

Emails / Letters Posted Week of Nov. 9 (Second batch)

From: Dennis Hannick <rflyer@outlook.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 9:49 AM
Subject: Recommendation for statute in U.S. Capitol
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Patrick Henry

Dennis Hannick
9328 Dahlgren Rd
King George, VA 22485

From: Ann Hunt <ann.r.hunt@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 10:42 AM
Subject: General George C. Marshall Recommendation for statue in US Capitol
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

To Governor Northam and Members of the US Capitol Commission:

I can think of no better legacy for current and future generations than to have Virginia honor General George C. Marshall by placing his statue in the U.S. Capitol. People from every state in the United States and people from many nations will also recognize this honor when they are in the Capitol.

In addition to the criteria of the US Capitol, General Marshall fits many of the criteria the VA Commission has established:

WWII – Changed the course of history. General Marshall was the architect of the US military strategy and the commander of both General Eisenhower and General MacArthur. He had changed the way the US Army trained its mid-ranking officers so that many of the combat generals during the war were his graduates.

Marshall Plan – Changed the course of history. This plan restored the European countries after those difficult war years, and led to the creation of NATO.

Renowned for exemplary patriotism. General Marshall viewed himself as the “Defender of the Republic”. His actions as both a general officer and as the Secretary of State were non-partisan and non-political. He was the trusted advisor to many members of Congress and both President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Harry S.

Truman.

General Marshall was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and lived many years in Virginia. His family home is in Leesburg.

Representative of Current Prevailing Values. During WWII General Marshall was instrumental in forming supply and combat units of minority African- American and Japanese-American individuals. He was also instrumental in forming the Tuskegee Airmen, and he established the Women's Army Corps.

Thank You for considering him.

A. R. Hunt
Loudoun County

From: **Ed Bowman** <EdBowman@webowman.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 10:25 AM
Subject: Peter Francisco, the "Virginia Giant", would be a great choice of a replacement statue at U.S. Capitol
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>
Cc: Anne Wilson <annecw1@aol.com>, Linda McLeod <LAMcLeod@outlook.com>

U S Capitol Commision

I recommend a statue of Peter Francisco "Giant of the Revolution" would be a great choice of a replacement statue at the U.S. Capital.

- **Peter Francisco**, born **Pedro Francisco** (July 9, 1760 – January 16, 1831), known variously as the "Virginia Giant", the "Giant of the Revolution" and, occasionally, the "Virginia Hercules", was a Portuguese-born American [patriot](#) and soldier in the [American Revolutionary War](#). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Francisco
- 1975, Francisco was commemorated on a stamp by the US Postal Service in its "Contributors to the Cause" [Bicentennial](#) series. The image shows his saving the cannon at Camden.



- One of the most unsung heroes of the war and the stuff of which legends are made of was the six and a half foot tall Peter Francisco known both as the “Virginia Giant” and the “Giant of the Revolution,” These words, attributed to [George Washington](#), can be found on his monument is a square in downtown New Bedford, Massachusetts erected in his memory, “Without him we would have lost two crucial battles, perhaps the War, and with it our freedom. He was truly a One-Man Army.” <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/peter-francisco>



Library of Congress

- Battle of Brandywine - Near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, British General Cornwallis’ troops flanked General George Washington’s troops and were routing the Americans. It was during this battle on September 11, 1777 that Peter stood his ground at Sandy Hollow Gap and inspired the other soldiers to do likewise. This enabled Washington to have time for an orderly retreat. Peter was wounded in the leg and the Marquis de Lafayette was wounded, as well. On Sunday, September 21, the wounded Marquis arrived in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for medical treatment. He was hospitalized at the Sun Inn and then housed at the home of George Frederick Boeckle. It is not clear if Peter was with him there, but records indicate that they recuperated together and became good friends. Peter healed quickly and was able to rejoin his regiment. <https://peterfrancisco.org/about-peter/military-service/>
- Peter Francisco Day in Virginia
 - 03/15/2020
 - **WHEREAS**, Peter Francisco was abandoned as a young child near the present-day site of Hopewell, Virginia, in 1765, and was taken in by Judge Anthony Winston to live and work as an indentured servant; and
 - **WHEREAS**, Peter Francisco listened to Patrick Henry’s historic “*Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death*” speech through a window of St. John’s Church in Richmond on March 23, 1775, and eagerly joined the fight for American independence as a soldier at age sixteen; and
 - **WHEREAS**, Peter Francisco displayed remarkable courage in many battles, saving the life of his commanding officer, and surviving multiple injuries over the course of the war; and

