



Reasons for signing

See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).

 **Laura Smith**
2 years ago


Confederate symbols need to be removed from public schools everywhere

♡ 1 [Report](#)

 **Jennifer Anderson**
2 years ago


Mascots should unite, not divide the student body.

♡ 1 [Report](#)

 **Lisa Qualls**
2 years ago


Those who think it is not offensive are either very ignorant or very racist.

♡ 1 [Report](#)

 **Barbie Gallini**
2 years ago

As a resident of Henrico, I would like our schools to be more thoughtful about school names and mascots. Let's get rid of symbols of hate and racism.

♡ 1 [Report](#)

 **Tracy McNeish**
2 years ago

Conor, thank you for what you wrote and for creating this petition.

♡ 1 [Report](#)



Katie Tinkelman

2 years ago

It's time for a change

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Brooke Sindelar

2 years ago

I'm signing because we have come to far in social equality to still have discriminatory and hate-perpetuating names. Good luck

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Kelly O'Neill

2 years ago

Let's change it to something cool, eh?

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Dorothy Livick

2 years ago

DSF Class of '74

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Anne Seeman

2 years ago

I lived in Richmond in the 70's and am heartened to see the push to bring down the monuments of the Jim Crow era. It is time to stop glorifying the Lost Cause.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Lisa smith

2 years ago

I'm a graduate of DSF and I never liked The Rebel Maccott, myself. Having moved here from Delaware, not too far north from here even when I was young, I never understood why the South made such a big deal over a terrible war that they lost - felt like sore losers & kind of embarrassing to me. I... [Read more](#)

♡ 0

[Report](#)



frederic patrick

2 years ago

This farce! This charade! Have gone on 150 plus years too long! Now's the time to say: ENOUGH!!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Martin Segal

2 years ago

Long overdue.

Class of '76

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Margaret Seiler

2 years ago

My mother was good friends with Mary Tyler Freeman Cheek McClenahan, Douglas Freeman's daughter. I know she would approve of this petition!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Pamela Pack

2 years ago

Freeman grad and hated it for these reasons!!!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Leah Headings

2 years ago

I was a Freeman Rebel, but times have changed and inclusion and diversity are more important than a sad history.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Julian Jackson

2 years ago

Class of 1971, I hated the display of the Confederate flag then and protested against it, and the grey band and majorette uniforms, the playing of Dixie at pep rallies. I am even more against these symbols of oppression now that they have been resoundingly co-opted by white supremacists and... [Read more](#)

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Elizabeth Johnson

2 years ago

The mascot should better reflect both the name of the school and the spirit of the school. The school itself is uniquely situated in a diverse demographic. Our namesake was a historian, and I'm sure we can find a wealth of inspiration for a new mascot in examining the man DS Freeman. Freeman... [Read more](#)

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Darryl Addison
2 years ago

Loved my time at Freeman, but always had an ounce of discomfort w/ the mascot and confederate symbols. I don't think majority of my peers even thought about race/hate and just wanted to have pride in their school and mascot, but for some minorities it wasn't a symbol of inclusiveness... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Tim Williams
2 years ago

Crazy !!!!! Seriously focus on your education not the dang word rebel
Come on, that word does not effect you in no form way or fashion

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Julie Marshall
2 years ago

Love conquers hate and this is a way to be the change we wish to see in the world. I stand with and beside Conor, a courageous, kind, intelligent young man standing up to the symbols of hate, violence and ignorance.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Victoria Wright
2 years ago

why would we keep a racist mascot that's so rude and just stupid

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Elizabeth Peterson
2 years ago

It's high time!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Laura Borst
2 years ago

Although I usually like people who are or call themselves rebels, the way this word is used as a mascot name is supporting the Confederacy, which makes it seem to be like supporting slavery, and makes it seem to be more about authoritarianism than being a true rebel.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Gavin Lomax

2 years ago

It's about time for change

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Carolyn Grandis

2 years ago

Carolyn Grandis

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Julius Twyman

2 years ago

Facts this only right it's not about erasing history but just not supporting separatist ideals

♡ 1

[Report](#)



amanda burleigh

2 years ago

Good for you, Conor! You seem like such an inspiring young man. Stand strong in the knowledge that you are coming from a place of respect, dignity, and honor & do your best to ignore any ugliness that comes from those whose actions belie a different set of priorities. Thank you for taking... [Read more](#)

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Nakeja Smith

2 years ago

I hope they do change!! When I was a student there, I despised being considered a "Rebel" like WTF!!! Seriously think of the my history and how it was a spit in the face for me and my family that attended that racist fill school!! It was bad enough that some teachers were racist and on top of that... [Read more](#)

♡ 5

[Report](#)



Henry Lear

2 years ago

I was zoned to DSF and part of the reason I decided not to attend was the old and racist undertones of the moniker. Happy this is occurring.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Chris Maxwell

2 years ago

DSF alum ('89), never comfortable with the slavery-glorification imagery of the Rebel "mascot" (as if a person even qualifies as a mascot!)



