: Replacement of R E Lee Statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I would like to nominate General Henry " Light-Hourse Harry Lee to replace his Son
This is not a tongue-in-cheek suggestion.
He was a Major Genersl in the Continental Army, a President of the Continental Congress and A Governor of Virginia.
Yes he fathered Robert E Lee but he also died long before the civil war.

Thank you
Marck C Spurgeon

From: Evans Hopkins <evanshopkins@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 7:24 AM
Subject: Recommendation of Oliver Hill Statue
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>
Cc: J. Maurice Hopkins <hopinn@erols.com>

Dear Commission,

I am the nephew of Gregory Swanson, who was represented by Oliver Hill, Thurgood Marshall and others in the lawsuit that desegregated UVA and UVA in 1950. I am the chair of the Swanson Legacy Committee, and Founding Director of the Civic and Cultural Justice Initiative, Inc., in Charlottesville and Richmond.

I highly recommended that Oliver Hill be the historical figure chosen for a statue for U.S. Capitol.

All best,

Evans Hopkins
Founding Director, Civic and Cultural Justice Initiative

From: **al daCosta** <12dumpstr20@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 8:35 AM
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Hello: Please add: '--are we to remove all documents, etc that may be objectionable to some factions or do we rewrite those portions of history to explain and correct the perceived undesirable portions; history is a record of what, whe, why, how, where; please keep it as such.-' thanks al d

From: Susan R <suerohrbach@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 8:50 AM
Subject: Nomination for replacement statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

In response to your request for proposals, my idea for the second of Virginia's statues in the US Capitol, to replace the Robert E. Lee statue that is slated for removal, is a Statue of Abraham Lincoln, with both arms raised holding a scrolled document in each arm, one labeled "Created" and the other labeled "Equal"

This honoring of Lincoln represents the indebtedness Virginia, and the country, owes to Lincoln for properly justifying and interpreting the

immortal words written by Virginia's Jefferson, who himself may not be honored so much as he did own slaves, but whose words never the less stand true for all time. The four score and seven years running from the Declaration to Gettysburg saw many leaders failing to interpret "created equal" correctly, most notably the Constitution in its slave clauses (which is why Madison must be passed over), and the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis and Vice President Alexander Stephens (see documentation below). But with grit Lincoln fought a war that made manifest the true sense of "created equal", and won its incorporation into the Constitution, with a straight line to the abolition of slavery and protection of the inalienable rights of persons in the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments.

While there are many images of Lincoln in the US Capitol, there is not one representation in Statuary Hall (see this list, which does include Davis and Stephens), where the 50 states are allowed two images each. Given Lincoln's service to unknitting the understanding of "Created Equal", it is fitting that Virginia acknowledge his exceptional role.

It is common that the difficulty in redesignating a statue lies in choosing a new name that will stand the test of time. As we know, Lincoln's character has been thoroughly vetted, with the additional testimony of the sacrifice of his own life. The designation of a Lincoln statue would be an appropriate way to bring focus to the true claim to greatness of Virginia ("created equal"), an ideal too scarcely recognized amongst the many Confederate statues and battlefields. .

Here is an image of a statue in Philadelphia named "The Signer", and here is an image of the Statue of Liberty with both arms raised. Our statue of Lincoln could have each arm lifted up holding a scroll, one labeled "Created" the other labeled "Equal", representing on the one hand the Declaration of Independence, and the other either the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, or the 13th Amendment, with Lincoln being the bridge between the two documents. (I apologize that my artistic skills cannot render this image well!)

It is fitting that the Civil War veterans who gave up their lives, and their families their fathers, in pursuit of the abolition of what was Virginia's "peculiar institution" (see the Virginia slave code of 1662), but also in the defense of Virginia's exceptional statement of inalienable right, are represented by an image of their bold commander-in-chief. The words he validated, "created equal", embodied by his humble but triumphal visit to Richmond in April 1865, have inspired the Tiananmen protestors, consoled the slaves of the gulags, and brought hope to so many more oppressed ever since.

A poem written by Robert Frost alludes to Lincoln's perennialization of "Created Equal" in speaking through the eyes of a Civil War widow...

“...She had her own idea of things, the old lady.

And she liked talk. She had seen Garrison

And Whittier, and had her story of them.

One wasn't long in learning that she thought

Whatever else the Civil War was for

It wasn't just to keep the States together,

Nor just to free the slaves, though it did both.

She wouldn't have believed those ends enough

To have given outright for them all she gave.

Her giving somehow touched the principle

That all men are created free and equal.

And to hear her quaint phrases-so removed

From the world's view to-day of all those things.

That's a hard mystery of Jefferson's.

What did he mean? Of course the easy way

Is to decide it simply isn't true.

