

July 8, 2020 (Updated August 23, 2020)

So much has happened in the last month or so, both at the national level and at our university, that it is difficult to keep up with all of it, much less comprehend and respond to everything. We will be focusing here on developments at Washington and Lee, and posting items which pertain to the ever changing environment there. Most of you are aware of the various petitions and actions by the majority of the faculty and some alumni and students calling for a change to the name of Washington and Lee. Below you will find a copy of our response to all of this. We think that our position represents that of a vast majority of alumni, parents, and students taken together.

Under the "Letters" section of the website, we have posted a very strong letter from the vast majority of the emeritus trustees of Washington and Lee to the current Board of Trustees opposing a name change to the University. In addition, there are four extraordinary letters sent to the Board by other individuals regarding the importance of maintaining the name of Washington and Lee and preserving the history, values, and traditions of the university.

Under the "Articles" section, there is an essay by Garland Tucker, class of 1969, which was recently published in The National Review. There is also an article "Defending Lee" by Al Eckes, W&L class of 1964, accompanied by an addendum by Neely Young, class of 1966. Dr. Eckes has also produced a YouTube video on maintaining the name of the university which is available at the following link. <https://youtu.be/nKlrEzOuFIA>

We have provided a link to a balanced analysis of the issues at hand - <https://ringtumphi.net/5516/opinion/a-plea-for-civility/> - which was recently published in the student newspaper, The Ring Tum Phi. The authors merely ask for a balanced and civil discussion of the issue of a name change. Despite

this, some of the proponents of a name change have stated that civility must be done away with, and no discussion can be had on this issue.

We have also provided a link to a brief, inspiring video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvVxBStKOvY> - produced by the University about seven years ago. The video reminds us that we should always honor and respect the namesakes of our beloved university

Neely Young,

Editor, The Generals Redoubt