Juliane Codd
2 years ago

Remove the rebels!

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Charles Rousseau
2 years ago

I loved my time at Freeman, and am very proud of where I come from. However, our mascot is a Confederate Rebel, and this must change. I totally reject the myth of a benevolent Confederacy, or that symbols of the Confederacy stand for a heritage that is somehow non-hateful. Among my... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Lanaya Burnette
2 years ago

We have far better parts of our past to cling to!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Beth Janus
2 years ago

I want my alma mater to be a place where everyone feels honored.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



kay alley
2 years ago

Because it's the right thing to do,

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Madeleine Garrigue
2 years ago

I would like for there to be peace in the world. Sure, that's a hard thing to attain. With every small action, the goodness in Richmond piles up and brings us closer to peace. "Virginia is made for lovers" is a prime example of what we should strive to be. I was a teacher aide in high school and my senior... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Maureen McSweeney
2 years ago

Let's fan the flames for everyone to feel good about who they are.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Margaret Hamel

2 years ago

I'm signing because I support the school for its incredible teachers, staff, and students. This community isn't represented by this antiquated mascot. Freeman students, many of whom are in the leadership center, are preparing to lead and change the world in positive ways. They ought be... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Ann Wilkerson

2 years ago

The time has come.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



EG Willis

2 years ago

I agree it is time for a change! Our hearts, minds and actions need to speak as one.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Micheline Plaskett

2 years ago

I am a former teacher and I agree that our schools need to look closely at their mascots and the context in which they were created. Not only at Freeman but all across the country. It takes for granted a social and culture norm that no longer reflects what America stands for. It is long overdue.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Annie Steingold

2 years ago

It is unbelievable that "rebels" were even a mascot in the first place. No.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Susan Bergman

2 years ago

Been trying to get this done for almost 20 years!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Beth Rochkind

2 years ago

I agree with Evan. The mascot should be a source of pride to every student who attends this wonderful school.



Sam Nelson
2 years ago

Conor, this is great. I was talking to another alumni and friend the other night and we lamented we didn't take more direct action when we were students. If you need any more support from alumni, let me know! I'm happy to lend a voice and words as needed.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Sam Nelson
2 years ago

I'm an alumni of Douglas Freeman and its Center for Leadership. I remember getting off school at Tuckahoe Middle for Lee-Jackson-King Day, and I remember my peers painting Confederate flags on their faces for Freeman High football games. I remember the mascot, especially, and I... [Read more](#)

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Jonathan Davidow
2 years ago

YES, great work Conor!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Thongkhoun Thoummarath
2 years ago

The mascot Rebels is offensive to the diversity and inclusion of the school.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Cheryl Marschak
2 years ago

I am a graduate of Freeman. I am often hesitant and embarrassed to admit that because of the Rebels identity. Please change the mascot and Rebels name. Then I can be proud to be a Freeman graduate.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Theresa Elder
2 years ago

I agree that we are well beyond the point of in any way upholding reverence for the Confederacy.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Kim Whaley
2 years ago

It is time to rebel against bigotry, hatred, the lies we learned in school by a corrupt system. It is time to fight for the freedom of every human being.



Cam Sherrell

2 years ago

Alumnus '96

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Allison Jacobs Friedmann

2 years ago

Asking students of color to rally around a Confederate soldier is wholly wrong.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Kevin O'Connell

2 years ago

I am a rocket scientist and I know that this is important.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Daniel Allen

2 years ago

I'm DSF class of 1997 and the name is racist. I'm very much a history buff but those who wish to keep this name incorrectly assume that those who are offended by it shouldn't be. We can teach and know our past without glorifying our worst moments. Germany removed statues of Hitler. Why... [Read more](#)

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Mary Katherine Burke

2 years ago

I am signing because D.S Freeman H.S. was my high school. I want all students to feel comfortable and represented. A symbol of the confederacy has no place as any school's mascot and needs to be replaced immediately.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Laura Carter

2 years ago

I believe it is offensive

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Robyn Lowry

2 years ago

We need to look forward not back. We understand our history, we learn from it continually but we DO NOT need to wallow in it. It's time. Move forward.