- **WHEREAS**, he went on to witness General George Washington's decisive victory at Yorktown, Virginia; and
- **WHEREAS**, Peter Francisco served as the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1825 until his death on January 16, 1831, after which he was honored by the Virginia House of Delegates and buried with military honors in Richmond's Shockoe Cemetery; and
- **WHEREAS**, Peter Francisco served his nation and the Commonwealth of Virginia with great distinction and made important contributions to the history of our Commonwealth and nation; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia is proud to honor Peter Francisco's service to our Commonwealth and nation by recognizing March 15th as Peter Francisco Day;
- **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize March 15, 2020, as **PETER FRANCISCO DAY** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/proclamation/peter-francisco-day.html>



We hope you will consider Peter Francisco as a choice for a replacement statue at the U.S. Capital.

Best-

ed bowman, MBA



3715 belt boulevard, richmond, va 23234
office 804.291.3899 mobile 804.439.3300

From: a.louise jones <laidyj4u@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 12:20 PM
Subject: R.E. Lee statue replacement at U.S. Capital
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Abraham Galloway a Union soldier in the Civil War and spy, was enslaved in eastern N.C. He went on to become the first Black N.C. Senator during Reconstruction. It is said he was a fiery speaker for freedom for all.

He was a soldier for liberty, the son of planter, John Westley Galloway who fought to keep Abraham and other Blacks enslaved. Galloway's story was lost in time though Wilmington, N.C. honor him with markers and news articles ever so often.

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Peace

From: Sabena Moretz <sabenamoretz@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Statuary Hall hearing
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Good day to the members of the Commission,

I wish to associate myself with the letter below, encouraging the selection of Barbara Rose Johns for Virginia's representative in the United States Capitol Statuary Hall Collection.

Thank you for your important work.

Respectfully,
Sabena Moretz, Mechanisville, Virginia

Re: Barbara Rose Johns – Transformative Civic Activism by Student Civil Rights Leader
A statue of student civil rights activist Barbara Rose Johns should

represent the Commonwealth of Virginia in the US Capitol National Hall Statuary Collection. Her likeness would make a powerful statement to the millions who visit the Capitol each year – American visitors, international tourists, and especially school children. When she led a walkout at her high school to protest the deplorable conditions of her school, she inspired her fellow students and adults with her activism, resulting in transformative change to our educational system. Barbara Johns represents civic engagement in its purest form; she was a citizen asserting her rights of free speech, assembly, and ultimately petition when the case of the Moton School students was heard as a part of the Landmark US Supreme Court case *Brown v Board of Education*. The rights she exercised were guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which was made the law of the land with a vote to ratify by the Virginia General Assembly, meeting in the Virginia Capitol. Her statue would complement Virginia's other official statue, George Washington; while he represents the pinnacle of power in government and in the military, Barbara Johns represents the patriotic citizen, who without position or rank, has an equally important voice in our representative democracy.

