

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**Decommemorating Confederate Symbolism on Virginia Commonwealth University
Campuses**

WHEREAS, Virginia Commonwealth University (the "University") is the premier urban, public research university distinguished by its commitment to the intellectual and academic success of a diverse student body; research and discovery that advances knowledge, inspires creativity and improves human health; and the global engagement of students, faculty and staff that transforms lives and communities;

WHEREAS, The University's goal is to foster a commemorative landscape that reflects the University's core values of diversity and inclusion (where all people are valued and differences are recognized as an asset), freedom (striving for intellectual truth with responsibility and civility, and respecting the dignity of all individuals), integrity (adhering to the highest standards of honesty, respect, professionalism and scholarly ethics) and service (engaging in the application of learning and discovery to improve the human condition and support the public good at home and abroad);

WHEREAS, Virginia Commonwealth University (the "University") and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System combined is one of the largest employers in the Richmond, Virginia region with more than a third of their workforces being racial / ethnic minority; almost half of their 30,000 students, post-docs and residents being racial / ethnic minority; and with more than half of their patient population being racial / ethnic minority;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commonwealth University's Committee on Commemorations and Memorials (the "Committee" was created through the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors' (the "Board") Memorials and Commemorations policy, which states that all requests for memorials, commemoration and/or de-commemoration be submitted in writing to the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Board Liaison, who will refer the request to the Committee. The Committee shall make a recommendation to approve memorials, commemorations and de-commemorations to the President, who in turn shall make a recommendation to the Board.

WHEREAS, The Committee affirms to the President that more than three years of extensive study, expert analysis, community engagement, committee deliberation, and public comment has revealed that the dominance and presence of Confederate symbolism on our campuses runs counter to our university mission and core values related to diversity and inclusion, freedom, integrity and service;

WHEREAS, The Committee affirms to the President that existing Confederate commemorations on our campuses serve to legitimize an historical era, events, persons and places that are disruptive to the educational, healing and workplace experiences of our diverse population of students, patients and employees.

WHEREAS, The Committee affirms to the President that while many of the ex- or former Confederates represented in these plaques, portraits, statues and building names were complex people who existed within their particular historical contexts, their significant associations with the Confederacy and white supremacy during the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow eras prevail and as such their contributions cannot be extracted from the larger symbolic landscape of oppression.

WHEREAS, The Committee affirms to the President that allowing Confederate symbolism to remain on our campus sends a message to our community that honors a short-lived confederation of states that seceded from our country, the United States, expressly to preserve the abhorrent institution of slavery;

WHEREAS, The Committee does not seek to “erase history” but to remove Confederate symbolism from their honorific status on our campuses with care and the respect so as to afford opportunity to appropriately document, preserve and study;

WHEREAS, The University seeks a path forward to cultivate a welcoming, inclusive environment of creativity, learning, research and discovery for our entire community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors (the "Board") approves the decommemoration and removal of certain names from Virginia Commonwealth University buildings and associated places, to include Dooley (Dooley Hospital), Ginter (Ginter House), McGuire (McGuire Hall), Baruch (Baruch Auditorium), and Tompkins (Tompkins-McCaw Library); and to advance decommemoration processes, in accordance with applicable Virginia law on removal of art and changes to structures, for Confederate symbolism to include a plaque in the Egyptian Building, first floor lobby; plaque at the entrance to the Egyptian Building; plaque on the exterior of McGuire Hall in the southeast corner; bust of McGuire on the stairway in McGuire Hall; plaque inside of the Tompkins-McCaw Library; portrait of John Syng Dorsey Cullen in Tompkins-McCaw Library; Jefferson Davis Memorial Chapel inside of West Hospital; plaque honoring Davis in the Jefferson Davis Memorial Chapel; plaque acknowledging the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the Chapel; plaque acknowledging UDC president Kathryn Wittichen in the Chapel; Jefferson Davis Memorial Chapel plaque in lobby of West Hospital; and plaques on the front exterior of the MCV Alumni House; and to continue to work with the City of Richmond in the decommemoration of extant Confederate symbolism on or surrounding campuses that are associated with Howitzer, W.C. Wickham, Fitzhugh Lee and Joseph Bryan.