

Emails Posted After the Dec. 16 Meeting

From: joy speakes <touch_of_joy03@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 3:33 PM
Subject: Barbara Rose Johns - Student Civil Rights Leader
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Commission Members:

I am sending this email in support of Barbara Rose Johns a 16 year old student that led the student walkout April 23, 1951 from Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia.

I feel that Barbara Rose John's, a student rights activist, should represent the Commonwealth of Virginia in the US Capitol National Hall Statuary. Her action that changed the Commonwealth of Virginia and America was prior to Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Honoring Barbara Rose Johns will give inspiration to the students of today that visit the Capitol to make a difference.

Thank you for giving me a voice to a community that Barbara gave so much in moving America forward by including Barbara Rose Johns statue in the National Hall Statuary.

Sincerely,

Joy Cabarrus Speakes
Striker and Davis Plaintiff

From: Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield <oldscouts2@aol.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 9:55 PM
Subject: Statue in National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol
To: <Uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the Commission:

Barbara Rose Johns is again reaching for the moon,

This time for a place in the National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol.

The 16-year-old leader of student protest against deplorable

conditions in the all-Black Moton High School;

In the words of the poet, Nikki Giovanni, "Someone with the ability to make a way out of no way..."

A prayer for the worlds yet to come;"

A simple dress in a sea of uniforms and suits;

A Black female youth in an ocean of old, white males;

A face to inspire diversity and inclusion in the world that is now here.

She deserves to be there.

Sincerely,
Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield

From: Karen Elyse Peters <mkjpeters@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 10:00 PM
Subject: Ms. Barbara Johns/Honorary Statue
To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen E. Peters
Richmond Virginia

From: ccyj@aol.com
To: USCapitolCommission@dhrvirginia.gov
Cc: ccyj@aol.com
Sent: 12/15/2020 11:20:54 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Nomination for U. S. Capitol Replacement

Attn: Julie Langan & Stephanie Williams
I would like to speak at the Public Meeting
on Wednesday, December 16th on behalf of
Atty. Oliver White Hill, Sr.
Grateful,
Janith Libron
Citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia

From: William Thorpe <wthorpe21@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 7:45 AM
Subject: Barbara Johns
To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

In my opinion a Barbara Johns statue is the best choice to represent Virginia in the US Capitol. Her story is unfortunately under told. Her impact on equality in education in Virginia and the entire nation is immeasurable. Please do not consider that she only spent a relatively short period of her life in Virginia. She was forced out for her safety for courageously moving Virginia in a positive direction. By that logic, the Marquis de Lafayette has no place in U.S. history and we all know that is ridiculous. Thank you.

William Thorpe

From: Julie Campbell <anniemac.campbell@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 8:12 AM
Subject: Barbara Johns
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

While each of the five finalists are more than worthy of representing Virginia in the U.S. Capitol, I would choose Barbara Johns. Her accomplishments are all the more remarkable because of her age at the time of her fight for civil rights.

Thank you.

Julie Campbell
Richmond, Virginia

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

From: Deborah Seraydarian Soderholm <deborahsoderholm@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM
Subject: In Support of Pocahontas
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I wanted to write in support of selecting Pocahontas as the figure to replace the Robert E. Lee statue. I am a former Virginia Social Studies educator with 9 years in the classroom and 3 years as a museum educator with the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation.

Matoaka, or Pocahontas, who became Rebecca Rolfe was the link and tie between the English and Powhatan people. Her eventual marriage to John Rolfe became a connection that led to a time of peace between the warring groups. This peace led to the colony having a viable chance for survival and expansion. Matoaka began her life as the daughter of a Powhatan chief and ended her short life as an English mother in England. Whether she knew it or not, her role in bridging the two groups of people together changed the course of history. She never wrote anything herself, it was all written by others about her. I truly wish she had left her voice for us to hear. All we have are her actions as a dutiful daughter, bringing food and aid to the Englishmen, as a kidnapped teenager, who learned a new language and religion, as a wife, who joined a new family, and as a mother, who loved her son Thomas. We know her as a diplomat who met royalty in England to show who her people were and could be. It has been up to us, 400 years later to learn her story and find what it means to be courageous in the face of adversity.

If you choose Matoaka, or Pocahontas, she is recognized throughout the world as the little girl who helped save John Smith. But this is a chance to tell the rest of her story, as they do at Jamestown Settlement and Henricus Historical Park. It would cement her legacy as a Native woman and the Powhatan's place in the narrative. It would illuminate her place in history and highlight what is possible at any age. She is an inspiration and her story should be told as an ambassador for our state and world.