Barbara Johns meets four of the five criteria as outlined in the Draft Commission Values and Attributes:

1. Association with significant events that changed the course of history - The walkout, organized by Barbara Johns, resulted in the court case, *Davis v. Prince Edward County*, that was folded into to the US Supreme Court case *Brown v Board of Education* (of Topeka, Kansas). Of the five cases combined into *Brown*, the Moton School case was the only one brought by students (more than 100). This is a story worthy of national and international attention.
2. Exemplification of valor, patriotism, bravery - While Barbara Johns, at 16 years of age, did not fight during wartime, she was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement which could be described as an enduring war for justice and equal rights on American soil. She exhibited immense courage to lead fellow students out of the classroom in protest; indeed, her family had to send her out of state because of credible threats from White supremacist groups.
3. The subject's primary historical significance should be tied to Virginia directly or they should have spent the majority of their life in the state - Barbara Johns spent her formative years in Virginia, until she was forced to leave. The US Supreme Court styled the case as they did because the Chief Justice wanted to make a statement to the nation that these unconstitutional schools were not just a southern issue, but a national one. Virginia's significance in this landmark case should be elevated.
4. The person should not be in conflict with current prevailing values - Barbara Johns represents the continuing struggle for equity for our Black citizens. Students of today who visit the Capitol will see themselves in the image of this young woman, giving them hope and

inspiration that they too may facilitate transformative change in society.

Barbara Johns is a subject worthy of the honor of representing the Commonwealth of Virginia, as are other persons recommended to the Commission. However, Barbara Johns brings more than her laudable actions at the Moton School, not only as a citizen without position or power but as a young, Black woman who changed the course of history for millions of students who came after her. Barbara John's image will bring desperately needed age, racial, and gender diversity to the National Statuary Hall Collection:

Age Diversity – There are no statues of a teenager in the collection. Helen Keller is the youngest representation at age seven and the next youngest appears to be Sarah Winnemucca who is depicted in her mid-30s. Barbara Johns made her mark on history at age 16.

Racial Diversity – There are no statues of a Black person in the official National Statuary Hall Collection according to the website of the Architect of the Capitol. In 2013, the Rosa Parks statue and the Frederick Douglass statue were added but the website states clearly that neither is in the National Statuary Hall Collection. Two states, Arkansas and Florida, have each approved a Black woman to represent their state and the statues are in some stage of development, presumably.

Gender Diversity – While the Collection does include women, only nine of the 100 statues are of women. Seven of these are of White women and two are of Native American women.

The US Capitol National Statuary Hall Collection is replete with statues of men, of White Americans, of older figures, elected persons, and military officers. A number of Virginians are also on display in the Capitol both as a part of the National Statuary Hall Collection, representing other states, and in the general collection including John E. Kenna, Francis Harrison Pierpont, Thomas Jefferson (one bronze statue and one bas-relief), George Mason, Pocahontas (two paintings), George Washington (one bronze statue, one bas-relief with multiple images of him, and one painting), Stephen Austin, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, John Sevier, Henry Clay, Ephraim McDowell, and Sam Houston. Other than the two paintings featuring Pocahontas, all of these objects honor White men.

It is time for Virginia to dramatically change the narrative in the US Capitol. As the representative of our Commonwealth, Barbara Rose Johns would bring credit to the Commonwealth along with recognition that Virginians of all ages were, and can be, leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. There is little doubt given the strength of her story and the much-needed diversity that she would contribute to the collection, that the statue of Barbara Johns would be positioned in a prominent place, likely in the Capitol Visitor Center, where millions would see her and learn the story of this remarkable Virginian.

Thank you for the expansive and thoughtful work you are each contributing to this important decision.

From: lola franco kevin seaman <kevlola@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 12:32 PM
Subject: In support of a statue of Barbara Johns
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear All,

Statues and Virginia have certainly gotten a lot of attention already this year. And now with the possible removal of RELee from the Capitol, wouldn't it be wonderful to have a girl who would inspire all the children who come to visit (or will, eventually, once the pandemic eases up).

Here is a girl who could inspire our own children to work for what they believe in. Who might make them believe that children can make a difference. And not just any child, but a child of color - how amazing for a child of color, to see that when looking at our capitol, where POC and children are woefully underrepresented.