Stacie Jude

2 years ago

It's past time to take the losing confederacy out of commission.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Rachel Payne

2 years ago

Ummmm... the "rebels" lost. So why celebrate a group of people whose sole goal was to increase their standing in the community by marginalizing those who can't fight back. Seriously guys, the war was over in 1865 and you lost. Two centuries later, there should not be a team named after the... [Read more](#)

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Roxanne Grandis

2 years ago

This is outdated and offensive.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Valley Haggard

2 years ago

As a DSF alum, I could not be more in favor of this petition. Long overdue. Thank you so much for being a strong, smart and pro-active leader, Conor!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



amanda milner

2 years ago

Graduated in 1994 and always thought it was a strange mascot. It is time for this change.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



William Fraker

2 years ago

It's time to reconsider the mascot name for Douglas Freeman.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Chelsea Kazmier

2 years ago

Current and future students of Freeman High School deserve a mascot that is not associated with racism, and that represents the diverse community of the school.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Chelsea Kazmier
2 years ago

Current and future students of Freeman High School deserve a mascot that is not associated with racism, and that represents the diverse community of the school.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Erin Baird
2 years ago

All students should be able to be proud of their mascot, not just the ones who aren't offended by it.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Laurie Stillman
2 years ago

As a Freeman alum, I strongly support this petition. No student should have to attend a school whose mascot represents seeing them as less than fully human. I was part of the band during the 1990's when we changed the fight song from "Dixie." That was the right decision, and this is, too.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Rod Smith
2 years ago

Class of 1985

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Pam Woodson
2 years ago

We can do better, when you know better, you do better.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Ann-Frances Lambert
2 years ago

I have family members that attended this school and its a good thing to change the mascot!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Todd Norman
2 years ago

I went to Freeman in the 80s, and it's time now to get rid of the mascot.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Lauren Taylor
2 years ago

It's irresponsible and dangerous to hold these hateful singles as mascots and to celebrate slavery in this way.

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Beth Bendheim
2 years ago

It's hateful and racist. IT must go. DSF class of '88

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Deborah Arenstein
2 years ago

the time has come for the high school to represent the students - all students.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Isabel Rose
2 years ago

Class of '75. Past time for a change.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Thomas Gannon
2 years ago

Went to school there in 70s. Change the mascot it will drive the narrow minded bigots who hide behind the niceties nuts. Times are changing, thankfully.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Jenny McCoy
2 years ago

The name is negative and the school should have a positive mascot and reflect that!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Rachel Cain Wagner
2 years ago

I was a Freeman Rebel, but I will happily be a Freeman _something else_. I'm proud of these student leaders for bringing forth this petition. Let's do it!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Richard Lambert

2 years ago

"Rebel"...we all know what it means. Just look at the history of the creation of the school. People who suggest something other are deceiving themselves.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Matthew Freeman

2 years ago

As an alum, I strongly believe the time has come to change the name.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Megan Flynn

2 years ago

There is no reason to celebrate a mascot that represents slavery, murder, hatred, and bigotry, especially because the wounds of these are still so prevalent today. I hope this school can be on the right side of history, and come together under a mascot that all students and faculty can be proud of.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Alicia Zapata

2 years ago

i stand against hate.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Will Davenport

2 years ago

Obvious reasons stemming from centuries of enslavement and apartheid and segregation

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Steven Oster

2 years ago

War's over, you lost, get over it, move on.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Sarah Allen-Short

2 years ago

As a Freeman alum (1994), I feel this change is long overdue. It's come up again and again over the years. Time to move on. Freeman is better than this.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Brianna Adey

2 years ago

I went to freeman and it's time for the change. I feel like I shouldn't wear a t-shirt around that says "Rebels" and the school should have a mascot everyone feels proud of.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Callie Moore

2 years ago

We don't need anything used to intimidate or provoke others

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Keeley Coker

2 years ago

Racism is unacceptable.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Lilly Hannah

2 years ago

Racism of any kind must not be tolerated

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Peyton Baldizon

2 years ago

because as a southern girl I accept our history and would like to make amends for it. it was not our fault but it is our problem!

