

From: Helen Michie [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 08:19:34 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov

Yes, the statue of Robert E.Lee should be removed from the US Capitol. Helen Gettys Michie

From: Diana Smith [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:43:57 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Comments on Lee Statue in Capitol

I was shocked to learn that the man who led an Army against the United States of America; whose Army killed and maimed thousands of America soldiers; who fought to protect slave owning rights -- has a place of honor in the USA Capitol.

His history is of treason and inhumanity and should not be glorified or memorialized anywhere, let alone the Capitol!

Only the best, brightest, bravest patriots should be in the Capitol -- extolling the virtues of Americans, leadership, industry, humanity, and achievement. There is nothing to extoll about Lee. Let his story be told factually in books and not displayed fallaciously in the Capitol

He is not an American. He is a traitor. Please remove him.

Thank you
Diana Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Josh G [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:51:16 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Written Comment for Removal of Lee Statue and replace with Mildred and Richard Loving

It's been said that funerals are for the living. So too are statues.

Statues have meaning, they convey a message to the living. Who are we? What should we strive for? Where do we come from? Who do we want to be?

The Robert E. Lee statue must come down. The legacy of a man who was a traitor to his country and fought for the oppression of slavery has no place on any pedestal.

In deciding a person's merit to be a statue, the questions to be asked are, why do we know this person's name? What did they stand for? What is the reason they are in the history books? For that is what they shall represent in marble.

The fact of the matter is that the Lee statue has been a sin upon our commonwealth. How can we atone? How can we state who we are?

I recommend Mildred and Richard Loving. A young couple who for the mere act of loving someone outside her race was arrested and exiled from Virginia. Their fight for civil rights went all the way to the Supreme Court whose decision legalized interracial marriage in the United States. Or as we call it today, marriage.

A change of statue will not fix the wounds of the Civil War, but it will tell the world who we are.

Virginia is for Lovers.

Thank you,

Joshua Griset

From: Daniel Pearson [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 07:38:18 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Virginia Statues

Virginians who should have a statue at the US Capitol:

Nat Turner, slave rebellion leader

Arthur Ashe, Tennis player

Douglas Wilder, first Black governor (while he is still alive, he should be considered for a statue. Fact: North Carolina commissioned a statue of Rev. Billy Graham for the Statuary Hall collection when he was still alive.)

Ella Fitzgerald, Jazz singer

Moses Malone, professional basketball player

Oliver White Hill, attorney who worked on Brown v. Board of Education

Jane Serepta Dean, born into slavery and after the Civil War founded churches and Sunday schools in Northern Virginia

Union Gen. George Thomas, a southerner who remained loyal to the Union. Decorated in battle. After the Civil War he led troops fighting the KKK and spoke out about how former confederates were already whitewashing the history of the Civil War.

When the Lee statue is replaced, I'd like to suggest that it be completely destroyed. As a statue it is poorly executed and cheaply made. It is not anywhere near good as a piece of art and we wouldn't lose anything of value with its destruction.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: Paul Misencik [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 07:18:24 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Virginia should replace the statue of Robert E. Lee in the U.S. Capitol Building.

To whom it may concern:

As Virginians, We am writing to advocate removal of the Robert E. Lee statue in the United States Capitol. While the memory of Lee is held in some nostalgic regard by a segment of Virginians, there are scant few reasons that justify a statute of Lee in the US Capitol as representing the finest qualities of Virginians. At best, Lee accepted defeat graciously, but it doesn't mitigate the fact that he chose to lead a rebellious army against the United States. The Confederacy was a treasonous breakaway collection of southern states, whose main goal was to preserve the institution of slavery. It can also be argued that Lee wasn't that talented of a general. Fellow Virginian, General George Pickett said of Lee, "That old man butchered my division at Gettysburg." There are so many more inspirational Virginians whose memories are far more deserving of honor than that of Robert E. Lee.

We would prefer one of the following native Virginians as a replacement statue for that of Robert E. Lee

John Brown
Arthur Ashe
Ella Fitzgerald
Pearl Bailey
George Washington
Booker T. Washington
Patrick Henry
Pocahontas
Daniel Morgan
George Wythe
James Madison
John Marshall

Thank you,
Paul R. and Sally E. Misencik
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: ruthann litchford [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 09:26:19 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Support for removal of Robert E. Lee statue

I support the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue at the Capitol. I support the removal of all Confederate persons or sympathizers. These people were traitors to the nation and do not deserve such an honor.

