

Emails Posted Oct. 29, 2020

On Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 8:27 AM DHR Virginia Contact Form

<no-reply@dhr.virginia.gov> wrote:

>

> Name: Katherine Pohlig

> Email Address: pohligfamily@gmail.com

> Division / Person: General Questions

> Comments / Questions: I want to weigh in on the issue of the Lee statue on Monument Ave in Richmond. Since it is such a divisive piece of art at this time, I think it should be moved somewhere where it would be safe from the awful graffiti that has disgraced it and probably would continue if the pedestal were cleaned and it left where it is. I hate to see it looking like it does now. I grew up near Richmond and always loved riding down Monument Ave and seeing the beautiful statues especially this one. Please move the statue and clean the pedestal.

> Thanks,

> Kathy Pohlig

From: Lance Warren <lancewarren1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 11:02 AM

Subject: Nomination: Ona Judge

To: <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Hello,

I write to recommend that the U.S. Capitol Commission replace the statue of Robert E. Lee with one of Ona Judge, the woman enslaved by George and Martha Washington who seized her freedom in 1796, and then, eluded the First Family's consistent efforts to recapture her until the end of President Washington's life.

Installing a likeness of Judge alongside that of Washington in the U.S. Capitol would tell a story — the essential story of Virginia: a colony in which representative government first took root was also a place in which enslavement of people of African descent made possible Virginia's wealth and prominence, initially among the colonies and later in the new nation.

Visitors to the Capitol would see Virginia directly confront the tension at the heart of the Commonwealth's history: here, they would see, is the father of the nation, the celebrated general who led the Revolutionary forces in seeking freedom from Great Britain — and here is one of the many people he enslaved, a woman who sought freedom from the man who would bring liberty to white Americans.

Too often, statues flatten history, boiling down complexity into a mass of stone and bronze. Instead, at this juncture, the U.S. Capitol Commission could seek to put Virginia's statues in conversation with one another — and, in turn, encourage all who see them to engage in that same conversation, a conversation Virginians and Americans must have, if we are to own our history and collectively build a better future.

With respect for your work ahead,

Lance Warren
Richmond, Virginia

P.S. Background information on Judge may be found here, among other sources:

Book: Erica Dunbar's, *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (2017 finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction, winner of the 2018 Frederick Douglass Book Award.

National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/independence-oneyjudge.htm>

Mount Vernon: <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/ona-judge>

White House Historical Association:
<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/the-remarkable-story-of-ona-judge>

From: Peter Thompson <peter.m.t@comcast.net>
Date: Sat, Oct 24, 2020 at 1:40 PM
Subject: my recommendation
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

The replacement of RE Lee to 'represent' VA in the US Capital is long overdue. The new person must be a person of color and I recommend Barbara Johns--we need to show that people have meaning and impact without having to be presidents, generals, deans, etc. The 'common' person who does uncommon things deserves recognition.

thanks
peter thompson
1401 w. pines dr.
charlottesville va 22901

From: Elizabeth Van Lew <elizabethvanlewtentva@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 6:33 PM
Subject: Submission of Historic Person to replace Robert E. Lee statue
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Hello,

I respectfully submit the following name as suggestion for a historical person to represent Virginia in a new statue for placement in the Capitol.

Elizabeth Van Lew (10/12/1818 - 9/26/1900)
Virginia born Elizabeth is deserving of this honor for her inspiring, innovative, and creative thinking. She died relatively unknown. Let her sacrifice to this country be known to all citizens! She had many characteristics that serve today's interests.

During the American Civil War period, Elizabeth cast aside her life many times in support of the Union. She was ostracized where she lived her whole life- Richmond, VA. Elizabeth led a spy network that shortened the War by two years (saving hundreds of thousands of lives), as estimated by Union spymaster George Sharpe.

Elizabeth sent egg baskets to market in Washington, D.C, with notes for General Ulysses S. Grant in some hollowed-out eggs. Boots with hollowed-out heels carried those baskets to market-they held notes as well. Her ciphering system was innovative and quite successful, and she even used disappearing ink! She was known as "Crazy Bet" in adopting an unusual persona for thwarting recognition in accomplishing her goal.

Rescue efforts of Union prisoners of war by Elizabeth prevented dozens being sent to Andersonville, Georgia, known for its almost 30% mortality rate. General Grant paid his respects to her on a side trip after Richmond fell, and gave her a position as Postmistress to Richmond as she was, by war's end, nearly penniless. She made it possible for many freed slaves to purchase property.

