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MONUMENT AVENUE'S LAST CONFEDERATE

LEE'S STAND ENDS



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH

A crane lifted the top part of the 12-ton statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue in Richmond on Wednesday after the statue was taken off its pedestal.

With the Lee monument dismantled, it's time to build a better Richmond

What was most surprising was how meekly Robert E. Lee surrendered.

Stonewall Jackson dug in deep before relinquishing his pedestal after a daylong siege.

OPINION On Wednesday, Lee bent to the will of construction workers in less than two hours — his statue harnessed and hoisted from its perch as the sun burst through an overcast sky.

The Confederate general will no longer cast his long shadow on Richmond's Monument Av-



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Editor's note

In June, Michael Paul Williams won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for his Times-Dispatch columns on last summer's protests and the removal of Confederate statues.

enue. But the ideology that erected his statue looms large in Richmond and beyond. You can see it in the attempts to keep Black people from voting in places like Georgia and Texas, and in the white supremacist impulses driving the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Even as workers cut Lee down to size, Richmond residents faced eviction proceedings in a downtown courthouse. Some of the protesters who fought to bring those monuments down remain traumatized

WILLIAMS, Page A5

Reactions

Political figures and Richmond-area residents reflect on history and Lee's removal. **Page A6**

Schapiro column

In Va.'s laws and the way its government works, monuments to the old status quo remain. **Page A19**

See more

Watch videos of the removal and reactions to it, and view dozens of additional photos at Richmond.com.

Removal of statue seen as a catalyst for change

Onlookers welcome progress, recognize work that remains

BY C. SUAREZ ROJAS, MEL LEONOR AND SABRINA MORENO
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Amanda Lynch's eyes welled with tears Wednesday morning as a crane heaved the 12-ton tribute to Robert E. Lee from the 40-foot pedestal where it stood over Monument Avenue for more than a century.

She felt weightless as the statue drifted from its base and the crowd around her started to cheer.

Her teenage daughter was part of the summer of protest last year that transformed the former capital of the Confederacy, compelling politicians to dismantle the monuments that many thought would outlast them.

"It almost felt like a pressure valve being released," she said of seeing the statue come down. "I really wish my grandparents were here

STATUE, Page A7

A News

Lotteries A2
Business A10

Nation & World A12

Obituaries A15
Opinions A18

Weather A20

B Sports
Baseball B4

Scoreboard B5

Marketplace B7
C This Weekend

Movies C2

Comics C5
TV / History C8

