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 **IT DEPENDS ON WHOSE  
LEGEND IS BEING  
GORED: Lee, Wilson,  
Jefferson, Jackson, Davis,  
Calhoun, and Battle Flags,  
but ... uh ... not Sanger?**



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 15, 2017

*Here's what provoked me:*

*I started to think about similarities between the request to remove General Robert E. Lee's statues and portraits from public places, and the request by black pastors to remove the statue of Margaret Sanger from the Smithsonian's "Struggle for Justice" exhibit. After some searching I found similar requests and debates, mostly occurring during the last two years. It seems some requests get results and some don't. I guess it depends on your political persuasion. Is all this activity created, or at least encouraged, by the mainstream media?*

*Here's my response:*

**It Depends on Whose Legend Is Being Gored:  
Lee, Wilson, Jefferson, Jackson, Davis, Calhoun,  
and Battle Flags, but ... uh ... not Sanger?**

Removing or renaming historic items is becoming popular. But decisions to do this "disinfecting" aren't consistent. Some examples:

- Confederate General Robert E. Lee statues and portraits are under pressure for removal.
- Statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and President Woodrow Wilson, who segregated federal offices, have been relocated from prominent locations at the University of Texas.
- Jefferson-Jackson dinners in several states have been renamed because both Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson were slave-owners.
- Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis was renamed because prominent politician John Calhoun supported slavery and relocation of tribal nations.
- Confederate battle flags are systematically disappearing.

Will George Washington be the next target?

*Continued*

In stark contrast, black pastors from nine states unsuccessfully requested removal of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger's bust from the Smithsonian's "Struggle for Justice" exhibit. Their request respectfully stated: "Sanger may have been a lot of things, but a 'champion of justice' she definitely was not. Perhaps the Gallery is unaware that Ms. Sanger supported black eugenics, a racist attitude toward black and other minority babies...The obvious incongruity is staggering!..." The Smithsonian replied that the bust is important in order to "see the past clearly and objectively..."

It depends on whose "legend" is being "gored"!