Thank you,
Deborah Soderholm
Williamsburg, VA

From: Alice Lynch <malynch1963@verizon.net>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 9:28 AM
Subject: Conflict of interest - Commission meeting today
To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>
Cc: <julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>, <district18@senate.virginia.gov>

Senator Lucas,

Thank you for your leadership of the Commission to determine an individual who will represent Virginia in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The deliberations and decision by the Commission have and will continue to garner great interest among the citizens of Virginia. As a result, it is essential that the Commission and its members ensure that their deliberations and decisions are above reproach.

In response to the email comment sent by Rick Tatnall to the Commission on December 12, 2020, and his ongoing advocacy in promoting Pocahontas to represent Virginia in the National Statuary Hall Collection, a conflict of interest involving a commission member must be addressed.

Rick Tatnall is the Executive Director of an organization called the Pocahontas Project. According to their website, Chief Anne Richardson is one of five members of the board of directors and has served since the founding of the organization. Another board member, Carol Steele, emailed the Commission on December 14 to advocate for Pocahontas writing that she could not be unbiased because of her service on the Project, which has actually lobbied the Commission through emails and petitions.

The Chief's service on the board of the Pocahontas Project, combined with the zealous advocacy by the Executive Director and at least one other board member, represents a direct conflict of interest or a perception of one to the public. Even though the Chief is known by many to be an honorable person, her participation in deliberations on the qualifications of the five finalists and in voting for the ultimate choice would taint the process to the wider public. I see nowhere in the minutes of the Commission that this conflict was disclosed so I thought it would be helpful to point this out before today's consequential meeting convened.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the Commonwealth and your leadership of this important effort. All Americans will benefit from the expanded story that this statue will provide.

Alice Lynch

From: Roll, David <DRoll@steptoe.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 4:20 PM
Subject: MY STATEMENT
To: stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov
<stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov>,

USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov
<USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>, Langan, Julie
<julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov>

Stephanie/Julie: I was a participant but for some reason unable to be heard. Please read this short statement at some point during the hearing which is ongoing or make sure it is circulated to the Commissioners. I am so sorry I could not be heard today. As noted below I commend the Commission. David Roll

Statement to Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol

David L. Roll, December 16, 2020

Though I am disappointed that a statue of George Marshall is no longer under consideration, I commend the Commission for placing Oliver Hill at the top of your list of finalists. Mr. Hill devoted his professional life to advocating the rights of African-Americans. Along with Thurgood Marshall, Oliver Hill convinced the Supreme Court to desegregate public schools not only in Virginia but throughout the nation. He deserves a place in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall Collection.

On behalf of the supporters of George Marshall I want to thank the Commission for its transparency and the process for reaching its decision.

But I would like Governor Northam and the members of this Commission to know that we are not giving up. Next year, Marshall's supporters will be asking the Senators from Virginia, where Marshall spent much of his life, and the Senators from Pennsylvania, where Marshall was born, to introduce legislation in Congress for the placement of a statue of George Marshall in the U.S. Capitol.

Many thanks for listening to me and congratulations for a job well done.

From: Terry Ward <tward@k12albemarle.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 2:10 PM
Subject: for Barbara Johns by Terry Ward - RESEND of possibly-garbled testimony for 12/16/20 public hearing
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Hi--

I could hear the meeting, but your Cisco WebEx app did not let you hear me. (Maybe use Zoom sometime?) I'm thus sending transcripts of my support of replacing Robert E. Lee's statue with one of Barbara Johns --plus an additional text which counters the notion that removing Confederate statues "erases history." Please copy these texts and video links and add them to the record since I was approved for a role in the meeting and did attend --just was interfered with because of the software issue. This is public testimony and thus my words and likeness are cleared for any use including press and scholarly use.

1) DHR testimony, video, Lee statue replace, Terry Ward speaks for replacing Lee with Barbara Johns

<https://youtu.be/4l2p9auewYo>

Remove Robert E. Lee statue from US Capitol as a visual representation of the values of Virginia, replace with Barbara Johns. Testimony to DHR by Terry Ward. Speaker is an artist and art teacher with monument competition experience able to recommend a statue style and perhaps able to nominate some artists (not to include self).

