

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Jim Mattis
Secretary
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our Nation has been represented by heroes who have enriched our history, protected our democracy, and maintained our role as the world's greatest superpower. To commemorate their contributions, many of our military installations rightfully bear their names. By selecting to honor their deeds and actions, we state our National values: equality, selflessness, bravery, and heroism.

Unfortunately, several of our installations bear the name of figures who fought against our Nation as part of the Confederacy. These designations only serve to promote a dark and divisive time in our history and do not uphold the best of our country.

In your role as Secretary, we ask that you begin a process to reevaluate the naming of these installations and develop a plan to rename them to better honor the true spirit of our Nation. We commit to work with you to ensure you have any resources necessary.

Like you, we were very saddened by recent events. Together, we can take this one step to ensure that we, as a Nation, in no way endorse hate or divisiveness.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON



ADAM SMITH

Alan Lowenthal

ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

Eric Swalwell

ERIC SWALWELL

Joyce Beatty

JOYCE BEATTY

Frank Pallone Jr.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.

Jim McGovern

JAMES P. McGOVERN

Ruben Gallego

RUBEN GALLEGO

Beto O'Rourke

BETO O'ROURKE

Jared Huffman

JARED HUFFMAN

Mark Takano

MARK TAKANO

Yvette D. Clarke

YVETTE D. CLARKE

Jim Langevin

JAMES R. LANGEVIN

Eleanor H. Norton

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

David N. Cicilline

DAVID N. CICILLINE

Alcee L. Hastings

ALCEE L. HASTINGS

Nita M. Lowey

NITA M. LOWEY

Steve Cohen

STEVE COHEN

Rosa L. DeLauro

ROSA L. DeLAURO

Alma Adams
ALMA S. ADAMS

Tony Cardenas
TONY CARDENAS

G. K. Butterfield
G. K. BUTTERFIELD
