Changes That Have Been Enacted in VA and Nationally

Laws

National
?

Virginia

- Drive To Work
- Crown Act
- Prisoners eligible for parole can get a presentencing report without a court order.
- Someone who gets an absolute pardon for a crime they did not commit now gets automatic expungement of police and court records, rather than needing to petition the court.
- In a step that could make it slightly easier to find day care, there is now a presumption that home-based child care is a residential use under zoning and homeowners' association policies unless the HOA explicitly bans it.
- State workers will now be permanently guaranteed paid family leave and must be provided space to pump breast milk at work.
- Minimum wage exceptions — some of which dated back to the Jim Crow era — have been lifted. Among other changes, it means babysitters who work 10 or more hours a week now qualify for minimum wage rules.
- The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act
- Virginia passed legislation ending celebration of Lee-Jackson day: a state holiday commemorating Robert E Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.[432] The holiday was replaced with Election Day and signed into law by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam.[433]
- Removal of the requirement that voters show a photo ID prior to casting a ballot
- Expanding early voting to be allowed 45 days before an election without a stated reason.
- Confederate History Month removed.
- VA legislative passed measures that would undo an existing state law that protected confederate monuments and instead let local governments decide their fate. This made it easier for local governments to remove the monuments.

Confederate Monuments And Memorials In Public Spaces

National

- Fort Bliss
  After receiving complaints, Forrest Road was renamed Cassidy Road, in honor of the Lt. Gen. Richard T. Cassidy, former post commander.[86]

- **U.S. Marine Corps**
  In February 2020, Marine Gen. David H. Berger ordered "the removal of all Confederate-related paraphernalia from Marine Corps installations." This includes all Confederate flags, bumper stickers, and "similar items".[87]

Virginia

- Alexandria
  - In 2017, a portrait of Robert E. Lee (born in Alexandria) that hung in the City Council chambers was moved to the Lyceum, a local history museum.[434]
  - In 2017, the Vestry of Christ Church (Alexandria) voted unanimously to remove from the sanctuary plaques honoring Washington and Lee, placed there just after Lee's death in 1870, saying they "make some in our presence feel unsafe or unwelcome."[435]
  - In 2017, "[a] hotel on King Street removed a plaque that had been bolted to the wall of the building for decades and gave an incomplete account of the first war-related deaths after the Union invaded Alexandria on May 24, 1861. The marker, posted in 1929 by the Sons and Daughters of Confederate Veterans, memorialized the first Southerner killed by the Union, belying the fact that he had first shot and killed a Northern colonel on the property."[434]
  - In 2020, the *Appomattox* statue (1899) was removed. Dedicated to the Confederate dead and placed in the middle of the intersection of Washington and Prince Streets, in 2016 the mayor and city council voted unanimously for it to be moved to a museum.[436] The statue was removed and put into storage in June 2020 by its owners, the United Daughters of the Confederacy.[437]

- Arlington
  - Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. 1) was renamed Richmond Highway in 2019.[438]

- Bailey's Crossroads
  - J. E. B. Stuart High School (1958), named for Confederate general J. E. B. Stuart. Following protests by students and alumni that began in June 2015, the school board voted in July 2017 to rename the school as "Justice High" by the beginning of the 2019 school year.[253] The new name took effect July 1, 2018.[439]

- Bowling Green
  - Confederate Monument (1906). On August 25, 2020, the Caroline County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to remove the monument.[440]

- Charlottesville
  - Lee Park, the setting for an equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee, was renamed Emancipation Park on February 6, 2017. In July 2018 it was renamed again, to Market Street Park.
  - On February 6, 2017, the Charlottesville City Council also voted to remove the equestrian statue of Lee. In April, the City Council voted to sell the statue. In May a six-month court injunction staying the removal was issued as a result of legal action by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and others.[441][442] The prospect of removal, as well as the park renaming, brought numerous white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and other alt-right figures to the Unite the Right rally of August 2017, in which there were three fatalities. In June 2016 the pedestal had been spray painted with the words "Black Lives Matter",[443] and overnight between July 7 and 8, 2017, it was vandalized by being daubed in red paint.[444] On August 20, 2017, the City Council unanimously voted to shroud the statue, and that of Stonewall Jackson, in black. The Council "also decided to direct the city manager to take an administrative step that would make it easier to eventually remove the Jackson statue."[445] The statues were covered in black shrouds on August 23, 2017.[446] By order of a judge, the shrouds were removed in February 2018.

- On September 6, 2017, the city council voted to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from Emancipation Park.[447]
- Jackson Park, named for Stonewall Jackson, was renamed Justice Park.[448] In July 2018, it was renamed a second time, to Court Square Park.

