

From: Gerald Pops <gpops@wvu.edu>

Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:37 AM

Subject: Recommendation for Statue to Honor General George C. Marshall

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

To Governor Northam and members of the US Capitol Commission:

I am writing to urge that your commission recognize George C. Marshall by way of adding a monument, preferably a statue, in the Washington area. In November, 2016, I spoke at the Virginia Historical Society about General Marshall, and he has been the central object of my writing, teaching, and research over the past twenty years, so I believe I can speak to you with a deep knowledge of the man, his character, and his achievements.

Let me begin by saying that Marshall was a man who never sought fame or riches for himself. He believed that the nation owed him nothing besides his salary as a general, which he felt was more than adequate; he wanted neither a million dollars for his memoirs, nor the extending of a fifth star, nor to take credit for what people under his command had achieved, or even a lavish funeral like the one he was tasked to provide for General Pershing. He characteristically did not promote or give extraordinary awards to those who "blew their own horn."

Thus, it is hardly surprising that there is little in the way of public monuments for this most generous and humble heroic figure, whom Winston Churchill correctly labeled as the "organizer of victory" in World War II. After the war, at age 65, he answered his nation's call to continue serving by going to China as President Truman's special ambassador to attempt to negotiate peace between Nationalists and Communists. His diplomatic efforts in China led to his service as Secretary of State and his fathering of the European Recovery Program (the "Marshall Plan"), and finally, after his second retirement, he returned yet again to serve as president of the American Red Cross, and then as Secretary of Defense during the Korean conflict.

Marshall was a champion of promoting the rights and welfare of his troops, of all races and religions. Famous for his sense of fairness and for recognizing and trusting talented people, he insisted that the Army appoint qualified African Americans as officers in exact proportion to their percentage of the American population. Against political opposition, he insisted on forming and sending into combat African-American and Japanese-American units (the 92nd Infantry Division, the Tuskegee Airmen, the 441st Japanese-American Regiment). He was also responsible for the establishment of the Women's Army Corps (the "WACs"). He spawned a great number of great military leaders during and after his lifetime, including the likes of Generals

Bradley, Powell, Taylor, and Petraeus. His fathering of the Marshall Plan can be looked at as the key linchpin in forging the Atlantic Alliance and NATO and 75 years of relative global peace.

I hope that the commission agrees with me that it is time to bring additional attention to this great American through the creation of a grand monument to honor this great American who contributed so much to our nation.

Sincerely,

Gerald Pops,

Professor Emeritus, West Virginia University

Author: Ethical Leadership in Turbulent Times: Modeling the Public Career of George C. Marshall