

## Emails Posted Evening of December 15, 2020

From: <[lesjanka@aol.com](mailto:lesjanka@aol.com)>

Date: Fri, Dec 11, 2020 at 11:54 AM

Subject: Capitol Statue for George Marshall

To: [USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov) <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

To the Commission Members: I was pleased to read press reports of the multiple submissions supporting George Marshall for the replacement statue in the Capitol. I endorse those recommendations strongly.

I write today to suggest to the Commission to consider that June of 2022 will be the 75th anniversary of Marshall's speech at Harvard launching the Marshall Plan.

There will be many festivities in Washington DC celebrating that anniversary, and placing a Marshall statue in the Capitol recognizing our Nobel Peace Prize Laureate at that time would bring a lot of extra positive attention to the Commonwealth.

As a resident of Virginia for more than 50 years, and a longtime admirer of George Marshall, I strongly support such a move by the Commission.

With respect,

Les Janka  
230 Masons LN SE  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
703 909 6537

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From: **Rick Tatnall** <[rick@pocahontasproject.org](mailto:rick@pocahontasproject.org)>

Date: Sat, Dec 12, 2020 at 8:34 AM

Subject: Barbara Johns and John Mercer Langston should be disqualified - they lived most of their lives outside Virginia

To: [USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov) <[uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Dear US Capitol Commission Members,

Your decision involves choosing one Virginian from over 400 years of history to stand with George Washington in the US Capitol representing the Commonwealth of Virginia to the nation and the world. I am disappointed that Barbara Johns and John Mercer Langston are amongst the final five candidates as both of them spent the vast majority of their lives outside of Virginia which should disqualify them from consideration.

**Barbara Johns wasn't even born in Virginia** - she was born in New York City, moving to Prince Edward County at an early age. She moved out of Virginia soon after the Moton strike at age 16 to Montgomery Alabama, never to return to Virginia. She went to college in Atlanta and graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia in 1979, where she worked as a librarian until she died in 1991. Barbara Johns wasn't born in Virginia and more than 75% of her life was spent outside Virginia.

At least John Mercer Langston was born in Virginia (Louisa County), but he spent 85% of his life outside Virginia. He moved to Ohio at age four and did not return back to Virginia until he was 56 years old. He graduated from Oberlin College and passed the Ohio bar and **his house in Oberlin Ohio is a National Historic Landmark**. He even spent the last 6 years of his life practicing law in Washington DC, where he died and is buried. John Mercer Langston only spent 10 of his 68 years living in Virginia.

While both Johns and Langston had a positive impact on Virginia history, I think their brief lifetime connection to the Commonwealth should disqualify them for an honor of this magnitude representing Virginia to the nation and the world. Thank you for your time and consideration of this perspective.

Rick Tatnall  
City of Richmond, Virginia

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From: John Kern <[jjkern@aol.com](mailto:jjkern@aol.com)>  
Date: Sun, Dec 13, 2020 at 11:25 AM  
Subject: Replacement statue in the US capitol  
To: [USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov) <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Please select Barbara Rose Johns to replace the statue of Robert E Lee. The courage of a young black girl to fight to overthrow a racist system must be acknowledged. I cannot think of a better way than to place her statue in the US Capitol.

Thank you.

John Kern, Williamsburg. VA

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From: **Karen White** <[kewbel@gmail.com](mailto:kewbel@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, Dec 13, 2020 at 5:44 PM  
Subject: Replacement statue comment  
To: <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Commissioners:

I respectfully urge you to choose Barbara Rose Johns' image to replace the current confederate statue. Her courage and leadership was groundbreaking, especially for someone so young.

Sincerely,  
Karen White

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From: Cody Brown <[codybmai0@gmail.com](mailto:codybmai0@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, Dec 13, 2020 at 9:05 PM  
Subject: Pocahontas inspired us to found the Pocahontas Leadership Collaborative @ Gloucester High School  
To: <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>  
Cc: Jalen Pryor <[jalennpryor@gmail.com](mailto:jalennpryor@gmail.com)>

Dear US Capitol Commission Members,

We, Cody Brown and Jalen Pryor, seniors at Gloucester High School in Gloucester Virginia, want to express our support for a Pocahontas statue. We believe she embodies the powerful spirit of unity, which is a societal attribute we are striving for each and every day. Using her as a guide, we were inspired to create the Pocahontas Leadership Collaborative at our high school in order to not only better our community through Pocahontas Gardens, but also lead others on our quest for societal unity. Pocahontas was essentially the key to the creation of our country, and we believe she should stand tall in the US Capitol as a Virginian and leader of our nation. She brought together two different worlds and was a catalyst for the future of America.

