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LETTER: W.Va. needs to end Stonewall Jackson, Confederate honoraries

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Editor:

While recently visiting West Virginia, my maternal family's home state since the early 1800s, I was strolling through Pipestem State Park's McKeever Lodge's "West Virginia Hall of Fame" hallway portrait gallery, when I was horrified to see a photo of Stonewall Jackson, described as "a shrewd and relentless Confederate general during the American Civil War."

Unless the state park system wants to change this to "hall of infamy," it should remove all racist symbols such as this. Statues of Jackson have come down before. Even the Virginia Military Institute, not known for its liberal stances, took down its Jackson statue. Thus, his portrait can easily come down and be replaced with an achievement by an underrepresented group (of which there are plenty) on the same wall.

Silence is complicity. White leadership needs to do better to make all state-supported spaces welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

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