Best regards,

Ruthann Litchford
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Woody [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:42:02 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Statues

Yes, the statue of Robert E. Lee and those of other confederate figures should be removed. They are symbols of white supremacy and not Virginia heritage. It is disgraceful that 150 after the Civil War we have statues of men who betrayed their oath to the Constitution and tried to destroy the Union. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lauren Milner [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 08:02:48 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Comments on R.E. Lee Statue

Hello,

I am writing to encourage the statue commission to vote YES to REPLACE the Robert E. Lee statue currently located in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

As a former employee of the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center, I can tell you how jarring it is to see the image of a traitor to our country sitting in the heart of that which he fought to destroy, steps away from statues of MLK Jr, Rosa Parks, and others, descendants of those Lee fought to keep enslaved.

How must it feel to Black visitors, especially those from Virginia, to learn that this state chose, out of all the possible people from Virginia, Robert E. Lee to be a representative of the commonwealth in the U.S. Capitol. The inclusion of Lee's statue in the Capitol collection is just another example of the white washing done after the war to sanitize our historical memory for white people.

As for what to do with the statue once it leaves the collection? I say store it in a back room somewhere and let it mold away. No one will forget Lee and his crimes against the U.S., we don't need publicly displayed statues for that. Besides, you already have a copy of that poorly made piece of "art" in Richmond.

Now who could replace the statue:

-**Ella Fitzgerald**

-**Nat Turner**

-**Henrietta Lacks**

-**Booker T. Washington**

-**L. Douglas Wilder** (North Carolina started on a statue of Billy Graham when he was still living)

-**William Harvey Carney**

-**Mary Richards Bowser**

-if people are clutching their pearls over not having a white military leader, how about someone who wasn't a traitor? **General George Henry Thomas** stuck with the Union, and after the Civil War continued to fight against the KKK.

Thank you for your time,
Lauren Milner

From: Michael Barber [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 04:27:20 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Comments Regarding Robert E Lee Statue in the US Capitol Building

C Michael Barber
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I urge you in the strongest terms to remove the statue of Robert E Lee in the US Capitol representing the Commonwealth of Virginia. The only reason that the statue was ever there is because of Virginia's racist past. It's way past time to to remove these reminders of racist, backward thinking and replace the statue with a Virginian who has worked for all the citizens of Virginia in good and uplifting ways. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to be present and comment on this important and timely issue.

Sincerely,
C Michael Barber

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sharon Wunder [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:55:40 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Commission For Historical Statues In The United States Capitol

US Capitol Commission,

I support the removal of all Confederate statues from all public lands. The Confederacy engaged in a war against the United States of America. These men committed treason should not be honored or glorified in any manner. Teach the history of the Civil War in school but remove these statues and monuments now.

Thank you for consideration,

Sharon Wunder

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Sue Anne Boothe [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 05:21:55 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Disagree with the Removal of the Robert E. Lee Statue

I am writing to you to object to the proposal to remove the Robert E. Lee statue from the United States Capitol. I believe that Robert E. Lee is an appropriate representative of Virginia. He was an outstanding man who served the country and Virginia. He was and is well respected by citizens from all over the country, including contemporary figures from the Northern states and Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower. When the Civil War ended, Lee urged his soldiers to go home and be good citizens. He became president of Washington College and made innovations that helped revive the college and lead it into modern times. Robert E. Lee was a man of great moral and honorable character. Please do not remove his statue from the Capitol.

Sue Anne Boothe

Floyd

From: Cara Gilbert [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 03:20:06 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Fwd: Your registration was received for Web seminar: Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol

Hello,

Since only the first 30 attendees will have a chance to provide public comment, I would like to suggest consideration of Barbra Johns being chosen as a replacement statue for Robert E. Lee in the National Statuary Hall Collection. As I am sure many of you know her story, and it is one that should make Virginia proud and it should be shared with visitors at the Capitol. Currently, there is no statue of a teenager at the Capitol (Helen Keller is depicted as a child) nor is there a statue of an African America woman (Rosa Parks is commissioned and not part of the statuary hall collection). The hundreds of thousands of students who visit on their 8th grade and high school class trips will surely relate Barbaras story of determination in the fight for equality. It will resonate and inspire some of the youngest visitors to the Capitol. Barbara Johns stands as a wonderful example of how students can use their voice to advocate for change.

Thank you in advance for considering Barbara Johns to replace the Lee statue.

