

## DEAR GENERALS ALUMNI:

Three words to encourage you today: **IT'S NOT OVER.**

In a prolonged name-change battle like this one (more than nine months so far!), fatigue and discouragement set in. We might not be looking for an excuse not to fight as hard, but the excuses will find us if we're not watchful.

There's more and more talk of "*done deal*"; "*The fix is in*"; "*We can't win*". *The good news is all of that is false.* **There is good reason to be optimistic!** The school board, the "social activists" and the students they are grooming as agitators...NONE of them expected the scrutiny, the determination, and the challenges that WE have set before them. **We're questioning the process. Calling out half-truths and favoritism. Pushing the media to report with some balance. We are digging in.** A few high schools have managed to come through the same renaming attacks with their original names in place. Others are in court challenges to reverse name changes.

Let us say it again: **IT'S NOT OVER. And we need you in this fight, at this most crucial point.**

Think about why this is a fight in the first place. It's **not** about hate; it's **not** about defending military leaders who have been resting in peace for over a century. It's **not** about any generation being more important or more valuable than another. But people do choose sides. Those who would have the name of our beloved alma mater banned from the buildings, the uniforms, the diplomas and the class rings going forward can't possibly understand the crucial connection between our present and the "Lee Generals" part of our past. Some at the community meetings taunt us from the microphone, name-calling and age-shaming. There's something sad about it... this generation of Lee students has been swindled into trading a priceless stretch of youthful joy for an angry crusade, by culture warriors who spend their time tearing down what offends their feelings. Angry displays and accusations are their weapon of choice. In the end, it's only about getting the last loud word.

**We have two choices, and only two, as Lee graduates. *We can decide it's someone else's battle to fight, shrug and walk away... or we can band together and fight to defend the name of the high school*** that, through 93 years of halls and desks and fields and friends, traditions and music and library and teachers and report cards, has yielded an amazing mosaic of adults: Many ethnicities. Countless college and career paths. We've started businesses and families. Discovered cures and constellations. Held political office. Written music and novels and closing arguments and judicial opinions. Performed on Broadway and on sidewalks in the park. Constructed buildings. Wired or plumbed them. Delivered babies and performed surgeries. Designed fashions and ad campaigns and curricula. Reported the news. Made the news. Challenged the news.

***We are Robert E. Lee High School Generals! We owe much of what we have become to that grand old school.***  
**IT'S TIME TO RETURN THE FAVOR, PEOPLE.**

**How? JOIN US IN PERSON AT THE REMAINING COMMUNITY MEETINGS AT OUR SCHOOL.** Have a turn at the microphone if you wish, but it's not required. If you can't be there in person, and even if you can, **SEND EMAILS AND PAPER LETTERS** to every member of the school board, and the superintendent, expressing your opposition to the name change. To write a more compelling letter, learn details about this issue on our website:

**[www.savetheschoolnames.org](http://www.savetheschoolnames.org)** . Keep your letters respectful and avoid ethnic references and Civil War history. They don't want to hear it, so it doesn't help our cause. But your emails become part of the public record, which is part of our arsenal! **HELP US SPREAD THE WORD** about the meetings: by word of mouth, in your social media, etc. Finally, **ALL ALUMNI WHO CAN CAST A VOTE DURING THE TWO WEEKS OF BALLOTING AT THE SCHOOL, MUST MAKE THE TIME TO DO THIS.** Dates and times are on our website, under the "VOTE!" tab. If you're not in town but not too far away, find some other alumni and carpool in! We are pressing the school board to create a means for out-of-town alumni to vote by mail or online, and we will not stop pressing. If this becomes possible, we will announce it on our group Facebook page (Robert E. Lee Alumni Against Name Change) and our website, so check in often for updates.