Thank you for your time and consideration in regards to all nominations. We hope you can see our support for Pocahontas and choose her to replace Robert E. Lee.

Cody Brown & Jalen Pryor, Founders of the Pocahontas Leadership Collaborative at Gloucester High School.

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From: Gene Mims <[gene.mims@comcast.net](mailto:gene.mims@comcast.net)>  
Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 11:20 AM  
Subject: Statue replacement  
To: <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

It would appear to me that it has been determined to replace every statue with a person of color. That being said, of the five finalists I think that Maggie Lena Walker is the most deserving of that honor.

Know that racism does not know color.

Sincerely,

Gene D. Mims

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From: Cheryl Tweedy <[Cheryl.Tweedy@greif.com](mailto:Cheryl.Tweedy@greif.com)>  
Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 12:00 PM  
Subject: NO STATUES  
To: [DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov) <[DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov)>, [district22@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district22@senate.virginia.gov) <[district22@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district22@senate.virginia.gov)>, [uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov) <[uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

How about we save a bunch of money, to be specific \$500,000, and not put up any statue(s) at all!

“The commission’s proposed budget for replacing the statue comes to

nearly \$500,000 including \$27,000 for the artist selection process, \$350,000 for the artist's work process, \$42,000 for rigging, \$5,000 to transport the statue and \$75,000 for a ceremony and reception to unveil the statue at the U.S. Capitol."

How about we treat everyone exactly equal and not put any "one" on a pedestal!

"RICHMOND — Civil rights attorney Oliver Hill Sr., teenage civil rights pioneer Barbara Johns and Maggie Walker, the first African American woman to charter a bank in the U.S. are among the five finalists to replace Virginia's statue of Robert E. Lee at the U.S. Capitol."

Cheryl Tweedy

Appomattox VA 24522

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From: [tedmcgarry@juno.com](mailto:tedmcgarry@juno.com) <[tedmcgarry@juno.com](mailto:tedmcgarry@juno.com)>  
Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 5:40 PM  
Subject: Lee statue replacement-I support Maggie Walker  
To: <[uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

My ranking of the five finalists is as follows:

- Maggie Walker
- Pocahontas
- Oliver Hill
- John Langston
- Barbara Johns

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From: ALICE LYNCH <[malynch1963@verizon.net](mailto:malynch1963@verizon.net)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 11:51 AM  
Subject: Barbara Johns - letter in support  
To: Rr US Capitol Commission <[uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:uscapitolcommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Members of the Commission:

It is time to give Barbara Johns the recognition she deserves. Her early and consequential leadership in the civil rights movement deserves the national attention so long denied her and other Black women. Virginia should send her image to the US Capitol to claim her rightful place among the giants represented there.

Barbara Johns complained to her teacher about the deplorable conditions at her segregated school in Farmville, Virginia. Her teacher told her to "do something about it." And Barbara Johns did just that. Below are first-hand accounts taken from sources, primarily They Closed Their Schools by Robert Collins Smith.

Barbara Johns conceived of a plan for a student protest. She identified and recruited other student leaders, ultimately getting the support of some 450 students. (Some have given John Stokes equal

credit but he says that Barbara recruited both his sister and him.) Barbara Johns led the protest and implemented a plan to protect the adult teachers and administrators in her school from punishment. (Some said that her uncle helped her develop the plan but again, others were trying to diminish her central role and her ability.)

Barbara Johns launched the legal fight when she reached out to Spottswood Robinson and Oliver Hill, lawyers with the NAACP, to ask them to take the case of the students. Oliver Hill himself credited Barbara Johns with convincing them to hear the students' cause. He later lamented that he did not style the case they filed with Barbara's name as the lead plaintiff (which denied her deserved recognition) instead listing the student alphabetically.

Barbara Johns inspired the community when she spoke passionately to the assembled parents and members of the Black community to gain their support which Robinson and Hill required to take the case. Others spoke, but first-hand accounts state clearly that the adults present could not say "no" to Barbara Johns after her plea for their help.

