

From: Graham Patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 12:25 AM
To: Council
Subject: narrative

I am 66 year old male who grew up in Charlottesville and have roots that go back to the 1680's to Virginia and Albemarle County. My ancestors once owned Colle just down the road from Monticello. My great grandfather his brother and my great grandmother's brother fought for the freedom to establish a new country that created a constitution that reflected the USA constitution and intended to follow and live by its guidelines unlike the traitor A. Lincoln who conducted war on his own people and utilized methods not used again until Hitler and the Nazis leashed total war on the Europe and the USA. By the way he freed no slaves, supported the transfer of "Negroes" back to Africa and supported legislation that prevented all blacks both free and slave from either entering or staying more than 10 days in states such as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other western states. Lincoln and the Republican party that controlled congress in 1860-1861 passed the Corwin Amendment to the Constitution that would have permanently established slavery into perpetuity with no way for any subsequent legislation to amend it. Most Northerners and most Republicans and even most Abolitionist despised and found any association with "Negroes" disdainful or abhorrent. Mostly to the point the war was not about slavery but economic in nature. To celebrate and memorialize Lee, Jackson and other important heroes from the South/Confederacy has nothing to do with approving of slavery. To attempt to crush and eliminate the remembrance of our region's truly great men (by any standards) is short sighted and petty. Should we eliminate the name of Brown from Brown University or tear down Fanuil Hall as these gentlemen made the bulk of their fortunes from the buying and delivery of slaves from Africa.

If you would like to read some history not prejudiced by promoters and worshipers of Lincoln that come out of Harvard and Yale you might learn a great deal by reading "How the North Promoted, Prolonged and Profited from Slavery", "The Un-Civil War" (Shattering the Historical Myths) and a recent book just published entitled "Slavery Was Not the Cause of the War Between the States by Gene Kizer, Jr. The first two books mentioned were written by Farrow, Lang and Frank and Leonard Scruggs respectively.

I strongly suggest that you control the urge to implement political correctness on all the persons in Charlottesville, those living and who have since passed away.

I remain,
Graham Benton Patterson Jr.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
"the unreconstructed rebel"

From: Jordan McNeish [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 10:42 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Charlottesville City Council,

I'm writing you about the proposal to end the celebration of Lee-Jackson day. which I fully support.

I have considered Virginia my home since I have been capable of forming memories. I LOVE this state. I was born in New Jersey, to parents who were raised in that state. My ENTIRE extended family has since moved to Virginia, and no one seems to regret the decision to relocate. Because of my families nostalgia for the New Jersey, I was reluctant to identify as a Southerner, but have since realized that I would be disingenuous were I to identify otherwise.

I don't recall the first time I was told about the American Civil War, but I'm fairly certain that it was framed as a battle between 'good' and 'evil'. I believed that people who fought for the South were greedy slaveholders, defending their right to enslave others. I thought that people who fought for the North were abolitionists, who wouldn't relent until the last slave had been freed.

Now, I recognize the indifference many 19th-century Northerners held to the issue of slavery. I realize that most people who fought for the South didn't hold slaves. However, I am also able to see that the political motives behind the war had a whole hell of a lot to do with slavery. Secession was a knee-jerk reaction to Lincoln's election - on an anti-slavery expansion platform. And so the war began.

As a city, we can choose to honor our state's heroes by instating holidays and installing statues. While the Civil War may be popularly misunderstood, I think we can (mostly) agree that the defense of slavery was probably not the most honorable of causes. Surely, there are people from Charlottesville who could be memorialized for fighting fascism, or advancing medicine.

When we look at our statues, we see Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, who fought on the side of a war that preferred the expansion of slavery. We see Lewis and Clark, posing in front of a cowering Sacajawea. We have holidays that honor Southern Generals. We recognize people who worked hard for oppression.

We declined to name the street where Sally Hemmings may be buried underneath a hotel after her.

We praise Jefferson (Remorseless slave-owner), lament the former slave market (Court Square), and continue to honor folks who stood on the wrong side of history.

I love this town, and I am a proud Southerner, but how the hell can we continue to be so backwards? Thanks for your consideration of this important issue.