TRANSCRIPT:

Sometimes, students seated far from the classrooms' coal stoves shivered in their jackets. Rain buckets dotted the floors. Some students used umbrellas --indoors!-- when stormwater soaked through the roof. Double the number of students for which the building was designed --crammed in to learn daily. This was not some Old West schoolhouse. This was in living memory --in a public high school, in Virginia. It was segregated Moton High School --in Farmville, around 1950. The ~white~ high school was up-to-date, not decrepit. When Moton parents asked the all-white school board to fix overcrowding, the school yard got --tar paper shanties. Barbara Rose Johns, age 16, was a junior in 1951 --and already fed up. She once missed her bus and was promptly --not-- picked up by the white school bus that came along soon after. That did it. After talks with some school staff, Barbara Johns with friends made a plan. They lured the principal off-campus. A ruse sent teachers bringing their classes to an "assembly" --and then the teachers leaving the venue. Barbara Johns gave a speech encouraging a protest against inequality. Students did march: to the superintendent's office (he didn't help), to the courthouse, --and they picketed the school. Some carried signs: "new school or no school," "no more tar paper shacks." Days later, NAACP lawyers met with Johns and other student strike leaders to plan legal action --and to seek better than just an equal school building --rather, an equal,

desegregated school DIVISION. The resulting case --plus four others-- were wrapped into what became Brown versus the Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court case paving the way nationwide for integration. With courage, she got the initial protests started. After intimidation and a KKK cross-burning in her yard, family relocated her for safety. Her historic role in the civil rights movement was long overlooked --just a teenager. Now she's in Virginia history curricula and appears on the state civil rights memorial. So, she's already vetted. She meets all the criteria for the new statue. Virginia once picked as its statutory representative the rebel leader of slavery's army. Please correct that blunder by replacing General Lee with a the 1950s African-American student who rebelled with honor --against racism-- and for equality. Please pick Barbara Rose Johns.

2) DHR testimony, video, Lee statue replace, Terry Ward: Removing Confederates Is NOT Erasing History

https://youtu.be/3_5R1GUz_qk

TRANSCRIPT: The usual sources might wail about “erasing history.” They’re wrong. Prominent statue-placement does not preserve history. Memes, family stories, academic texts, documentaries and reference works –online or InRealLife – keep history alive. We are all aware of Hitler and the lessons of a modern nation’s experiment with fascism; we –and Europe as well-- manage to remember just fine without having Hitler statues about. What statues do show is: what a local population respects. It was wrong for propagandistic monuments to the “glory” of the Southern cause to be erected during the Jim Crow era. Statues of Lee and Jackson, Ashby and J.E.B. Stuart appearing 30-60 years after 1865 is morally the same as if monuments to Himmler and Goering, Hitler and Ribbentrop, were to appear in the 1970s-1990s. The same sources that object to removing Confederates from public squares tend to be well-versed in military history and their inability to see the comparison is remarkable. “It’s not the same!” the usual sources will say. They’re wrong. The rebels and the Nazis both had racial hatred in their cores. Both considered part of humanity to be subhuman simply because of their birth-identity. Whatever else was built atop such foundations –is moot. “No, it was really about states’ rights!” They’re wrong. A few speakers better than me have put it well: what rights? The rebels didn’t take up arms for states’ rights to tax cargoes differently or to enact their own treaties. It was the states’ “rights” to keep and regulate slavery that they picked up swords and firearms for. Let that sink in for a moment. They burned and bayoneted and shot and cannonaded for some elites to have the “right” (really?) to own, auction, brand, and breed humans as if they were cattle. They were warfighters for “states’ rights” to see that a slaveholder could split families, could sexually-molest and rape at will, and could

force hard labor without pay under threat of the whip or the noose. Those troops signed their soldiers' oaths to kill for a cause involving taking away from the enslaved their freedoms of speech, assembly, travel, franchise, religion, and petition-for-redress. Yes, true, most CSA foot-soldiers didn't themselves own slaves; but, they lent their fists, blades, and guns to that repugnant cause. Similarly, numerous Nazi-drafted German troops didn't directly agree with gassing the Jews; but, their military and material support of the crime helped it happen. Do we today even presume to argue anything righteous about any "cause" for which those Nazi conscripts fought? Of course not. Germans, after defeat, wouldn't think for a moment to honor their war dead with a Himmler statue in Berlin --whether in a government building or on some traffic island. Americans --Southerners included, are you not more civilized than the ex-Nazis? Can you please be more considerate than ex-Nazis? Let's take General Lee and all he represents --off the pedestal and out of the capitol out of the role of being The Symbol the embodiment of the values of Virginia.

~ ~ ~

Terry Ward

Albemarle County Public

Schools<<https://www.k12albemarle.org><<https://www.k12albemarle.org/>>>

Henley Middle School<<https://www.k12albemarle.org/school/hms/Pages/default.aspx>>

fine arts teacher

(drama & #2 art teacher)

Room 5

TWard@k12Albemarle.ORG
