Remove the Rebel as Freeman High School's Mascot

# **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

 $\bigcirc$  1

Report



### Jennifer Anderson

Mascots should unite, not divide the student body.

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Report



# Lisa Qualls

2 years ago

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

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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.

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Report

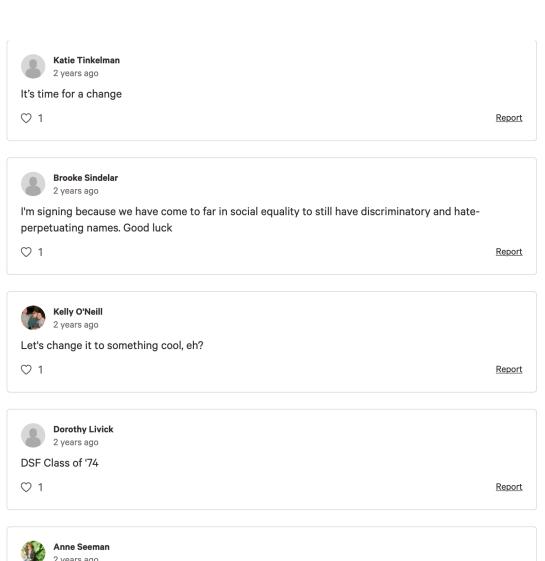


# **Tracy McNeish**

2 years ago

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

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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.

 $\bigcirc$  0 **Report** 



I'm a graduate of DSF and I never liked The Rebel Macott, 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

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

 $\bigcirc$  0 <u>Report</u>



#### **Martin Segal**

2 years ago

Long overdue. Class of '76

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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!

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Report



#### Pamela Pack

2 years ago

Freeman grad and hated it for these reasons!!!

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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

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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

 $\bigcirc$  0



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



#### **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.



#### Victoria Wright

2 years ago

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



#### Elizabeth Peterson

2 years ago

It's high time!



#### 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



It's about time for change

♡ 2

Report



#### **Carolyn Grandis**

2 years ago

#### Carolyn Grandis

 $\bigcirc$  1

Report



#### Julius Twyman

2 years ago

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

 $\bigcirc$  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

Report



#### Nakej'a 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

<u>Report</u>



#### **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.

フ 1

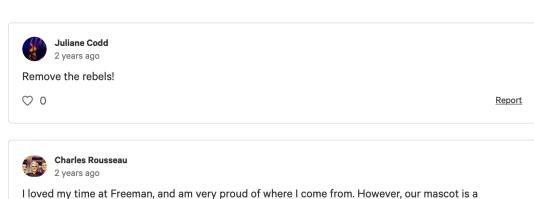
<u>Report</u>



# 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!)



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

 $\bigcirc$  1 Report





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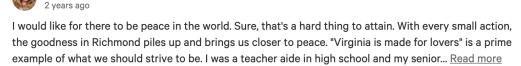


Because it's the right thing to do,

Madeleine Garrigue

 $\bigcirc$  1 Report





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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



The time has come.

♡ 0



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

♡ 2



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



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

♥ 2



Been trying to get this done for almost 20 years!

♥ 2



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



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



#### **Jonathan Davidow**

2 years ago

YES, great work Conor!



#### **Thongkhoune Thoummarath**

2 years ago

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

♡ 2



#### 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



### Theresa Elder

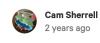
2 years ago

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

♡ 1



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.



Alumnus '96

♡ 2



#### Allison Jacobs Friedmann

2 years ago

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

♡ 1



#### Kevin O'Connell

2 years ago

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

♡ 0



#### **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



### 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.



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



#### **Roxanne Grandis**

2 years ago

This is outdated and offensive.

 $\bigcirc$  1

<u>Report</u>



### 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!

 $\bigcirc$  2

<u>Report</u>



#### amanda milner

2 years ago

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

 $\bigcirc$  1

Report



### William Fraker

2 years ago

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

 $\bigcirc$  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.

 $\bigcirc$  2

Chelsea Kazmie 2 years ago
Current and future s racism, and that rep
<b>~</b> •

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



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

♡ 2



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



Class of 1985

♡ 1



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

○ 0 Report



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

♡ 1



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



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

♡ 0



#### **Beth Bendheim**

2 years ago

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

♥ 2



#### **Deborah Arenstein**

2 years ago

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



#### Isabel Rose

2 years ago

Class of '75. Past time for a change.



### 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.



### Jenny McCoy

2 years ago

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

♡ 2



### 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!



"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



#### Matthew Freeman

2 years ago

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

♡ 1



### 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.



#### Alicia Zapata

2 years ago

i stand against hate.



#### Will Davenport

2 years ago

Obvious reasons stemming from centuries of enslavement and apartheid and segregation



# Steven Oster

2 years ago

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

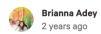


#### Sarah Allen-Short

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



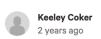
I went to freeman and it's time for the change. I feel like I shouldn't wear a t-shirt around that says "Rebels" and the school should have a mascot everyone feels proud of.

♡ 1



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

♡ 1



Racism is unacceptable.

♡ 1



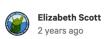
Racism of any kind must not be tolerated

♥ 1



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



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



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



#### Rebecca DuMont

2 years ago

I am signing this petition because even though the symbols may not have represented hate when first choosen 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.

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Report



#### **David Bourne**

2 years ago

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

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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.

 $\bigcirc$  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



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



#### **Judy Porter**

2 years ago

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

♥ 4



#### 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



### **Nancy Coles**

2 years ago

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

♡ 2



### Michele Matthews

2 years ago

I support your idea!

♥ 2



#### LaJuan Lewis

2 years ago

Well done Conor. Well done.



### **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



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



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

♥ 4



It is time.



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

♡ 3



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



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

♥ 4



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

	Ted Ball		
	2 years ago		
Ghh			
♡ 0		Report	
	Rosemary Seltzer 2 years ago		
It's tin			
△ 3		Report	
REM	Karen Schwartzkopf		
kid	2 years ago		
A sch	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		
Stude	nt led change is the best kind of change. Please hear your pupils.		
♡ 3		Report	
	Evelyn Dumeer		
	2 years ago		
	re amazing and I am so proud to call myself your friend- love you.		
♡ 5		Report	
	Martha Wright		
Vonu	2 years ago		
	well stated; I agree completely.	Donart	
♡ 4		Report	
	Suzanne O'Donnell 2 years ago		
offend	ugh Rebels is not offensive to me, I can see where some people in our community would be ded by the name and the direct relationship to the uprising in the South that was meant to nrow the US Government.		

Report



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



# 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