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Elizabeth Scott

2 years ago

I am a retired educator in WV. I think it is about time we as a nation recognize that the Union won. Rebels were traitors. Those who continue to support the Concederacy, continue to support secession and therefore are traitors. I know there is a huge emotional feeling about being a Southern... [Read more](#)

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Brenda Lilly

2 years ago

I agree with my fellow alums. DSF is a wonderful school and needs an appropriate fun-only mascot.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Rebecca DuMont

2 years ago

I am signing this petition because even though the symbols may not have represented hate when first chosen as a mascot, they now represent hate, discrimination, and segregation. Times have changed and we should be more understanding that symbols can still send reminders of unfavorable times.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



David Bourne

2 years ago

If some view it as a symbol is of hatred, then a change should be considered.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Brandy Jensen

2 years ago

We cannot change history, but what we do today makes a huge impact on the present moment and our future. It also helps change HOW our history is lived.

♡ 1

[Report](#)



Garrie Doss

2 years ago

I am a '67 graduate. Times have changed. DSF needs to change as well.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Stacey Stewart

2 years ago

It's time!

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Janet Woody

2 years ago

Time for Freeman to leave the confederacy behind.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Matt Kingsley

2 years ago

When I think of waving a Confederate flag to cheer on the Rebels as a teenager, I am horrified. We didn't know any better, but that's part of the problem. Douglas Freeman was not a "rebel"--there has got to be a better mascot!

♡ 4

[Report](#)



Donna Taylor

2 years ago

Class of '87, even back then I was confused as to why a little dude in a confederate uniform was our mascot. All new high schools in Henrico have animal mascots/names. Seems like a no-brainer to correct this mistake.

♡ 7

[Report](#)



Judy Porter

2 years ago

Children should not attend schools whose names insult and demean them,

♡ 4

[Report](#)



Anne Fleischmann

2 years ago

I've never been comfortable with the name. Time for it to go into history. No reason to perpetuate a term that harkens back to a dark time in our nation's history.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Nancy Coles

2 years ago

We need to stop glorifying the Confederacy once and for all. They were traitors and they LOST!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Michele Matthews

2 years ago

I support your idea!

♡ 2

[Report](#)



LaJuan Lewis

2 years ago

Well done Conor. Well done.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



George Spelvin

2 years ago

I'm a Virginian and it is long past time-- 152 years to be precise-- to do away with the symbols of the treasonous Confederate regime

♡ 3

[Report](#)



James Graham
2 years ago

I graduated from Freeman in 1988- and I always hated that name!

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Emily Roderer
2 years ago

I graduated from Freeman almost thirty years ago. It's long past time for the name to change. The name normalizes white supremacy.

♡ 4

[Report](#)



Tyler Magill
2 years ago

It is time.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Maddie Lester
2 years ago

Thanks for fighting the good fight regardless of what others might think or believe

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Lea Marshall
2 years ago

I'm an alum, class of 1990. It's WAY past time to make this change. Memorializing the Confederacy in any way hurts people.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Sharon Brager
2 years ago

It would help show that the school is making a point of making everyone feel welcome and it's just outdated.

♡ 4

[Report](#)



Cheryl Ware
2 years ago

This is extremely well written, and, given the circumstances seems entirely well reasoned and so I support.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Ted Ball
2 years ago

Ghh

♡ 0

[Report](#)



Rosemary Seltzer
2 years ago

It's time!

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Karen Schwartzkopf
2 years ago

A school's name, along with its mascot, should be a positive reflection of inclusion and education for all.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Katherine Tucker
2 years ago

Student led change is the best kind of change. Please hear your pupils.

♡ 3

[Report](#)



Evelyn Dumeer
2 years ago

You are amazing and I am so proud to call myself your friend- love you.

♡ 5

[Report](#)



Martha Wright
2 years ago

Very well stated; I agree completely.

♡ 4

[Report](#)



Suzanne O'Donnell
2 years ago

Although Rebels is not offensive to me, I can see where some people in our community would be offended by the name and the direct relationship to the uprising in the South that was meant to overthrow the US Government.

♡ 2

[Report](#)



Melinda Dumeer

2 years ago

So proud of you, Conor. Signed and shared on Facebook.

♡ 7

[Report](#)



Ellen Palen

2 years ago

I am an alumni of Dsf and proud Of my school but ashamed of the " rebel" name. It is indeed time for a change!

♡ 12

[Report](#)