Jordan McNeish
[REDACTED]

From: Brenda Lambert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 9:19 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Dear City Councilors,

We have been city residents for over 30 years, and are both life time southerners (when my parents moved here from Mississippi, they irritated locals by saying things like, "down south we never had weather like this....") That being said, we would love to see the elimination of Lee-Jackson Day and definitely would like to see the city discontinue recognizing it as a holiday. We would further like to suggest those confederate statues be moved to Foxfield...the horses really are beautiful.

Brenda Lambert & Jim Shea

From: Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 7:25 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day Celebration

Dear Council Members,

I feel that Lee-Jackson Day celebrates a shameful time in Virginia's history and should no longer be commemorated.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Charles Mathewes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 6:50 PM
To: Council
Cc: Charles Mathewes
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Hello. My name is Charles Mathewes. My earliest known ancestor on these shores, Captain Anthony Mathewes, arrived in Charleston, in what was then the Carolina colony, in 1681. Much of my family has lived in the South ever since then, and while I was born and raised in the North, I have lived here for longer than I have lived anywhere else, and I plan on staying. I have ancestors who have fought in every war this nation fought through Vietnam. I and my family live in Albemarle County, but I thought I would let you all know my thoughts about Lee-Jackson Day.

I think we should no longer celebrate Lee-Jackson Day. It is long past time that this celebration of slaveholders, and defenders of slavery, ends. I understand that there are those among us who feel that Lee and Jackson are heroes. I do not agree with that. They were, at best, brave and intelligent men whose judgment was horrifically wrong. But others were braver, and just as intelligent, and had better judgment.

Every day Charlottesville keeps "Lee-Jackson Day" on the books is further evidence that we have not learned the lessons of our history. And when Charlottesville takes it off the calendar, it will signal a further, if small, step, towards an honest reckoning with our history.

Yours respectfully, Charles Mathewes

From: bekah saxon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:47 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee Jackson Day

Dear Councilors,

As a long time resident of Charlottesville, I have read the background information provided on the issue of Lee-Jackson Day. I strongly support removing it from the list of city holidays. The celebration of Lee-Jackson Day is in opposition to Charlottesville's core values and strategic initiatives, specifically related to building a community of mutual respect.

As you move away from Lee-Jackson Day, I do not support reducing the compensation and benefits of city employees, and feel strongly that you must replace the former paid holiday with another one. Of the three proposals listed (Veteran's Day, day before Thanksgiving, day after Christmas), only one has true community impact, and therefore I do not recommend the addition of Veteran's Day to the official holidays for the city. It would add inconvenience to city residents, and does not provide employees with the same type of long weekend they currently enjoy during Lee-Jackson Day.

As an advocate for public sector employees, I feel that whenever possible, employees should be involved in these types of decisions. I think department heads and directors could easily ask their teams about whether the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the Day after Christmas are preferable.

A third option that would not impact the general public in any significant way would be to allow employees to each take their birthday as a paid holiday.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Lee-Jackson Day, and thank you for the stated consideration of the impact on your employees.

Bekah Saxon

From: LTC Jesse L. Harrup, Jr. / Virginia Defense Force/Deputy Garrison Commander
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:16 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Charlottesville City Councilors,

I have just learned there will be a public hearing this Monday night in Charlottesville, Virginia, to consider removing the Lee-Jackson holiday as an official holiday in the City.

I am very opposed to what I feel is a basic political "pandering" action.

1) This holiday honors two AMERICAN VETERANS. Both men served both the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. To deny them the honor and remembrance they deserve is to insult and dishonor ALL Veterans.

2) PRECEDENCE: The holiday is recognized as a state holiday by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a proclamation is issued each year by the Governor, including current Governor, Terry McAullife:
<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/proclamation/lee-jackson-day/>

3) Any effort to remove the holiday will only cause division and strife where none existed. As it is, the holiday is inclusive to all citizens. This move serves to exclude and discriminate against citizens of Confederate ancestry.

Please keep this holiday recognized for these reasons.

Thank you.

V/r,

JESSE L. HARRUP, JR.

[REDACTED]
Colonial Heights, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Emory, Bill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Council

Dear Council,

On my mom's side of the family one of the people in the Civil War was a VMI student at the battle of New Market. One of my dad's people was in the XIX Corps, with black soldiers, fighting for the Union.

