

Reasons to Change the Name of the High School that Serves the Mason District

"J.E.B. Stuart" is **not an appropriate name** for a school for the following reasons:

- The name does not reflect the **values** and aspirations of our community. General Stuart fought and died defending the **values of the Confederacy, including slavery, white supremacy and racism.**
- A school named in honor of General Stuart sends the **wrong messages** to our students, our community and to the rest of our country.
- It was named after an officer of the United States Army who, **in defense of human slavery, took up arms against the United States**, which Article III of the Constitution of the United States defines as "treason." That war cost over 500,000 American lives.
- School Board regulations required that schools be named after American citizens; General **Stuart renounced his United States citizenship.**
- The Fairfax County School Board, without polling the community, named this high school and **opened it in 1959 as an all-white high school, five years after the Supreme Court decision that declared segregation unconstitutional and ordered the desegregation of public schools.** Throughout the 1950's, into the 60's, the School Board resisted desegregation until finally ordered by Federal Courts to desegregate or lose Federal funding. **The naming of the school to commemorate a Confederate General reflected the racist values that the School Board repeatedly asserted by their rulings and actions in their fight to continue operating a desegregated school system. No amount of rationalization about their good intentions, character, or values can change the simple fact that they operated a segregated, racist school system for decades and continued to do so for almost a decade after Brown vs. the Board of Education.**
- While the name "Stuart" may have reflected the racial attitudes of the appointed School Board of the 1950s, it does not reflect the values of the elected School Board members of today.
- Many students at Stuart, and many members of our community and of Fairfax County are offended, embarrassed and dismayed by the School Boards' decision to name and maintain a school named after General Stuart and would like to see the name changed.
- J.E.B. Stuart High School was **intended for European Americans only**, not for Asian Americans, Black Americans or brown-skinned Hispanic Americans.
- Public buildings, especially schools, should and can inspire. **Few young people in our community can identify with, or be inspired by, J.E.B. Stuart.**
- The initiative to rename our high school was **begun by Stuart student leaders** and their parents.