Miss Johns personifies civic engagement. She asserted her rights of free speech, assembly, and more. She made actual changes to her community and to her people, when the Moton School students was heard as part of Brown V. Board of Ed. Her inclusion in the Capital as a statue, is the opposite of what George Washington represents. He personifies our founding fathers, and she would personify our future. Barbara Johns shows that people really can make a difference - a child, without wealth or rank, or the privilege of color made a difference. Something we would all like our children to see - that a child really can lead us.

Barbara Johns meets four of the five criteria as outlined:

The walk out she organized resulted in a court case, that was eventually included into the case that went before the supreme court as Brown v. Board of Ed.

She exemplifies valor, patriotism and bravery - At 16, I wanted nothing more than to be overlooked. Here was a girl, who wanted nothing more than to make changes and fight for equal rights. She did not fight on a battlefield in a foreign war, but in a battlefield of domestic war, one that we are still fighting today. A child, she made a difference in the Civil Rights Movement, showing tremendous leadership and courage to lead fellow students in protest, even as members of her own community were threatening her.

Her relevance to the state of Virginia seem obvious - a child of Virginia who made lasting change within the state. Additionally, more people can learn of Virginia's role in this case, that it is not just Kansas and Arkansas.

Obviously, these values are still enduring today, as people are still fighting for equity and justice for black and brown citizens. What an enduring legacy for her, to be a permanent symbol of children making a difference in the world.

I think Barbara Johns would be a welcome addition to the Capitol building - yes, another child is there - Helen Keller. There are not currently any black women represented however there are two Native American women. I think her inclusion would be a wonderful way for Virginia to honor one of its citizens.

Thank you for your time,
Lola Franco

From: Dell Erwin <dellerwin@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 1:10 PM
Subject: Replacement of Robert E. Lee
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

An African-American woman! Like Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Shirley Chisholm.

Sent from my iPad

From: Sue Taylor <eascteacher@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 1:16 PM
Subject: New Virginian for Statutory Hall
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I would like to propose a name I submitted to both Sen Warner and Sen Kaine several months ago. Please consider Booker T Washington to be included in the hall. He not only was important to Virginia but also the country. It would be very fitting that Virginia be represented by two Washingtons - one of white European ancestry and one of black African ancestry.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Rebel <rebel56@jetbroadband.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 1:34 PM

Subject: George Marshall should be placed at the capital to replace Robert E Lee
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Willial D Howard
Lebanon Va

From: Kelly Chopus <kchopus@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 1:39 PM
Subject: Statue in capitol
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Pocahontas!

From: robert white <stingray220@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 2:27 PM
Subject: statue to go in US Capital
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Good afternoon. I have read the article about removing the statue of Robert E. Lee from the US Capital. I don't believe it should be replaced, but if it must, I propose we replace it with a statue of either George Mason, George Wythe or James Madison. All men were famous Virginians and were prominent in the beginning of our country. Thank you for considering my recommendations. Mrs. Janice C. White

From: Ronald Hachey <rhachey155@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 3:32 PM
Subject: Lee's replacement
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

My wife and I vote for Pocahontas.

From: Natalie Somer <somer.nt@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 4:56 PM
Subject: Virginia Statue to Replace Rob't E. Lee in the U.S. Capitol
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

My suggestion for the statue to represent Virginia in the U.S. Capitol is Mary Jackson, born in Hampton, VA, an African-American woman who was an engineer and one of the human computers who worked at NASA during the early years of the space program.

Another fine representative for the Virginia statue would be Maggie

Lena Draper Walker, born in Richmond, VA, who was the first African-American woman in the country to charter a bank and serve as its president.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Natalie Somer
Charlottesville, VA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Oliver Way <oliverway@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 7:26 PM
Subject: Virginia statue
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I support George C Marshall. 5 star general who led strategy and overall planning for Allied WWII victory. Then architect of Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. Only military person to receive Nobel Peace Prize

Oliver L Way
804 356 7992

From: Austin Burgess <austin.burgess@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 8:52 PM
Subject: Nomination for New Honoree to Replace Lee Statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

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

I'd like to put forth William Harvey Carney as my honoree to replace the Robert E. Lee statue in the US Capitol.