Best,
Cara Gilbert

Begin forwarded message:

From: messenger@webex.com
Date: July 23, 2020 at 3:02:49 PM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Your registration was received for Web seminar: Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol
Reply-To: stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov



Thank you for your interest in the Webex event.

We received your registration request for the following online event:

Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol

Friday, July 24, 2020 9:30 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

Host: Stephanie Williams (stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov)

Need help? Go to <http://help.webex.com>

From: Bo Hammond [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:50:50 PM
To: US Capitol Commission, rr <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>
Subject: Re: Historic Monuments Commission

Thanks so much for your help ma'am. Looking forward to tomorrow. Take care.

Best,
Bo

Bo Hammond
Host of Bromances of History
A Podcast

On Jul 23, 2020, at 8:45 PM, US Capitol Commission, rr <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov> wrote:

Mr. Hammond:

Information about the Commission and its meetings, including tomrrow's, can be found at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/uscapitolcommission/>

Sincerely,

Julie Langan

On Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 7:02 PM Bo Hammond [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Evening,

My name is Bo Hammond and I live in Arlington, Virginia. I am hoping to participate in the meeting of the Commission for Historic Statues in the United States Capitol but was unable to find details. This issue is both fascinating and of great importance.

I have a degree in history from American University, run a tour company in DC (Tours for Humanity), and graduated from the Sorensen Institute Political Leaders Program. As a professional guide and story teller I use statues and monuments as educational tools. Before Covid-19 I walked the halls of Congress every week underneath these statues. I would love to contribute to this seemingly small but historic change.

My direct line is [REDACTED]. Looking forward to being part of the conversation.

Bo Hammond
Host of Bromances of History
A Podcast

From: [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 10:07:11 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Historical statues

In order to fully understand the racism and suppression of today, we need to truthfully understand the past. These controversial statues represent a distorted past, a past that was romanticized and still echoes in society. I think we should move the statues to a central location, and create a display them to tell the historical truth about the Civil War and understand how this distortion still impacts us today. Destroying the statues just continues the lies.

Thank you, Iris Woodard, [REDACTED]

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Sent from myMail app for Android

From: Kay Shirey [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:52:19 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Lee has to go

Please replace the Robert E Lee statue with someone more representative of Virginia. And that doesn't glorify the lost cause rebellion. Maybe a former president. Since we've had 8 Presidents that came from the Commonwealth that makes sense. Washington, Madison or Wilson would be my top 3.

Thank you,

Kay

From: Melissa And Bob [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 06:24:45 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Lee statue comment

I feel that the statue of Lee should be replaced. While he does have "historic renown", I think Virginia can provide another person with "distinguished civic or military service" that can be inspirational to all that view it.

Thank you,
Melissa Davidson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Joe Adams [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:43:40 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Lee Statue

Yes please remove it.

My family has been in Virginia since the 1650's.

I can guarantee there are plenty of Virginians that can be recognised in the Capitol besides a traitor.

Joe Adams

From: Edward Ashley [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:14:14 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Lee statue

YES!!! Absolutely the statue of the traitor RE Lee should be removed from our Capitol and every other public space. We should never be honoring traitors, especially those who supported the cause of enslaving people. You'll note there is not a statue of Benedict Arnold in the Capitol either.

We do not erect statues of Arnold, yet we have more than 700 monuments to Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Jefferson Davis and other Confederate soldiers and politicians who betrayed our country. Why do we have monuments to people who fought against our flag and Constitution?

Sent from my iPad

From: Mara Sherman [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:28:15 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov>
Subject: Please Remove General Lee from the US Capitol

My name is Mara Sherman, I have lived in Alexandria Virginia for five years, and before that I lived in Staunton Virginia for three years. Virginia is my adopted home state and I love it dearly. I am proud to be a Virginian. I am deeply embarrassed, however, by our collective obsession with the traitor, racist, and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and I am writing to ask you to please remove his statue from the US Capitol building. Surely there are other Virginians more worthy of the honor of representing our state at the US Capitol? I want my Commonwealth to be represented by people who represent the best of us, not our most shameful history.

Thank you for your time. I am grateful for your service.

Best Wishes,

Mara Sherman

From: Mark Turnbull [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 05:42:11 PM
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Public Comment on Capitol Statue Replacement

Distinguished members of the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol,

I write today to express my support for replacing the statue of Robert E. Lee in the US Capitol's National Statuary Hall collection and offer my comments and suggestions as to who would be best to replace Lee and how best to relocate the Lee statue. I write this as a proud product of Prince William County public schools, an alumnus of the College of William & Mary, and a resident of Arlington County.

