

Emails Posted Nov. 20

From: Maureen O'Connor <ococonnor.ms93@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Statue Recommendation
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Good afternoon,

I'm not sure if the deadline for suggestions has passed, but I would like to nominate Maggie L. Walker to replace the current state statue of Robert E. Lee in the U.S. Capitol building.

I have a unique perspective in that I have worked in the Capitol building for almost 2.5 years. The primary purpose of my job is to interpret the building (its art, architecture, and history) as well as the history and function of Congress. I have watched thousands of people visit the Capitol and come face to face with the National Statuary Hall collection, often for the first time.

The purpose of this collection, as I'm sure you know, is to offer a state identity through art; as an answer to the questions "Who are the citizens of this state?" and "What do they respect and stand for?" It has been difficult to be a citizen of Virginia myself and have to ask my fellow Virginians to come face to face with Lee, a historical figure who no longer represents many Virginia values. While he is a figure who made an historical contribution, each state only gets two statues to represent themselves. With George Washington remaining, why not also show a more modern figure that Virginians can connect to?

I have read through many of the email submissions published on your website, and I noticed that Ms. Walker has been recommended by others. I won't belabor the point, but her role as the first black woman to charter a bank and serve as its president, her contributions to bettering the lives of African Americans, and her support for people with disabilities make her a commendable recommendation.

At present, there are no state statues that represent black women in the collection. I'm sure you can imagine what it's like to watch visitors, especially young students, look at this statue and see that this example is what our state legislature has left in the halls of Congress as a representation of who we are.

Thank you for undertaking this initiative and considering my recommendation. It is time for Virginia to represent itself accurately in the building that is meant to represent all Americans.

Best wishes,
Maureen O.

From: Dennis Stultz <cdstultz@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 4:22 PM
Subject: Virginia's Statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

My choice is to leave the statue of Robert E. Lee in place.

From: George Pettee <petteegeorge@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 4:23 PM
Subject: Lee statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Keep general lee right where he is. Lincoln's wife was given two female slaves as a wedding gift from her parents. According to law back then they became the property of Abraham lincoln. Are you gonna tear down his memorial?

From: William A. Young, Jr. <talksntotems@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 6:27 PM
Subject: R.E. Lee statue in the Capitol
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Please leave the statue of Robert E. Lee in place. Thank you.

From: <jckdunnvant@verizon.net>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 7:27 PM
Subject: R.E. LEE STATUE
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Please leave the R.E. Lee statue where it is. Thanks James Dunnvant

From: bob baskervill <swingacat@outlook.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 7:33 PM
Subject: Robert E Lee
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Leave the statue in place! Robert E Lee is one of the most aspiring men in this country's history.

From: Kerry Hines <klhines@erols.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 8:05 PM
Subject: VA statue in the US Capitol
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Indicative of the manner in which government business is being conducted in Virginia these days, the first local public announcement of the activities of the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol was in a Manassas paper this past week, yet the commission has been in existence since at least 1 July 2020, and the decision made to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from the Capitol likewise apparently as made in the same timeframe and without much, if any public input.

Based on the criteria established by the Commission it seems very obvious that if Lee's statue is to be replaced, then Virginia's historical figure should be George C. Marshall. He is most certainly a figure of historic renown with distinguished military and civic service to the Nation, completed college in Virginia and lived most of his life in Northern Virginia. He would be clearly recognized and his accomplishments appreciated by Capitol visitors from anywhere in the United States as well as those persons visiting from many foreign countries.

The chosen figure should DEFINITELY NOT be some obscure person that represents only a segment of the Virginia population.

Kerry Hines

From: <harvmart@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 8:37 PM
Subject: Stature
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

R E Lee should remain.

T Roosevelt said the two greatest Americans were Geo. Washington and RE Lee.

Winston Churchill considered Gen Lee to be the noblest American.

Nothing has changed.

Thanks
Harvey Martin

From: Jeff S. <lpd13jeff@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 8:57 PM
Subject: Replacement of Robert E. Lee statue
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Commission:

I highly recommend that you seriously consider George C. Marshall as a statue to replace R.E. Lee representing Virginia. My recommendation is based on his tremendous service to our country as a soldier and a statesman based on the following:

1. Graduate of Virginia Military Institute (VMI) 1901
2. Over 50 years of service in the U.S. Army
3. 5 Star General
4. U.S. Army Chief of Staff
5. Instructor at the Army War College
6. Marshall Plan (European Recovery Plan)
7. Special Envoy to China
8. Secretary of State
9. Secretary of Defense
10. President of American Red Cross
11. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 1953
12. Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal
13. Time Magazine Man of the Year 1943
14. His first and only permanent residence was at Dodona Manor, Leesburg, Virginia

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Shaffer
Ashburn, Virginia

From: Jeanne Donovan <jeandnv@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 9:21 PM
Subject: US Capitol Statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Please leave the statue of Robert E. Lee in place. He is a true Virginian for all time.

Jeanne Donovan
Concerned Virginia Citizen

From: Donald Barnett <barne0@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 9:39 PM
Subject: RE Lee should stay
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

He was the Virginia gentlemen. You shouldn't mess with the perfect choice to represent the best of the Commonwealth in the nation's capital.

Thanks.

Donald Barnett
7004 Bartletts Bluff Rd

From: np adamson <npadamson@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 9:49 PM
Subject:
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

The statue of Robert E. Lee should remain in the US Capitol. He was a man of sterling character who believed in honor and duty to God and the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Norvell Adamson

From: Gene Mims <gene.mims@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 10:59 PM
Subject: Statue replacement
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

My hope is that if you are replacing the statue of Lee in the capitol it would be George Marshall – a Virginia who served this nation and world well.

Sincerely,

Gene D Mims

From: Shane Hubbard <mshanehubb@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 5:56 AM
Subject: KEEP THE R.E. LEE VIRGINIA STATUE IN THE U.S. CAPITOL
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,
I am a Soldier in the U.S. Army currently serving overseas, and am a resident of Virginia.
I recommend that the U.S. Capitol Commission, that is in the process of deciding on what Virginia historical figure is to replace the R.E.

Lee statue, keep the R.E. Lee statue in place, and not replace it with any other statue.

Thank you.

Shane Hubbard

From: Calveta Odom <calveta.odom@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 6:20 AM

Subject: Lee Statue Replacement

To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I vote for Maggie L. Walker

From: Brooking, Michael <mbrooking@goochlandva.us>

Date: Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Subject: Robert E. Lee statue

To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I SUGGEST AND SUPPORT FOR THE STATUE OF ROBERT E. LEE TO BE REMAIN IN THE U.S. CAPITOL'S STATUARY HALL. IT WAS NOT ROBERT E. LEE'S DECISION FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA TO SECEDE THE UNION AND PROBABLY DID NOT AGREE WITH IT. ROBERT E. LEE SAID THAT THE SOUTH HAD UNDER ESTIMATED THE RESOURCES OF THE NORTH AND THE NORTH HAD UNDER ESTIMATED THE RESOLVE OF THE SOUTH AND PROBABLY KNEW THE SOUTH COULD NOT WIN THE CONFLICT. ROBERT E. LEE SUPPORTED THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND COULD NOT RAISE HIS SWORD AGAINST HIS FAMILY AND STATE. HE AS MUCH AS ANYBODY TO THIS STATE AND SACRIFICED A GREAT DEAL FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. PLEASE RETAIN ROBERT E. LEE'S STATUE IN THE U.S. CAPITOL STATUARY HALL.

Michael R. Brooking |

mbrooking@goochlandva.us