History can be learned from if it is remembered.

I support discontinuing the City's observance of Lee-Jackson Day and I support eliminating the paid holiday. Please consider using the dollars recouped for improvements to the commons, the shared right of way. Improve our place through street profile changes and plantings that encourage multi-modal use of our shared area.

Thanks for your service,

Bill Emory

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[REDACTED]

From: John McAlister [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 12:19 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Holiday

The Lee-Jackson Holiday honors two AMERICAN VETERANS. Both men served both the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. To deny them the honor and remembrance they deserve is to insult and dishonor ALL Veterans. As a person now living in Ohio, who's ancestors come from Virginia, I consider these two men great American veterans who deserve the credit and honor they have received for all these years and into the future.



John McAlister
Columbus, OH
[REDACTED]

From: Pete Armetta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Why the City of Charlottesville still closes and pays its employees to commemorate Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson is beyond me. These confederate heroes are already paid tribute in prominent statues in town. The city ought to follow the lead of other cities in Virginia and make this an "unofficial" holiday- not by spending taxpayer money paying city employees to have the day off!

With all the strides in civil rights and the need for continued work for unity and race relations in this city, a government-sanctioned celebration of civil war heroes is antiquated and out of touch.

Pete Armetta

[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Keller, Genevieve [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 9:39 AM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Dear Mayor and Council,

As a historian by both education and practice, I would like to suggest designating either the Friday before Martin Luther King Day in January or the Friday before Presidents' Day as Local History Day. I believe that it is a good thing to encourage our citizens—old and young and in-between—to reflect on our community's past and how the past still influences us today. I would envision this as a day that encourages inquiry and participation into the trends and events of our past and not a day of wreath laying and honoring war dead—it would be a day for all and not a day to remember more “dead white men” whose actions and lives may not resonate with the lives and concerns of our population today.

A four-day weekend in the winter is a mighty (and welcome) thing for many—it could be reinvented in a way that is inclusive and accessible to all our citizens.

While we are at it, why not also observe (but not as a day-off holiday) the International Women's Day each March 8, a day marked by the UN since 1975? Progress for women is progress for all. When women do well, our families and our children thrive. That is an especially good thing.

Gennie

Genevieve Keller
[REDACTED]

From: Diana Filipi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:28 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Holiday

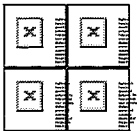
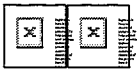
Hello City Council members,

My family lives in [REDACTED] Charlottesville and we are raising 3 children here. I do not think it is appropriate to celebrate Lee-Jackson day as a holiday. We want racial tensions to subside and this holiday does nothing to further that goal. I ask you to remove the holiday from our Charlottesville calendar.

Diana Filipi

[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]

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From: Paula Damgaard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:28 PM
To: Council
Subject: re: Citizen Comment

Please remove Lee-Jackson Day. There are many more deserving people we should be honoring. Louis Allen for example.

Paula Damgaard
[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]

From: Jeff Yoest [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 7:18 PM
To: Council
Subject: Ending Lee-Jackson Day Observation

Dear Council,

I've read recently of this proposal.... to end a long tradition in Charlottesville to honor two of its famous sons by holding a "public hearing" to consider doing away with this holiday.

As history is just nothing but old politics (and politics just future history), it is natural that all Americans look at their past with differing viewpoints, especially based on who we are as individuals. Whites, African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, all have different histories and experiences, so naturally, the prism of history breaks into various interpretations the events that shaped our country. Our Civil War, even a century and a half past, is still controversial, as our ancestors were all invested in the conflict in different ways.

Certainly, as some have said, Lee and Jackson "do not represent them", and perhaps they think that these remarkable Confederate figures should not represent Charlottesville, either. While true for some, that opinion, I'm sure, is not universal. Many are very proud of Lee and Jackson, and NOT because they hold any hidden sympathy for the institution of slavery, which has, in a very simplistic manner, tainted anything having to do with the South and the soldiers who fought in that great conflict.

There are many monuments, holidays, celebrations and remembrances that don't represent ME. But I don't wish to remove those symbols and traditions that are so important and mean so much to others. I have my own sense of history and what is important, and I respect that others do to, even if it doesn't coincide with my priorities.