In full disclosure I should probably add that I am a federal civil servant who works at the United States Capitol and I am also a member of Arlington County's Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board, but I am not representing any other organization or individual in my comments here—they are entirely my own in my capacity as a private citizen.

I believe Barbara Johns, who courageously fought for racial integration and equality in the schools of Farmville and Prince Edward County, would be an appropriate replacement for the Lee statue. Her story is often forgotten as her court case was folded into the better-known Brown v. Board of Education, but the story of a 16 year-old girl standing up to injustice and seeking a better future for all Virginians is a powerful one. Additionally, seeing a statue of Barbara Johns in the Crypt of the Capitol—where the Lee statue currently stands—in a spot passed by every single Capitol tour and by hundreds of Congressional staff and Members of Congress every day would be a powerful symbol, particularly considering the other 12 statues in that room (one from each of the original states) are all men.

Barbara Johns, a representative of equality, is a perfect replacement for and repudiation of Lee, who fought to protect slavery and disunion. It would additionally give Virginia an appropriate balance in its contribution to the Statuary Hall collection: one man, one woman—just as each sex represents half of the Commonwealth's population. This would also increase the representation of women in the Capitol's art collection, which is sorely needed. Barbara Johns helped lay the foundation for more people to enjoy the liberties and form of government that George Washington—our state's other Capitol statue—fought for in the Revolution and sought to safeguard during his Presidency.

With regards to the present statue of Robert E. Lee, I think its transfer to the American Civil War Museum in the City of Richmond would be an appropriate action. In that facility dedicated to the civil war, the statue could be appropriately contextualized and interpreted—not only just with regards to Lee himself but also with regards to the broader early 20th century trend towards Confederate monumentalization. I would hope any such display would also note the contrasting Civil War service of Lee's cousin Samuel Phillips Lee, who remained loyal to the Union and famously said “when I find the word Virginia in my commission, I will join the Confederacy.”

Thank you for your consideration and I wish you the best in your deliberations.

Regards,
Mark Turnbull
[REDACTED]

From: Mike Fox [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 12:03:52 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Public Comment

Dear Commission Members:

As a lifelong Virginian, I believe the RE Lee statue at the U.S. Capitol should be replaced. It makes no sense to honor a traitor who took up arms against the United States to defend secession and black slavery to be honored in such a way, in Washington no less.

I think replacing it with a statue of Franklin County native Booker T. Washington, a champion of black education and entrepreneurship, would be appropriate.

The eyes of the world are on the capital of the Confederacy. We should meet the moment.

Mike Fox
[REDACTED]

From: Tom Miller [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 02:06:21 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Public Meeting Comment

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to add my support for the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue. Lee was an important historical figure, but as a person who committed treason against the United States and fought to uphold an oppressive and evil labor system, he does not deserve to be honored with a statue.

Sincerely,
Tom Miller

[REDACTED]

From: Patricia Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:55:41 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removal Of Lee statue at the Capitol

As a resident of Virginia, I do not wish to be represented by the statue of Robert E Lee in the Capitol. Please remove as soon as possible and replace with a person who does not have any stigma of the past. Mildred Love comes to mind, as someone who helped change not just our state but the whole Nation move in a positive direction of freedom to love and marry who they want!

Thank you,
Patricia Wilson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Larkin Dudley [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 06:39:47 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Relocate the statue of Robert E Lee

Please remove the statue of Robert E Lee from the Capitol. It can be relocated with an explanation of the context of the Civil War. Although certainly a man of many accomplishments, Lee led an army against the United States and defended a regime which stood for the cruel, despicable practice of slavery. Virginia has many other excellent candidates to represent the Commonwealth.

Ann Larkin Dudley
Virginia resident and voter
[REDACTED]

From: Anne Alston [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:21:20 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removal of Lee

As a life long resident of Virginia (78 years) and as a Black women, I support the removal of the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

The statue of Robert E. Lee represents the desire to keep people that look like me as slaves.

My question is, is that how we want Virginia represented in the U.S. Capitol?

Thank you.

Anne Alston
[REDACTED]

--

Anne

Life is not a journey to the grave with intentions of arriving safely in a pretty well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming ... WOW! What a ride!