It may not be. I heard a fellow say so.

But never mind, the Welshman got it planted

Where it will trouble us a thousand years.

Each age will have to reconsider it...”

From "The Black Cottage", Robert Frost

Selected sources on Confederate leaders regarding slavery

(rebutting the “Lost Cause” myth and proving the intention to be a permanent slave regime)

Virginia very clearly identified with the "Southern slaveholding states" in its declaration of secession. (link)

South Carolina was first to secede and anxious to declare her reason to be the protection of slavery, which she averred to have been backed up by the Constitution:

" The Constitution of the United States, in its fourth Article, provides as follows: "No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

This stipulation was so material to the compact, that without it that compact would not have been made."

South Carolina further stipulated that the very mentions of slavery in the Constitution meant approval for this peculiar institution .

"The ends for which the Constitution was framed are declared by itself to be "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

These ends it endeavored to accomplish by a Federal Government, in which each State was recognized as an equal, and had separate control over its own institutions. The right of property in slaves was recognized by giving to free persons distinct political rights, by giving them the right to represent, and burthening them with direct taxes for three-fifths of their slaves; by authorizing the importation of slaves for twenty years; and by stipulating for the rendition of fugitives from labor."

South Carolina maintains that she would never have become part of the US if she thought slavery would eventually be abolished.

[https://www.civilwar.org/learn/primary-sources/declaration-causes-seceding-states#South Carolina](https://www.civilwar.org/learn/primary-sources/declaration-causes-seceding-states#South_Carolina)

Texas' secessionist declaration includes the following outrage (underline inserted):

"We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity; that the African race had no agency in their establishment; that they were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and dependent race, and in that condition only could their existence in this country be rendered

beneficial or tolerable.

That in this free government *all white men are and of right ought to be entitled to equal civil and political rights* [emphasis in the original]; that the servitude of the African race, as existing in these States, is mutually beneficial to both bond and free, and is abundantly authorized and justified by the experience of mankind, and the revealed will of the Almighty Creator, as recognized by all Christian nations; while the destruction of the existing relations between the two races, as advocated by our sectional enemies, would bring inevitable calamities upon both and desolation upon the fifteen slave-holding states." (link)

Most other states' secession statements similarly identify slavery as a cause.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis claimed that the clauses on slavery in the Constitution helped PROVE that the Declaration of Independence did not cover blacks as "created equal".

"...for there [in the Constitution] we find provision made for that very class of persons as property; they were not put upon the footing of equality with white men--not even upon that of paupers and convicts; but, so far as representation was concerned, were discriminated against as a lower caste, only to be represented in the numerical proportion of three fifths. " link

And finally, Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, his vice president, concluded Thomas Jefferson had erred, while the Confederate slaveholders triumphed, in their interpretation of equality.

"But not to be tedious in enumerating the numerous changes for the better, allow me to allude to one other though last, not least. The new constitution has put at rest, forever, all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution African slavery as it exists amongst us the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution. Jefferson in his forecast, had anticipated this, as the "rock upon which the old Union would split." He was right. What was conjecture with him, is now a realized fact. But whether he fully comprehended the great truth upon which that rock stood and stands, may be doubted. The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old constitution, were that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with, but the general opinion of the men of that day was that, somehow or other in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away. This idea, though not incorporated in the constitution, was the prevailing idea at that time. The constitution, it is true, secured every essential guarantee to the

institution while it should last, and hence no argument can be justly urged against the constitutional guarantees thus secured, because of the common sentiment of the day. Those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the government built upon it fell when the "storm came and the wind blew."

Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its corner- stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition...[Those of the North] were attempting to make things equal which the Creator had made unequal." ("Cornerstone Speech")

The above should make clear the qualitative difference between Confederate leaders and the founders of our country. To mitigate any ongoing public doubts as to a major cause of the Civil War (and the propriety of replacing the Lee statue, especially as compared to others like Washington who had a legitimate basis for fame other than defending slavery, and a hope that "created equal" would eventually rectify slavery), these declarations of secession and Confederate leader's statements, should be required reading in public schools. This is particularly important as the same group that placed so many of the Confederate statues in town squares also censored the school textbooks for decades, to leave students ignorant of these statements and the real harms of the Confederacy. It is hardly fair to blame the students (or their parents!) for racism when their government hands them a Lost Cause textbook and their town square passively indoctrinates a Confederate statue. May "Created Equal" remain the standard for truth and excellence, and may it provide the occasion to "bind up the wounds" of our dear country!