The service group Rotary, has the four way test:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to ALL Concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Think about this yardstick of behavior before before Charlottesville VIRGINIA chooses to sweep Generals Lee and Jackson into the dustbin of history. "Tolerance and diversity" get a lot of lip service, but should be enjoyed by all. If we all start picking away at each other's history, we further become a people divided.

Jeffrey P. Yoest
Westerville, Ohio
Great-great grandson of a Confederate soldier

From: Smith, Ann J. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:47 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Holiday

Eventhough, we are only an hour west of the former capital of the Confederacy, it is time to put to rest that "ugly" time in our state's history. As we begin this new year, we as a community have an opportunity to make a positive statement of understanding to all those whose ancestors were affected by the notion of bondage and human slavery. Currently, we continue to be outraged by the idea of human slavery and trafficking in other areas of our nation and world and it only makes sense to end the celebration and honor of these two Confederate heroes who believed and fought for the right to continue to keep people enslaved for financial gains.

I strongly urge the City Council of Charlottesville to end the celebration of such a negative part of the history of our state and nation.

Sincerely,
Ann Smith
Vice-Chair, Human Rights Commission.

Sent from my iPad

From: Boykin, Olivia M. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day response

It has taken me a while to respond to this question because it angered me to know the City is discussing this. This day is something that the Commonwealth of Virginia is still celebrating with some business, companies, government offices etc. I do know they did allow each governing body to decide what days their employees wanted to use as holidays, especially if you are allowed only so many holidays in a year. And that is why you have so many governing bodies celebrate differently.

This is a day that offend Black American and yet it still comes up in discussion. What I would suggest for the City of Charlottesville is to allow all city employees to weight in on this matter -- it affect them more so. It won't surprise me with the outcome, but I think the individuals it will affect need to have some say in what days they would like to celebrate, as well as, if it is a paid holiday.

If my voice spoke for ALL Black Americans for the City of Charlottesville and the Commonwealth of Virginia, I would say "No" Lee-Jackson Day for the City of Charlottesville or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Olivia Boykin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Elizabeth Birdsall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:57 AM
To: Council
Subject: comment RE tonight's hearing on the Lee-Jackson holiday

Esteemed Members of the Council:

As the local (I live in Albemarle county) descendent of a Charlottesville family of enslavers (the original owners of Social Hall off Lee Park), including at least one Confederate officer, I write to implore the Council to eliminate Lee-Jackson Day as a holiday.

I understand that there are arguments being made in favor of continuing to celebrate the Lee-Jackson holiday, and that the most compelling of these rest on the premise that we must remember our history. My impassioned riposte to that position is that eliminating the holiday is NOT commensurate with forgetting our history. In fact it's just the opposite. It's simply one small step towards taking a clear-eyed view at how-we-as-a community have been complicit in covering up the truth of our past by celebrating the lives of these defeated generals, and in so doing have attenuated slavery's traumatic and tragic legacy. If we could replace Lee-Jackson Day with a day of education/reflection that tells the TRUE history of the Civil War, that would be awesome. And unlikely. So I'm not suggesting the Council take that on at this time. But celebrating Lee-Jackson day is ACTIVE participation in perpetuating the Southern myth that the "war between the States" or the "late unpleasantness" or whatever other sad, distancing euphemism is chosen by "Lost Cause" believers was about anything other than trying to defend our nation's founding tragedy (IE Slavery). Dedicating a day to bolstering the Lost Cause myth is not commensurate with moving forward into the future by looking honestly at our past. And we need to be doing the latter. Please, C-ville City Council, stop celebrating Lee-Jackson Day (and start finding ways to get our community to know its real history)!

I thank you all for your service and congratulate you for taking on this important topic.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Birdsall

--
Elizabeth C Birdsall
[REDACTED]

From: Rice, Paige [ricep@charlottesville.org]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Council
Subject: re: Online Public Matters Response

Submission information

Submitter DB ID : 48829
Submitter's language : Default language
IP address : 70.192.213.20
Time to take the survey : 34 min. , 56 sec.
Submission recorded on : 2/2/2015 10:11:24 AM

Survey answers

Please use this area to comment on issues or ask questions that you would like City Council to address.