The US Supreme Court voted unanimously to end segregated schools throughout the nation with the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education*. In order to clarify that segregation and discrimination were not limited to southern states, they selected the Topeka, Kansas case as the lead case. (Again depriving the Moton School students and Barbara their places in history.)

Barbara Johns was not born into a prominent family. She was not wealthy. She was not well-connected or the holder of advanced degrees. She had no power by position, or status, or rank. She was a citizen, a teenager who didn't even have the right to vote yet. Against all of these odds, this young woman showed courage, conviction, and a commitment to a worthy cause for which she risked her life (she had to be sent out of state because of racist death threats).

It is LONG past time to give this young, Black woman her rightful place in the halls of the US Capitol, the people's house. Nearly 70 years late - but better late than never. Please do not deny her again. Don't let others, who are deserving but had advantages of age, birthright, advanced degrees, and/or wealth, take a place that is perfect for her and her compelling story - a story that will inspire the next generation of young people, who visit our Capitol, to take up the mantle of positive civic activism.

I've included my remarks from the previous commission hearing. Thank you for your consideration of this submission in support of Barbara Johns.

Alice Lynch

Two steps forward, one step back. Two steps forward . . .

PS: Pocahontas is already represented in three places in the US

Capitol Rotunda including the monumental 12 x 18 foot painting,  
Baptism of Pocahontas.

[See [separately posted PDF for statement in support of Barbara Johns](#)]

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From: Steele, Carol <[csteele@gloucesterva.info](mailto:csteele@gloucesterva.info)>  
Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 10:39 PM  
Subject: US Capitol Statue  
To: [USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov) <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Commission Members:

Thank you for your work on the important and difficult task of recommending a replacement for the Robert E. Lee Statue in the U.S. Capitol.

As a resident of Gloucester, the home of Werowocomoco, as a County employee who has worked on numerous educational and commemorative events related to Pocahontas and finally as a member of The Pocahontas Project Board of Directors, I openly admit my bias that I believe Pocahontas would be the ideal replacement. I hope that you will also see the merits of selecting an indigenous woman who 400+ years later still stands as a symbol of peace and charity throughout the world. The actions of Pocahontas helped the settlers survive and brought years of peace between the tribes and the English. She shaped Virginia's and our Nation's history like no other and her legacy is still making a positive impact today.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.  
Carol

Carol Steele

Interim Deputy County Administrator

6489 Main Street

Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-4042

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From: David W <[wrenndavid@gmail.com](mailto:wrenndavid@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 10:51 AM  
Subject: public comment Dec. 15 meeting - John Mercer Langston  
To: <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Dear Commissioners:

I urge you to recommend to the General Assembly that a statue of John Mercer Langston replace that of Robert E. Lee in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the United States Capitol.

Reading \*From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol; Or, The First and Only Negro Representative in Congress from the Old Dominion, by John Mercer Langston, published in 1894, it is evident that reasons abound why this accomplished Virginia citizen, a man of historic renown and distinguished civil service, should be commemorated in this manner.

While an argument can be made that any autobiography has a self-serving element, the many and varied accomplishments of John Mercer Langston are well documented over a wide-ranging number of respected sources. Despite that, widespread knowledge of Mercer's important contributions to the United States is sadly lacking. That can and should be changed.

The time is right to return John Mercer Langston to our nation's capital in this commemorative role that will serve to enlighten and inspire citizens for years to come.

Shine the brightest light possible on John Mercer Langston and his exemplary model of citizenship and advocacy for forward progress, an apt choice in which Virginians can take pride.

Thank you for your good work and considering my comments.

Respectfully,

David S. Wrenn

\* digital location:

[https://books.google.com/books/about/From\\_the\\_Virginia\\_Plantation\\_to\\_the\\_Nati.html?id=Ro8hAAAAMAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/From_the_Virginia_Plantation_to_the_Nati.html?id=Ro8hAAAAMAAJ)

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**Added Dec. 16**

From: Michael R. Huppert <[hupperts3@gmail.com](mailto:hupperts3@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 1:51 PM

Subject: Recommendation

To: USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov <[USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:USCapitolCommission@dhr.virginia.gov)>

Dear Commission,

I submitted Admiral Richard Byrd as a candidate to replace Robert E. Lee. However, I do not see it in the report of e-mail suggestions on your website.

Please let me know that this e-mail suggestion was indeed shared with the committee.

Thank you.

Michael R. Huppert