- The University of Virginia Board of Visitors (trustees) voted unanimously to remove two plaques from the university's Rotunda that honored students and alumni who fought and died for the Confederacy in the Civil War. The University also agreed "to acknowledge a $1,000 gift in 1921 from the Ku Klux Klan and contribute the amount, adjusted for inflation, to a suitable cause."[449]
- On September 12, 2020, *At Ready*, a statue of a Confederate soldier in front of the Albemarle County courthouse in Charlottesville, where it had stood since 1909, was taken down after a unanimous vote of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. A cannon and pyramid of cannonballs were also removed.[450]

- Doswell
  - Major amusement park Kings Dominion operated the popular "Rebel Yell" roller coaster from the park's 1975 opening until 2017. The ride's name referenced the "Rebel yell", a battle cry used by Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. On February 2, 2018, the park announced that the attraction would be renamed to "Racer 75" beginning in the 2018 season, although Kings Dominion did not comment on the relationship between the name change and the previous name's Confederate roots in its press release.[451]

- Fairfax County
  - Former J. E. B. Stuart High School reopened as Justice High School in September 2018. The school is near Munson Hill, Stuart's headquarters. It was given Stuart's name in 1958 as part of the county's "massive resistance" against the U.S. Supreme Court order to end racial segregation of public schools.[439][452][453]
  - Former Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield was renamed John R. Lewis High School on July 23, 2020, effective for the 2020/2021 school year.[454]

- Front Royal
  - The segregation academy John S. Mosby Academy, named for Confederate hero John S. Mosby, was founded in 1959 as an all-white school. It closed in 1969.

- Hampton
  - Robert E. Lee Elementary School, closed 2010.[455]

- Lexington
  - In 2011, the City Council passed an ordinance to ban the flying of flags other than the United States flag, the Virginia Flag, and an as-yet-undesigned city flag on city light poles. Various flags of the Confederacy had previously been flown on city light poles to commemorate the Virginia holiday Lee–Jackson Day, which was formerly observed on the Friday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.[456] About 300 Confederate flag supporters, including members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, rallied before the City Council meeting,[457] and after the vote the Sons of Confederate Veterans vowed to challenge the new local ordinance in court.[456] Court challenges have not been successful and the ordinance remains in effect. The city tried to prevent individuals from flying Confederate flags on their own property, but a 1993 federal injunction blocked effort.[457]

- On the campus of Washington and Lee University, a large Confederate battle flag and a number of related flags were removed from the Lee Chapel in 2014.[458][459]
- Close to Lee Chapel is the older Grace Episcopal Church, where Lee attended. In 1903 the church was renamed the R. E. Lee Memorial Church. In 2017 the church changed its name back to Grace Episcopal Church.[460][461]

- Lynchburg
  - A statue of Confederate veteran George Morgan Jones was removed from the Randolph College grounds on August 25, 2017.[184][462]

- Manassas
  - Stonewall Middle School (1974) was renamed Unity Braxton Middle School in 2020.[463]
  - Stonewall Jackson High School (1973) was renamed Unity Reed High School in 2020.[463

- Norfolk
  - In 2020, the city removed the statue atop the Norfolk Confederate Monument (1907) and put it into storage, pending the dismantling of the rest of the monument.[464]
  - In June of 2020 the City of Norfolk removed the long standing historical marker commemorating Father Abram Ryan "The Poet Priest of the Confederacy" which had stood on the corner of Tidewater and Lafayette Boulevard for 85 years.
- Petersburg: Three schools were renamed effective July 1, 2018.[465] A $20,000 private donation covered the costs.[466][467]
  - A.P. Hill Elementary became Cool Spring Elementary
  - Robert E. Lee Elementary became Lakemont Elementary
  - J.E.B. Stuart Elementary became Pleasants Lane Elementary.

- Portsmouth
  - The Confederate Monument, located in the town square. Local politicians had been contemplating the fate of the monument since 2015, in 2017 the town's mayor announced that it would be relocated to a cemetery, and in 2018 courts were involved to determine who owned it. In June 2020, protesters beheaded several of the statues and tore one down, injuring a man in the process. The city covered up the monument as they tried to figure out if, and when, they could relocate the remainder.[468][469][470]

- Richmond
  - In February 2000, the City Council voted to change the names of the J. E. B. Stuart and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson bridges, which cross the James River, to the names of Samuel Tucker and Curtis Holt, two local notables in the civil rights movement.[471]
  - J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School (1922) was renamed Barack Obama Elementary School in 2018.[472][467]
  - On June 6, 2020, the Statue of Williams Carter Wickham (1891) in Monroe Park was toppled from its platform by protesters.[473]
  - On June 10, 2020, protesters in the movement protesting the killing of George Floyd tore down the statue of Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue.[50]
  - On June 16, 2020, the Howitzer Monument (1892) by sculptor Caspar Buberl was torn down by protesters.[474]
  - During July 2020, three more Confederate monuments on Monument Avenue were removed by the city. On July 1 the city removed the Stonewall Jackson Monument (1919) by

sculptor Frederick William Sievers. The statue of Matthew Fontaine Maury (1929), also by Sievers, was removed by the city the following day.[475] On July 7, the city removed the J. E. B. Stuart Monument (1907) by Frederick Moynihan.[476]
    - On July 8, 2020, the statue on top of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors memorial in the Libby Hill district was removed by the city.[477]
    - Busts of Robert E. Lee and eight other Confederate leaders were removed from the Old House Chamber in the Virginia State Capitol building on July 23, 2020.[454]

- Roanoke
    - Stonewall Jackson Middle School was renamed John P. Fishwick Middle School in July 2018.[478][479]

- Staunton
    - Robert E. Lee High School (1967), was renamed Staunton High School in 2018/2019.[480]

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External links[edit]

- The Last Confederate Statues on YouTube, via the official YouTube channel of *Vice News* (4 minutes)
- Whose Heritage - Public Symbols of the Confederacy list, map, and resources via the Southern Poverty Law Center