

**REPORT OF THE
CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 23

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2007**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Viola O. Baskerville
Secretary of Administration

March 13, 2007

The Honorable Bruce F. Jamerson
Clerk of the House
Patrick Henry Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Jamerson:

House Joint Resolution Number 790 (2005 Session) requested Governor Mark Warner to establish a Civil Rights Memorial Commission. Executive Order 96 (2005) established the Commission and Executive Order 3 (2006) continued the Commission. Executive Order 96 (2005) and Executive Order 3 (2006) directed the Commission to study and recommend to the Governor and General Assembly an appropriate memorial in Capitol Square to commemorate the courage and fortitude of Virginians who contributed to or influenced the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia. Under House Joint Resolution 790 (2005 Session) the Commission was charged with submitting a report of its findings and recommendations. I am pleased to provide you with that report.

Please contact me if you have any questions with regard to this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Viola O. Baskerville".

Viola O. Baskerville

Cc: The Honorable William H. Leighty, Chief of Staff
Members of the Civil Rights Memorial Commission

Enclosure



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Viola O. Baskerville
Secretary of Administration

March 13, 2007

The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk of the Senate
Patrick Henry Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Schaar:

House Joint Resolution Number 790 (2005 Session) requested Governor Mark Warner to establish a Civil Rights Memorial Commission. Executive Order 96 (2005) established the Commission and Executive Order 3 (2006) continued the Commission. Executive Order 96 (2005) and Executive Order 3 (2006) directed the Commission to study and recommend to the Governor and General Assembly an appropriate memorial in Capitol Square to commemorate the courage and fortitude of Virginians who contributed to or influenced the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia. Under House Joint Resolution 790 (2005 Session) the Commission was charged with submitting a report of its findings and recommendations. I am pleased to provide you with that report.

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Cc: The Honorable William H. Leighty, Chief of Staff
Members of the Civil Rights Memorial Commission

Enclosure

Document Title

Civil Rights Memorial

Author

Civil Rights Memorial Commission

Enabling Authority

HJR 790 (2005)

Executive Summary

House Joint Resolution 790 of the 2005 General Assembly requested Governor Mark Warner establish a civil rights memorial commission. Executive Order 96 (2005) established the Commission and Executive Order 3 (2006) continued the Commission. EO 96 (2005) and EO 3 (2006) directed the Commission to study and recommend to the Governor and General Assembly an appropriate memorial in Capitol Square to commemorate the courage and fortitude of Virginians who contributed to or influenced the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia. The general recommendations of the Commission are outlined below.

The Memorial

The Commission unanimously voted for a memorial to be erected in honor of the student protest at the Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia. Over five decades ago, the courage, personal sacrifice and personal risk of these individuals helped end state sanctioned segregation. Their organized walkout in 1951, and subsequent lawsuit, became one of the cases joined with and argued before the Supreme Court in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*. The memorial will pay tribute to all who contributed to this seminal period in Virginia's history.

The four-sided memorial replicates Virginia's journey during this period. Panels I and III depict the past and the future with the Moton High School Strikers on Panel I and individuals of all races walking into the future *together* on Panel III. Panels II and IV pay tribute to the courageous leadership of those who led the fight for integration of the Prince Edward County public schools. Reverend L. Francis Griffin, famed civil rights pioneer, is depicted on Panel II and Attorney Oliver Hill and Judge Spottswood Robinson are depicted on Panel IV.

Civil Rights Memorial Site:

The memorial shall be located within Capitol Square on the north grounds immediately west of the Executive Mansion. The site of the memorial is bounded on the west by the Hunter Holmes McGuire statute, on the north by the Capitol Square fence, on the east by the Executive Mansion fence, and on the south by the north Capitol Square driveway.

Civil Rights Memorial Commission

The Civil Rights Memorial Commission was chaired by Governor Timothy M. Kaine. Others who served dutifully include:

Lisa Collis, Former First Lady of Virginia

The Honorable Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia

The Honorable William Bolling, Lt. Governor of Virginia

The Honorable William Howell, Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Virginia Senate

The Honorable Jennifer McClellan, Virginia House of Delegates

Mrs. Judith C. Anderson, Former Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth

Ms. Rita O. Moseley, a 25-year employee with Prince Edward County High School

Dr. Linwood Holton, Jr., Professor of history, University of Richmond