From: Pat Gilbertson [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:08:29 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Removal of Robert E. Lee Statue from U.S. Capitol

Dear Members of the Commission,

As a Virginian-by-choice, having moved here in 1976, I must admit that at first I was rather shocked to see so many streets, buildings, schools, etc. named in HONOR OF officers and officials of the Confederacy. I fell in love with the natural beauty I found in Virginia and had always been taught how important Virginians were in the founding of the UNITED States of America. To see those who fought to tear that union apart was incomprehensible to me. Eventually, of course, living here for 40+ years, I became accustomed to seeing those names, they became all but invisible, inconsequential to me. I now realize that, were I the descendant of someone that those people fought to keep enslaved (I am white), it is unlikely that these honorifics so bestowed would cease to matter.

I don't often visit the U.S. Capitol, as by now most of my out-of-town family and friends have visited us and seen "the sights." But two summers ago, I had the opportunity to proudly show both Virginia and our nation's capital city to two young women, the daughters of an old friend. As we toured the Capitol Building, I was taken aback by the statue of Robert E. Lee, in full Confederate uniform, placed there to represent my adopted home state. I was embarrassed and ashamed, but would have been even more so had my friends been black. Imagine, if you will, a black student touring the U.S. Capitol, learning about the illustrious history of this nation, and then, in Statuary Hall, encountering in a place of honor the statue of a man who would have seen to your continued enslavement. And knowing that, of all Virginians who have made serious contributions to history, our state chose to honor this man.

Virginia chose this statue during the period from 1900 to the 1930s, when Reconstruction was being destroyed and the South was attempting to rewrite the history of the Confederacy. It is long past time to remove it, and replace it with a true Virginia patriot, someone who actively worked for and supported justice for ALL Virginians. I do not presume to know the best choice, but would urge you to select someone recommended by the NAACP as a means to renounce Virginia's troubled history of racism.

Thank you..

Sincerely,
Patricia Gilbertson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: The Millers [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 05:07:11 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Removal of Robert E. Lee statue in National Statuary Hall

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to express my comments regarding the consideration for removal of the statue of Robert E. Lee from the National Statuary Hall.

As a Virginian, but also as a patriotic American, I feel strongly that Lee's statue should be removed from a place which is designed to showcase and revere historical citizens who exemplified civic duty, either through contributions to their communities, or through military service.

Robert E. Lee took up arms against his nation, acting in a role of significant leadership, to maintain an economic system which relied upon the free labor and profitable sales of enslaved people. General Lee had a choice. We are taught in our history classes how families were torn apart, brothers taking up arms against one another, in choosing opposite sides of this issue. General Lee chose a dishonorable side.

Today we ask our soldiers to follow commands, to go willingly where their leaders send them, to defend the Constitution and our national interests. We also remind them they are honor bound to refuse an illegal order. Their personal feelings on any issue, whether they agree with elected officials' policy, or not, play no part in the side they choose. The Constitution and our nation are what they are called to serve and defend. General Lee represents the exact opposite of that call, that expectation to serve our nation with honor, and should not be permitted to remain in the Hall as if he belongs to the same distinguished group of men and women who have served in our various branches of military, or among our citizens who have served our country through their personal contributions.

For your consideration as a replacement, I would like to offer William Harvey Carney, who also served during the Civil War. Sgt. Carney was born in Norfolk, VA and served with the Union Army, 54th regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. While he served with a Massachusetts regiment, he was born an enslaved Virginian. Most notably, he earned the Medal of Honor, the first African American to do so, for demonstrating both his patriotism and his courage. During the battle at Fort Wagner, while seriously wounded, he retrieved the US flag when the color guard was killed and protected it throughout the duration of that assault. It would take almost 37 years before he would receive his medal, but his has been the first recorded Medal of Honor action earned by an African American.

Furthermore, Sgt. Carney continued to serve his nation and community following his honorable discharge and the end of the war. He became a postal carrier and delivered mail for 32 years, co-founding the New Bedford branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers in 1890. The NALC represents millions of federal employees today, provides scholarships to young people attending college, and serves the community through its annual nationwide food drive in May. His branch was founded within a year of the successful organization of the national union, whose success was, in part, due to a reunion of Union Army veterans. First he fought for the right for people to be free, then he joined the fight for workers to be treated fairly. His spirit is seen throughout his lifetime's work.

