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## Update the Name of Arlington House

### ***NAACP Arlington Branch supports legislation to redesignate Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial***

**Arlington, VA** – NAACP Arlington Branch strongly supports legislation to redesignate “Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial” as “Arlington House National Historic Site.”

Descendants of the Branham, Custis, Gray, Henry, Lee, Norris, Parks, and Syphax families who lived enslaved and free at Arlington House Plantation are leading the effort to redesignate the site. Many of the descendent family members live in Arlington County to this day. NAACP Arlington Branch firmly stands with them to support legislation to redesignate the site. The new name will focus on a more holistic history of Arlington House and bring recognition to all who lived there.

The National Park Service does not have the authority to change the name of this site. Only Congress has the authority to change it through legislation. Sen. Tim Kaine [D-VA] is sponsoring S.J.Res.35 - A joint resolution redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the "Arlington House National Historic Site". Rep. Don Beyer [D-VA-8] is sponsoring H.J.Res.76 - Redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the "Arlington House National Historic Site". We shared our appreciation with Sen. Tim Kaine and Rep. Don Beyer for putting forth the legislation, and asked Sen. Mark Warner Kaine [D-VA] to co-sponsor the joint resolution in the U.S. Senate.

“Congress should listen to the descendant families and pass the current legislation to redesignate the site,” said Michael Hemminger, President of NAACP Arlington Branch. “Arlington House has a rich history and extensive narrative that is overshadowed by the current name’s emphasis on one man. Redesignating ‘Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial’ as ‘Arlington House National Historic Site’ honors a more complete history and opens space for learning and healing.”

*Established in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Since its founding in 1940, NAACP Arlington Branch has worked to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.*

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