Commission for Historical Statues - Statue Prerequisites

The Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol is holding this public hearing in order to hear suggestions for a historical person to represent Virginia in a new statue to replace the Robert E. Lee statue in National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. Suggestions for a historical figure to represent Virginia in the U.S. Capitol must conform to the following criteria established by the Office of the Architect of the U.S. Capitol. The person must be:

Deceased,

Illustrious for historic renown or for distinguished civic or military service,

Representative of only one individual, and

A U.S. citizen, to include an indigenous person who resided in the

present-day U.S.

The Commission has also added the following additional criteria. The person should be:

Associated with significant events that changed the course of history or with significant ideals, writing, or concepts,

Renowned for exemplary valor, patriotism, and bravery,

One whose primary historical significance ties her or him directly to Virginia, or is a person who has spent the majority of her or his life residing in the Commonwealth, and

Representative of current prevailing values.

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/uscapitolcommission/>

From: John Bova <bovaj_g@msn.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 9:39 AM
Subject: SUGGESTION OF KATHERINE JOHNSON TO REPRESENT VIRGINIA IN A NEW STATUE FOR PLACEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

I am submitting for the Commission's consideration Katherine Johnson as a prominent Virginia citizen of historic renown for her distinguished civil service to be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

Per the Commissions requirements, Ms. Johnson is:

Deceased;
Illustrious for historic renown or for distinguished civic service at NASA;
Representative of only one individual; and
A U.S. citizen who resided in the present-day U.S.

Ms. Johnson is:

Associated with significant events that changed the course of history – noted contributions to the United States space program;
Renowned for exemplary valor, patriotism, and bravery - was a patriotic female, African American who contributed to the success of the space program despite having the persevere under state sanctioned segregation against Black people and societal sexism against females and is shining example of the value of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in Virginia;

One whose primary historical significance ties her or him directly to Virginia, or is a person who has spent the majority of her or his life residing in the Commonwealth – she lived most of her life in Virginia; and
Representative of current prevailing values – she is a deserving recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

For greater details and evidence of Ms. Johnson’s contributions to Virginia and the United States of America please see the following links:

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_Johnson

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Katherine-Johnson-mathematician>

Thank you for considering my suggestion.

Sincerely,

John B. Bova

From: Nobody Nowhere <notrack50@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 9:41 AM
Subject: Replace statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

The statue should not be replaced. The original statue should remain in place. Virginia has a history, some good, some not so good. This cancel culture must stop!

John

From: Caroline <cleee1010640@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:27 AM
Subject: Lee statue
To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

My input is to leave it alone! Leave history alone. Do not remove and do not replace.

Caroline Lee
Resident of Chesterfield Co.

From: Becky Pierce <beckyva@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:42 AM
Subject: Replacement for Lee Statute
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I nominate to have NO Statute replacement

Why do we need any???? No matter what you choose it will not be acceptable to all and will be another source of contention!!!!!!!!!!!!

Take away Lee and leave the space blank!!!! Our country/state has been through enough!!! Why cause more angst!!!!

It is intolerable to be alive right now!!!!!! Stop the political fighting and leave us all alone!!!!

Rebecca Pierce
11622 Chickahominy Branch Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23059

From: Danny Ayers <dannyayers20@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:44 AM
Subject:
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Put a big pile of crap there as the state is becoming a shit pile...

From: Roll, David <DRoll@steptoe.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 11:08 AM
Subject: DLR to VA commission--written suggestion
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Attached is my suggestion that a statue of George C. Marshall should replace that of Robert E. Lee in the US Capitol. David Roll

[See David Roll attachment posted separately]

From: BITBYBITFARM <bitbybitfarm@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 12:04 PM
Subject: Do not remove Gen. Lee

To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I read with disgust at the suggestions that Northam and his cronies are trying to put in the US Capitol to represent Virginia. Every Virginian should try to be like R.E. Lee. To this day he is the only person to graduate from West Point without a single demerit. He was honest, ethical and did more to end the War Between the States than any other person. He could have listened to other CSA Generals and turned it into a guerilla war. He did not, he surrendered. He could have disbanded the Army of Northern Virginia and continued the fight. People need to learn history. I know this email will do no good but hopefully there are a few people in your department that know real history. Leave Lee at the Capital. John E. Wagstaff

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BIT BY BIT FARMS
NATHALIE, VIRGINIA

From: horsecavalry@verizon.net <horsefieldrowdys@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 12:53 PM
Subject: Robert E. Lee Replacement
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I suggest Light Horse Harry Lee, or would you like to paint him with the same brush. Maybe no one remembers him anyway. If he does not fill your criteria, then maybe you should wait until a later date, when the current generation of acceptable people have been culled. No one who served in the Vietnam, Spanish-American, or Native American Wars. Certainly not. Maybe just a small statue of Governor Ralph - about the size of a fire hydrant- that way it can be removed more easily, in case someone suggests he may have mooned fraternity brothers as a way of dealing with an inferiority complex, or some like occurrence. Regards