While Carney has been honored in his adopted New Bedford, MA home, his story begins in Virginia, born a slave. Fighting for his nation, for President Lincoln's call to free slaves, and fighting for the freedom of all people, Sgt. Carney has earned a place as a Son of Virginia who served his nation and community with distinction. He is an important figure in Virginia's and the nation's history who should be honored, and through his place in the National Statuary Hall, educate future generations about a little celebrated or acknowledged group of people, born enslaved in Virginia, who served his country honorably when provided the opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Diane Miller
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

From: Katherine Cole [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:57:54 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removal of Statute of Robert E. Lee

Dear Commissioners,

I encourage you to vote to remove the statute of Lee. We should not continue to celebrate him as an American hero. He is part of history, but we now know he was on the wrong side of it--fighting to continue to enslave millions of people. The time to remove his statue is now.

Katherine Cole
[REDACTED]

From: Reubin Struedel [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:39:26 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove Lee Statue

Dear Representative of the U.S Capitol Commission,

My name is Robin Strasel. I have been a resident of Virginia for seventeen years and as a Virginia resident I believe in the integrity of our state, therefore I simply cannot condone the representation you have set for us. I think we can agree that we are better than our state's racist past (and present) and that it is our job as Virginians, and as Americans, to work to better ourselves and our nation. Robert E. Lee is simply not the person to lead such a charge.

Barbara Rose Johns Powell, civil rights leader and pioneer, is a much better fit. Having already fought for what she knew this nation could become, a place for equal opportunity among all citizens, she is the perfect person to inspire the Virginian people into action and to teach a younger generation what it truly means to be Virginian.

Thank you very much for your time and your consideration on this important topic.

-Robin Strasel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Steven Spiegel [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 10:17:00 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove Lee

It is past time to remove R.E. Lee from a place of honor. You can put him in a museum. We can respect him as a tactician, but as a traitor to this country he does not deserve a place of honor.

I have lived in Virginia for nearly 40 years.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kristin Bunch [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:09:40 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove Lee

I would like to support the removal of the Robert E Lee statue. This man is a symbol of systemic racism and shouldn't be displayed as a memorial to his beliefs.

Thank you,

Kristin Bunch

From: Joanne Collins [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:33:21 AM
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove Robert E Lee Staute from the US Capitol

I'm writing an email in support of removing the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Joanne Collins
[REDACTED]

From: Diane Dresdner [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:48:29 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove Robert E. Lee Statuary

I'm writing an email in support of removing the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. Should have been done many, many, years ago- better late than never! We need to show all Virginians and all Americans that we intend to end racism wherever we find it. We need to show all Virginians and all Americans that we do not support American traitors.

Thank you,

Diane Dresdner

From: Carolyn Woodard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 07:40:21 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove statue of R E Lee

I live in Casanova, Va, and I support removing the statue of Robert E Lee from the Capitol. I suggest Barbara Johns or Eva Walker.

Thank you!

Carolyn Woodard
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joan Osborne [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 05:58:39 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Remove the Robert E. Lee Statue

As an African American from the 10th Congressional District, in Brambleton, Virginia and a history teacher, I implore you to remove Robert E. Lee's statute from the U.S. Capitol. Statues do not exist to teach us history, they exist to commemorate a person for what they stood for. Robert E. Lee stood for slavery and its perpetuation. He was given a chance by President Lincoln, to command Union forces but he rejected that offer to fight to preserve slavery. He was a traitor to the cause of union, liberty and democracy and he does not deserve to be commemorated. He was also a slave holder. In fact good friends of my family, whose last name is Lee, are descendants of one of his "body" slaves or valets. For that, he does not deserve to be commemorated. Please remove his statue and replace it with someone who deserves commemoration! Thank you.

Joan Lewis-Osborne

From: Gail Chun Faraon [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:10:17 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removing Robert E. Lee statue

I am a resident of Arlington, VA and I support removing the Robert E. Lee statue. It is an obvious decision to make - we must get rid of Confederate statues because keeping them would mean honoring their history, which includes support for slavery.

