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October 8 Meeting, Replacing the Lee Statue

1 message

Patricia Thompson <pjthompson2296@gmail.com>
To: Stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Hello,

Please see below for my comments regarding who should be the replacement for the Lee statue.

As we work to more fully reconcile the marginalization of people of color across the nation and in Virginia, we must not forget that there is another group whose role in the establishment, founding, and ongoing evolution and development of the Commonwealth has long been minimized. Women have struggled, sacrificed, persevered, and worked, much of the time silently and with no recognition, just as hard as men to make the Commonwealth the great state it is today, and yet of the two statues representing Virginia in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol Building, both are men. In fact, less than 10% of all the state statuary in the Capitol represents women.

It is well past the time to right this, and now is the opportunity to do so. With the removal and replacement of the Lee statue, Virginia must use this moment to recognize the strength and contributions of Virginia's exceptional women who are part of the state's long and storied history. Candidates who can proudly represent one of the greatest states in the history of this country abound and include amazing women such as Maggie Walker, Mary Draper Ingles, Virginia Randolph, Adele Clark, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, and Lila Meade Valentine.

Please use this moment to recognize the contributions of all Virginians by choosing a woman as the subject for the next statue.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Patricia Thompson

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