Mr. Carney was born into slavery in Norfolk, VA in 1840. He managed to escape north to Massachusetts and joined the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in 1863. His actions at the siege of Fort Wagner earned him the Medal of Honor, awarded to him in 1900.

He was awarded the nation's highest military honor for picking up the US flag during the action at Fort Wagner, after the color bearer was mortally wounded. Though subsequently wounded himself, Mr. Carney never let the flag touch the ground and would not relinquish his hold on the colors until he returned, aided by others, to the Union barracks.

While there are many notable Virginians who deserve this recognition, I'm struck by the possible symmetry of having Mr. Carney's likeness

replace that of General Lee. Here we have a Black man, born into slavery, who enlisted in the fight to preserve the Union and end slavery, contrasted with a white man, born into privilege, who elected to turn his back on the Republic in order to preserve our nation's original sin.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Austin Burgess
2009 Walhala Dr.
N. Chesterfield VA 23236
804-366-8530

From: Tina Currie <tinacurrie@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 9:58 PM
Subject: Statue to Replace Lee
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I think you should replace the Lee statue with one of Judge Robert Merhige. He was quite instrumental in the efforts of desegregation. Please research his history before making a decision. Thank you,

Tina Currie
Mechanicsville, VA

From: Stefany Kaelin <stefany.kaelin@swedishmatch.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 8:48 AM
Subject: Statue suggestion
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I recently read the article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch about the statue to be changed in the State Capitol. The suggestions in the article are excellent ones and I would like to support a few that have been suggested.

Maggie L. Walker

Maggie represents entrepreneurship and striving for equal opportunities in our nation. She also supports the press and education. These are all ideals and institutions that are important in a country like ours. A country that wants to be better than we were in the past while not forgetting where we came from.

Walter Reed

Walter represents the military and medical institutions. Walter figured out something that was causing a deadly disease and found ways of trying to reduce the possibility of infections. I knew less about him than I do about Maggie, but I do think he would be a very good option.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stefany Kaelin
Citizen of Hanover County

From: Susan Reynolds <litsusie451@msn.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 8:59 AM
Subject: Replacing the Robert E. Lee statue in the US Capitol Building.
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Sirs:

I suggest that you replace the statue of Robert E. Lee with a statue of George C. Marshall who was a resident of Loudoun County, Virginia. He served as Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

Susan Reynolds

E-mail: litsusie451@msn.com

From: Rick <rrhoadesap@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 9:33 AM
Subject: George C Marshall
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Commission for Historical Statues in the US Capitol

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I write to encourage the selection of General George Catlett Marshall to stand with George Washington representing Virginia in the US Capitol. No two men could better represent the Old Dominion.

After graduating as First Captain of his Virginia Military Institute

class General Marshall served this nation with a unique mixture of distinction, integrity and humility for 50 consecutive years.

Marshall served his country as a soldier in three wars: The Philippine Insurrection, World War I, and World War II.

Between the World Wars Marshall personally selected and tutored a cadre of over 200 "Marshall's Men" including Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton who led our soldiers in battle in WWII. Meanwhile with his brilliant abilities he became the "Organizer of Victory"- as noted by Winston Churchill.

Marshall's counsel was so valued by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman they called on him to be Chief of Staff of the Army, Envoy to China, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and President of the American Red Cross.

Marshall was twice Time magazine's Person of the Year (1943, 1947).

He received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his European Recovery Plan (called the Marshall Plan) which resulted in the salvation of Europe after its destruction in WWII, and subsequent formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union.

In recent years of turmoil Marshall's wisdom has been repeatedly cited as US diplomats and international figures ask "What would Marshall do?"

Marshall was a resident of Leesburg, but he belonged to and was respected for his integrity and character across the world. Arguably he had even greater impact than George Washington.

Respectfully,

Richard T. Rhoades
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
21112 Cardinal Pond Terrace, Apt 206
Ashburn, VA 20147

From: Henry Marsh
Received: Tue Nov 10 2020 13:41:24 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
To: yyEadPortalGovCr (Do NOT Disable)
Subject: Letter of Support for Oliver W. Hill Sr.