Frankly speaking, you should not need to poll the public on this. It is the morally right thing to do, without question. We need to have the courage to do the right thing, regardless of public opinion.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Very respectfully,

Gail Chun Faraon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Judy Heitfield [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:14:09 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removing statue of Robert E Lee

I'm writing an email in support of removing the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

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

From: Kim Scudera [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:48:00 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Removing statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall

I urge you to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall. As illustrious a family as the Lees were, and as remarkable a man as REL was, his decision to throw his abilities behind the cause of Southern secession was a decision with dire consequences for the Union, and he should not be celebrated with a statue in our US Capitol.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Scudera
[REDACTED]

From: Sherry L Blanton [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:46:56 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Removing the statue of Robert E. Lee from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol

I don't believe that we should have a traitor to our country representing Virginia in the US Capitol. Lee himself did not want statues erected. surely you can find a Virginian worthy of this honor who did not betray the country.

Regards,

Sherry Blanton
[REDACTED]

From: Marge Landis [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 04:24:55 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov
Subject: Replace Lee with Barbara Rose Johns Powell

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I urge the committee to remove the statue of Robert E Lee from the statutory Hall of United States Capitol. General Lee fought on the wrong side of history to defend slavery, and his legacy should not be celebrated.

Instead please replace his statue with a statue of Barbara Rose Johns Powell, a Virginian who made her mark on history as a teenager in the civil rights movement.

It would be an inspiration to young school children visiting the capitol to see an example of a young person who made a difference in their world. I would be proud to have her image represent us as Virginians.

Sincerely,
Marge Landis

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Erin Monaghan [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:32:47 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: replace Robert E. Lee statue

To the Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol --

Virginia must remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from the National Capitol Statuary Collection in the U.S. Capitol and replace it with a statue that represents all Virginians and the many contributions Virginians have made to the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Erin Monaghan
[REDACTED]

From: Catherina Hurlburt [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 07:09:42 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Replace the statue of Robert E. Lee in the US Capitol

I reside in the 5th congressional district of the commonwealth of Virginia in Fauquier County, and I'm writing to support the replacement of the statue of Robert E. Lee in the US Capitol with that of a Virginian who is not a problematic individual whose life was spent harming Black citizens. Confederates--traitors to the United States--should not be in places of reverence.

Thank you.

Catherina Hurlburt | [REDACTED]

From: Chris Fogarty [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 03:42:34 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Replace statue of Robert E Lee

Yes, please replace the statue of Lee with someone who didn't fight against the USA.

Thanks

Chris Fogarty [REDACTED]

From: Berrin Ozbilgin [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/22/2020 06:44:38 PM
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Replacing the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capitol Building in D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Virginia resident living in Arlington, Virginia, I support replacing the Robert E. Lee statue in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.. I do not believe that someone who fought to divide our country should be honored in our nation's Capitol building. This nonsense of honoring traitorous Confederate soldiers and military leaders has gone on for far too long and I will be happy to see all such symbols gone.

Do not get me wrong, we should all know and learn about the confederacy and those that supported it, but they should be known for what they were: traitors.

I do not plan to speak at the hearing on Friday; I simply wanted my opinion to be know. Thank you.

Berrin Ozbilgin
[REDACTED]

From: Ley, Ana [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 05:43:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Public Schedule of Governor Ralph Northam: Friday, July 24th

Yep, all set, thanks!

Ana Ley
Reporter
The Virginian-Pilot
[REDACTED]

From: Astor, Marissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Public Schedule of Governor Ralph Northam: Friday, July 24th

Caution: External Sender

Hi Marie and Ana,

I know the registration page says it closed at noon today, but my understanding is that you should still be able to register (click the word "Register" next to "Event Status." We have alerted DHR that press will be registering this evening/tomorrow morning so as long as you register you should be approved and receive credentials to login before the event begins.

Thanks,
Marissa

On Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 4:54 PM Albiges, Marie [REDACTED] wrote:

Hey Alena, Marissa and Jennifer,

This says registration closed at noon. My colleague Ana (CCed) is covering for the Pilot but can no longer register. Can you provide another link to the meeting or get her on the registration list?

Thanks,
Marie

Marie Albiges
State politics reporter, The Daily Press and The Virginian-Pilot

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Press, Governor Northam <press@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Albiges, Marie [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Schedule of Governor Ralph Northam: Friday, July 24th

Caution: External Sender



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · July 23, 2020

Office of the Governor
Alena.Yamosky@governor.virginia.gov

Public Schedule of Governor Ralph Northam
Friday, July 24th

Friday, July 24th

10:15 AM	<p>Governor Northam to provide remarks at virtual meeting of Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol</p> <p><i>The meeting begins at 9:30 AM, and Governor Northam is scheduled to speak at 10:15 AM. Those interested in participating must register here in advance. Once registered, you will receive an email with a link and password to join the virtual meeting. Additional information about the Commission is available here.</i></p>
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Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia | P.O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

[Unsubscribe malbiges@dailypress.com](mailto:malbiges@dailypress.com)

[About our service provider](#)

Sent by press@governor.virginia.gov

From: Alyssa Warrick [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:54:46 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@DHR.virginia.gov>
Subject: Re: Virginia's contributions to the National Statuary Hall collection

I write today as a historian, and as a citizen. My ancestry in Virginia dates back to before Jamestown, and it is on the subject of Virginia's contributions to the US Capitol's National Statuary Hall collection that I write.