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Valri Purdy. I am from the state of Oregon, born and raised. I know of your city because I'm a long haul truck driver. I have always been interested in the War Between the States. Learning facts is what I thrive on.

I believe eliminating Lee/Jackson day would be a mistake. People who refuse to accept that it is entirely possible to admire leaders of the Confederacy as well as Martin Luther King are willfully and dangerously ignorant.

Hiding from the past changes nothing. Twisting it into something unrecognizable is an insult to those who gave their lives on both sides of the battle.
The north was right about one single subject of the war and the south was wrong....slavery.

Lincoln's own words verify slavery was not his motive. Hundreds of thousands died, property destroyed, generations of work destroyed. For what purpose?

Now more and more places are destroying memorials. It changes nothing. The facts are the facts. The truth is the truth.

This is simply another step in a long process of erasing history. Well I as a Yankee who searches endlessly for truth, good, bad, ugly and indifferent, will not be silenced. I will not be detoured. I will never give up. No, I am not some individual who goes around chanting "the South shall rise again". We are one country. One people. Attempting to erase history insults everyone who fought and/or died.

I would ask that the truth be told. The entire truth. Do not hide it, do not be ashamed. We are not responsible for the actions of others, especially hundreds of years before we were born. We are responsible however, for allowing something similar to happen now.

Look for the parallels. You will see them.

Thank you for your time.

Valri Purdy
Independent long haul trucker

From: Raleigh Boaze [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 6:45 PM
To: Council

Please do not desecrate Confederate History by removing Lee/Jackson Day as a holiday.
If you want to have City Hall open on Lee/Jackson Day, by all means do so.
Thank you.

Regards,
Raleigh Boaze
Writer, Photographer, Historian

From: Tom Kochka [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 6:41 PM
To: Council
Subject: Jackson-Lee day

I find the fact that we glorify men who fought to keep the ability to enslave other human beings repulsive.

Please continue to show the progressive leadership that you have demonstrated in the past and vote to no longer honor that "holiday"

Thank you,

Tom Kochka

Sent from my iPad

From: Bill & Linda Atwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 4:51 PM
To: Council
Subject: Ending Lee/Jackson Day Observation

To the Charlottesville City Council,

My comments are for your Public Hearing on February 2, 2015, subject listed above.

General Lee and General Jackson go to the very heart of Virginia & the City of Charlottesville. For you to end the Lee/Jackson Day Observation goes against everything that Virginia stands for.

I have many ancestors who fought for Virginia in the Confederacy. Some even died for Virginia. One of my Great Great Grandfathers is buried in an unmarked grave in Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. How can any of you say that isn't relevant now? Tell him that...he left behind a wife & 3 children because he thought his State, Virginia, was under seige & he wanted to protect it. He fought under General Lee.

You, the Charlottesville City Council, must think beyond yourselves or the people who currently live in Charlottesville. You are where you are today because of people like my Great Great Grandfather. To dishonor him or General Lee or General Jackson by removing their statues or observances that were in place before you became a Council Member is akin to a self-righteous act. History is the backbone of our Country. Our children are not schooled in our history like they should be. Now you want to take away more of their history.

If you decide to end your Lee/Jackson Day Observance, a day will come when others like you will want to remove observances like MLK Day because he isn't relevant anymore. You cannot erase our past, but you can protect it like my Great Great Grandfather tried to do. Please stop & think about what you are really doing before you decide to bury more of Virginia's history.

In Honor of Old Virginia,
Linda Kelly Atwell
Maryland

From: Gillian Holaday Blackburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

Dear Town Council,

I read with great concern Jaclyn Piermarini's article regarding discontinuing Lee-Jackson Day. Does every celebration have to represent the sentiments of all of the citizens? I think not. So many of your citizens have deep ties to not only the South but to Lee and Jackson themselves. Perhaps some of the council members families' have not been in this country for more than a couple of generations and therefore cannot understand the ties that the citizens have to these two much beloved men.

Not all celebrations resonate for all people; many do not celebrate Christmas, many do not even know how or when the 4th of July was born, and there are those who do not pay much attention to holidays like Martin Luther King Day, or Labor Day. So many millions in our country go through Memorial Day without having had one relative fight or serve in any of our wars or conflicts. When I was a child, Lincoln's birthday was celebrated and that must have offended many people with Southern ties to our antebellum past.