Her words: " Slave power crushes freedom of speech and of opinion. Slave power degrades labor. Slave power is arrogant, is jealous and intrusive, is cruel, is despotic, not only over the slaves but over the community, the state."

Let Elizabeth's memory live on in a statue that is the perfect replacement for the one of Robert E.Lee.

Thank you for considering my request

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In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Karen Lyddane, President
Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1
Haymarket, VA

From: Gretchen Coleman <gretchencoleman@msn.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 25, 2020 at 10:13 AM
Subject: Nomination for US Capitol Statue
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Thank you for the opportunity to add my name to the nomination of Barbara Johns for replacement of the current statue of Robert E. Lee in the US Capitol.

Barbara Johns deserves to be memorialized for the following reasons:

1. Ms. Johns meets all of the panel's criteria for selection
2. Very few women are honored in our country which is a real shame. There are close to 5M more Women in the US than men, and we are grossly underrepresented. Likewise, minorities are also underrepresented.
3. Ms. Johns put Virginia on the map in the fight for furthering rights of equal education for all in Virginia and US
4. Back in her day, Ms. Johns was, and currently is, one of the few young people to be a role model for social rights activism. She did not have the internet to spread the word, like young people who are following in her footsteps (Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai). This statue will give young people something concrete to look at as a hero.
5. Civil war related Confederate statues are being removed all across America. It is time we honored a person who stood up for equal rights for all. Ms. Johns is a role model that shows one person can make a difference.
6. Statues of Civil War participants may have been relevant in the times they were erected, but our nation has changed drastically since those times. A statue of Ms. Johns is relevant to what is currently going on in America.
7. There is much unrest in our country today. Many peaceful protests are being hijacked by the fringes. Honoring a young person who used peaceful protest as her badge of courage will give heart to those in our nation who endeavor to cause change in our current society through the same means.

I nominate Barbara Johns for placement in the US Capitol. Thank you for your consideration.

Gretchen Coleman
Roanoke, VA

From: Jim Woolwine <montesquiou@comcast.net>
Date: Sun, Oct 25, 2020 at 11:46 AM
Subject: Statue
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Recommend George C. Marshall. It is inconceivable that the world of today would be as it is without this man's foresight and abilities.

Jim Woolwine

313 Crown View Drive

Alexandria, VA 22314

From: Joseph Wells <joe.z.wells@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 25, 2020 at 8:57 PM
Subject: George Marshall is a phenomenal choice
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

From: Rhonda Taylor <RTaylor@gc.k12.va.us>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 9:22 AM
Subject: Statuary Hall Addition
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol,

I respectfully nominate Matoaka, the native woman more commonly known as Pocahontas, for addition to the Statuary Hall in the US Capitol in place of Robert E. Lee. Her short but powerful life deserves a place of honor as a Founding Mother. Why? In the place of one who made war, one who made peace. In the place of one who fought to keep a people subjugated, one who welcomed all people. In the place

of one who separated enslaved families, one who made went to great lengths to protect family. Without Matoaka's support, ambassadorship, and peaceful influence, the Jamestown colony would not have survived; and if so, then America itself may not have been born. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Taylor
Gifted Resource Teacher, GCPS
rtaylor@gc.k12.va.us
<http://gets.gc.k12.va.us>

From: <gbc82abnvn@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 11:50 AM
Subject: George C. Marshall
To: uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov <uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Sir or Madam: I nominate George C. Marshall for the capitol statue. He not only was a great man, he saved tens of thousands of American lives in WWII with his excellent leadership. He also saved hundreds of thousands of lives in Western Europe after the war with the Marshall Plan.

Respectfully yours,

Richard F. O'Hare
4075 Old River Trail
Powhatan, VA 23139-4112

From: Haines, Howard B. <Howard.B.Haines@saic.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 1:59 PM
Subject: Robert E. Lee Statue in US Capitol
To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

Kindly consider Walter Reed, a physician, and humanitarian who has done so much for mankind as a replacement for Robert E. Lee.

Thank you,

Howard

From: Ruth Roberts <ruthpeckroberts@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 2:31 PM
Subject: Barbara Johns
To: <USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov>

I strongly recommend a statue of Barbara Johns be erected in the Capitol to replace the one of Robert E. Lee.
