

Terry Ward (Waynesboro, teacher, Albemarle County Public Schools) **nominating civil rights hero Barbara Rose Johns.**

Speaker press contact: [REDACTED]

Speaking at Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol (public hearing 11/17/2020)

Speaking re replace statue representing Virginia from Robert E. Lee to

**Barbara Rose Johns** AKA **Barbara Johns** AKA **Barbara Rose Johns Powell**

Barbara Rose Johns general info: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Rose\\_Johns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Rose_Johns)

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Speaker's event contact:

Stephanie Williams [REDACTED] @DHR [REDACTED]

Notes to event contact:

Speaker would appreciate having some other speakers' unclaimed minutes toward event end to refute the possible objection from Lee statue hardliners that replacing him as Virginia's representative "erases history."

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).

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Speaking text (3 min)

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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.

With advice from a teacher, 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."

Two 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 statuary 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.**

NOTE: power outage thus no internet at speaker's house at 8:47 a.m. onward, then Mc Donald's not allowing use of lobby for WiFi, third site no good --so sending "speech" by email

NOTE: Some details changed in post-event sent-by-email version removed with strikethrough text (example) and items redacted for online / FOIA privacy --public release of this version approved