Why do we continually rewrite history to please those who don't agree or who do not have ties to these events that all Americans should appreciate? You cannot imagine how offensive this can be to those whose relatives fought with, or knew these most beloved men from our collective past. They were great men, who served on the losing side-for right or wrong-but they still served their fellow Virginians and for this, I will never forget them, nor will many many more.

I respectfully urge you to not discontinue Lee-Jackson Day celebrations.

I am,

Respectfully,

Gillian Blackburn

a daughter of the South

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Council
Subject: (no subject)

This holiday honors two AMERICAN VETERANS. Both men served both the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. To deny them the honor and remembrance they deserve is to insult and dishonor ALL Veterans.

2) **PRECEDENCE:** The holiday is recognized as a state holiday by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a proclamation is issued each year by the Governor, including current Governor, Terry McAullife:

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/proclamation/lee-jackson-day/>

3) Any effort to remove the holiday will only cause division and strife where none existed. As it is, the holiday is inclusive to all citizens. This move serves to exclude and discriminate against citizens of Confederate ancestry.

Mr. Mrs James Ligon [REDACTED] North Chesterfield , Virginia

[REDACTED]

From: peggy mcCauley [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 7:32 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Day

I saw on TV that you're thinking of doing away with the Lee-Jackson Day holiday. Ms. Szakos stated that it's a confederate holiday and not for her. Well I do take offense to that. Maybe Ms. Szakos isn't from the South, but I am a Charlottesville native and frankly I am tired of the Northerners coming here trying to change everything, including our history. No one from the South is proud of the Civil War. It happened, and no matter what you do, you cannot change history! Why is MLK day more important? Maybe because he's black, but skin color doesn't matter. He made history as well as Lee and Jackson did, so why is his holiday important and Lee and Jackson's isn't? Maybe the City should be more fair in their dealings with the black/white issues! White people DO have a place in history too! I sincerely hope you will 're-think this matter and let it alone!!

From: Ken Minton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Council
Subject: Lee-Jackson Holiday

Dear Charlottesville Council Members

As a sometime historian, with ancestors who fought on both sides during the War Between the States, I find it very disheartening this trend to "trash" anything to do with the Confederate States of America and those who fought for its independence. My Kentucky ancestors who fought for the Union were not fighting to end slavery. They were fighting to maintain the Union. My Kentucky and Tennessee ancestors who fought (and in some cases died) for the Confederacy were not fighting in the cause of slavery. They were fighting to protect their homes and for Southern independence. As such, I honor my ancestors who fought honorably on both sides of this unfortunate war. To tear down monuments, rename parks, remove flags and paintings, and take away holidays to honor either side is an abomination.

I'm reminded of my relatives who in World War II fought for the United States, Great Britain, and yes, Germany. My father-in-law was drafted into the Germany Army and to refuse was to be executed or be sent to a concentration camp. His family members would also have been punished. Both my father, a US Army veteran of WW2, and my father-in-law met before their deaths. They became friends and saluted each other's service, none of which involved criminal activity by either. We should honor as well, our ancestors and others who fought honorably in our country's most deadly war.

Sincerely,
Kenneth (Ken) Minton, Ed.D
US Army (Ret. CW3)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 7:50 AM
To: Council
Subject: On the Agenda for Tonight Why we should observe Lee-Jackson Day

Dear Mayor Hula, Vice Mayor Smith and Members of the Council

Kristin Szakos' suggestion to end observance of Lee-Jackson Day in Charlottesville, which the Council is slated to discuss this evening, is, I suggest, ill-considered.

Why?

Why should Charlottesville continue to especially honor Robert E. Lee?

President Eisenhower – the President who initiated forced de-segregation in America's schools – when asked why he had a portrait of Lee as one of the four Great Americans portraits in his office, replied in part: "General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation...He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America... Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history...Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in **his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over***, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained..."

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

*emphasis mine : i.e. his time as President of Washington College.