This letter is written to nominate Oliver W. Hill Sr. to replace Robert E. Lee as a representative of Virginia in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. Below is a copy of the Hill Foundation biography

that contains the highlights of Mr. Hill's achievements. I also have included a link to a web page further amplifying his qualifications. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Hill) I believe Oliver W. Hill is an excellent candidate for consideration. Sincerely, Henry L. Marsh III

Henry L. Marsh III Retired Virginia State Senator Oliver White Hill

Oliver W. Hill was born in Richmond, Virginia, May 1, 1907. He completed elementary school in Roanoke and high school in Washington, D.C. He was a graduate of Howard University, where he Oliver received the degrees of A.B. from the College of Liberal Arts and J.D. from the School of Law. He was married to the late Beresenia A. Walker, and they had one son, Oliver W. Hill, Jr., a daughter in law, Renee Hill, a granddaughter, Jananda Hill, a step granddaughter, Maia King, and a step grandson, Ja'maa Beckley-King. Until his retirement in July, 1998, Mr. Hill was a partner in the law firm of Hill, Tucker and Marsh. He became a member of the Virginia Bar in 1934 and, except for time out in the service of the United States Government, practiced law in Richmond, Virginia, beginning in 1939. He served in the Armed Forces from June 1943 through November 1945; and from May 1961 to September 1966, was with the Federal Housing Administration, first as Assistant to the Federal Housing Commissioner and later, as Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Mortgage Credit and Federal Housing Commissioner in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Hill entered Howard Law School in 1930 with the express intention of challenging America's segregation laws. Mr. Hill and other dedicated lawyer/activists (including his law school classmate and special life-long friend, Thurgood Marshall) worked assiduously under the tutelage of Dean Charles Hamilton Houston to secure all rights incident to first-class citizenship for African Americans. At great personal risk, these courageous individuals educated the general public and the courts as they pursued civil rights litigation on the behalf of their clients. In 1935, Mr. Hill was one of the founders of the Virginia State Conference of NAACP Branches. This was the first of such organizational tools, which played a pivotal role in fulfilling the mission of the NAACP. In 1940, Thurgood Marshall succeeded Charles Houston as special counsel to the NAACP and founded the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) to offer some limited protection to both civil rights litigants and the NAACP from an angry public and hostile institutions. From the inception of the LDF until his death, Oliver White Hill remained closely associated with the legal and policy work of the LDF. During his career, Mr. Hill litigated many cases on its behalf. Some of the landmark cases in which Mr. Hill participated involved such diverse matters as equalization of salaries for public school personnel; the right to serve on grand and petit juries; inclusion in the program of free bus transportation for public school children; equalization of public school facilities; protection of firemen and other railway workers in rights to employment and to fair and impartial representation by the statutory bargaining agent;

the right of participation in primary elections; the elimination of segregation on common carriers in both intrastate and interstate travel; the use of public places in a nondiscriminatory and unsegregated fashion, including public schools and places of public assembly and recreation; the securing of housing of their choice; and the right, through an organization such as the NAACP, to assert their constitutional rights and seek redress of their grievances in courts and otherwise, free from harassment by legislative investigatory committees. He encouraged and helped develop the use of the ballot among minorities and sought to stimulate their participation in organized political party activities. He was a former member of the Richmond City Council, of the Richmond City Democratic Committee and of the first President's Committee on Government Contracts Compliance, known later as the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. His initial national recognition was in 1948 when he won a seat on the Richmond City Council in a city-wide election, becoming the first African American so elected since Reconstruction Days. Mr. Hill received numerous awards and honorary degrees, including the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest civilian award of the United States of America), and the highest award of the American Bar Association. Oliver White Hill, the consummate lawyer, legal trailblazer and social activist died at his home in Richmond, Virginia on August 5, 2007 at the age of 100 years.