Virginia has many people in its history more worthy of statues than Robert E. Lee.

Consider, perhaps, Nat Turner, whose revolt for freedom struck fear in slaveholders across the country. But perhaps you find his methods too violent (although he's still responsible for fewer deaths than one Arlington general currently stalking the crypt of the Capitol).

Dred Scott was born in Virginia, and was infamously declared to be not worthy of "any rights which any white man is bound to respect" in a case that struck a blow to Black citizenship, free or enslaved. How great would it be for his statue, recognizing his humanity and his family's place in history (for his wife, Harriet, and children, Eliza and Lizzy, were party to that suit and affected by it as well) to stand in the building where it was denied?

Maggie Walker's home is a national historic site, and as a businesswoman who overcame obstacles of Jim Crow segregation, she would provide an excellent source for a statue that Virginians could be proud of.

As a young person, Barbara Johns led a school strike for equality in Prince Edward County, in a case that was eventually combined into the Brown v. Board of Education case. Young people could find power in someone like Johns, who made history as a teenager, and carried that spirit of citizenship and fighting for national principles. Considering that a vast amount of people visiting the Capitol are students (particularly 8th graders), this could be an inspired choice.

Ella Fitzgerald had an unmistakable voice and recorded songs that became standards because of her interpretations. Jazz is one of the original American art forms, and how fortunate that Virginia could honor her artistic contributions with a statue. Virginia prides itself as a birthplace of America, why not a birthplace of American music?

Ona Judge, who took freedom into her own hands. Her ordinary, extraordinary life immortalized in a statue would undoubtedly give the average visitor to the Capitol a real life counterpoint to George Washington, whose family enslaved her and her family.

To go back further, Chief Powhatan's leadership through trying times of English invasion make him a worthy candidate, but if he is chosen, please avoid "noble savage" stereotypes. Or, if you'd like to correct a narrative, consider Pocahontas. Yes, she is depicted 3 times(!) in the Rotunda, but these are racist depictions from the 19th century.

How could we forget the father of Black History, Carter G. Woodson? Or Booker T. Washington, whose (albeit) conservative approach to taking on Jim Crow resulted in Tuskegee, a proud HBCU and the home of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen?

I'm sure you have received many other suggestions. Statues represent who WE are in the present, and who WE want the future to know about and think about and debate on their own. Thank you for receiving my suggestions, and thank you for taking on this important question.

Sincerely,
Alyssa D. Warrick

From: Steve Quartell [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 08:22:44 PM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Robert E Lee has to go.

Greetings,

This is far to simple a question for me to devote nuance, time, eloquence, or further energy to.

Lee's legacy is that of a racist traitor. He deserves no honors of any kind. Thos commission is a failure and it's members should be ashamed if it reaches any conclusion other than removing thr statue of Lee at soon as possible.

Steve Quartell
[REDACTED]

From: Maureen Mccracken [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 11:00:53 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Statue of Robert E. Lee

We must put the memory of the defender of slavery behind us to pursue equality for all!

Maureen H. McCracken, PMHCNS, BC
Healing Touch Certified Instructor and Integrative Psychotherapist

Call [REDACTED] for more information about classes or to make appointments!



From: Pat Sodo [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:15:17 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Statues in Capitol

Yes, without question, remove the Robert E Lee statue. There are so many prominent Virginians to honor! Thank you.
Patricia Sodo
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alice Moore [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/23/2020 10:03:07 AM
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
Subject: Robert E. Lee Statue

Good morning. I am in favor of removing Robert E. Lee's statue and replacing it with one that is more representative of either the history, spirit or origin of Virginia. Perhaps Pocahontas. I am sure you can present at least three suitable candidates on which the General Assembly can decide. Then voters can make their preference known to their state Delegate or Senator.

Thank you.

Alice Moore
[REDACTED]