President Theodore Roosevelt described General Robert E. Lee as *"the very greatest of all the great captains that the English-speaking peoples have brought forth."*

Prime Minister Winston Churchill wrote of Lee: *"His noble presence and gentle, kindly manner were sustained by religious faith and an exalted character."*

Lee, by the way, freed the family slaves several years before the Civil War. His free black servants proudly stayed with him through the War.

Against great opposition, Lee was the major power behind allowing black slaves to win their freedom by serving as full soldiers in the Confederate Army, exactly as George Washington's army had done.

And 'Stonewall' Jackson?

Not only is he one of America's most famous military figures, Jackson was deeply religious and included his black servants in the family devotions, to which other blacks were invited. He established a Sunday-school class for blacks in 1855 so they could read the Holy Scriptures. He also financially and personally supported the black Baptist Church in Lexington in their teaching of reading and writing to black slaves. This was against the law in Virginia. He remained connected to the Church throughout the War. The Church sent a delegation of mourners to the General's funeral and made a contribution to the memorial that now stands over his grave.

Finally, we should listen to America's great African-American Educator, **Booker T. Washington**, who wrote in 1910: *"The first white people in America, certainly the first in the South to exhibit their interest in the reaching of the Negro and saving his soul through the medium of the Sunday-school were Robert E. Lee and 'Stonewall Jackson.' ... Where Robert E. Lee and 'Stonewall' Jackson have led in the redemption of the Negro through the Sunday-school, the rest of us can afford to follow."*

On Page 59 of the Council Book about this issue on today's Agenda, under Community of Mutual Respect, it states that: *"In all endeavors, the City of Charlottesville is committed to racial and cultural diversity, inclusion, racial reconciliation, economic justice, and equity. As a result, every citizen is respected. Interactions among city leaders, city employees and the public are respectful, unbiased, and without prejudice."*

If anyone of the Pre-Civil War, Civil War and Post-Civil War era represents these values, it is these two men. Especially this aspect of their character and their deeds deserve our special respect.

Chris McLarren
Berlin, Germany

From: John Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 9:41 AM
To: Rice, Paige
Subject: FW: Objection to proposal to drop Lee-Jackson Day.

Ms. Paige Rice, Clerk of the Council

Please see that the members of the Council see this before their meeting. I tried to email them directly but it could not be delivered

thank you

John Howard Carpenter

From: [REDACTED]
To: hujai@comcast.net; dsmith@charlottesville.org; k.szakos@embarqmail.com; kgalvin@charlottesville.org; bfenwick@charlottesville.org
Subject: Objection to proposal to drop Lee-Jackson Day.
Date: Sun, 1 Feb 2015 23:18:05 -0500

Attn: Charlottesville City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen

I was very sorry to hear that the Charlottesville City Council is planning to vote on dropping Lee-Jackson Day. To discontinue a day set aside for the observance of these two great men would be a travesty and an insult to the descendants of the brave men and women of Confederate Heritage, Virginia and the whole of the South. Gen Lee and Gen Jackson were both of the highest moral fiber and were men of the highest integrity and deserve a day set aside for them.

Gen Robert E. Lee and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson were two men that are the Heroes of so many residents of the State of Virginia and the South, and to consider dropping this Day would be insulting and divisive. This kind of thinking lacks understanding and is political correctness taken to the extreme. I believe that everyone's heritage should be respected and they should have the occasion to embrace it.

I had read that one member felt that Lee-Jackson Day takes away from Martin Luther King day. I take the opposite position. Martin Luther King day takes away from Lee-Jackson Day. So you see, it depends on your viewpoint, and we are entitled to our respect and devotion to our heritage and it's heroes, statues and principals.

I also regrettably read that a member of the Council did not feel the day represents the citizens. This is WRONG. You have a duty to represent all members of the community.

If folks can not understand our desire to treasure, observe, and preserve our heritage and it's cause, then it is probably due to a lack of understanding of history or a desire to do away with everything pertaining to the Confederacy to further a personal or political agenda.

I always attend a ceremony on Lee-Jackson Day to honor these two great men. My Great-grandfather and

Great uncle rode with Co. "C", 4th Virginia Cavalry and I am very proud of that fact. I treasure their memory.

Therefore, I ask that you vote to retain and maintain this important Day. To do less would be to disregard the rights of a large part of the population.

John Howard Carpenter

A proud Son of Confederate Veteran