



Village of Biscayne Park Commission Agenda Report

Village Commission Meeting Date: October 6, 2015

Subject: Resolution 2015-49 Statue of Environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Prepared By: Commissioner Barbara Watts

Sponsored By: Commission

Background

Florida House Bill 141 and Senate Bill 310 propose to take steps to replace the statue of Confederate general Edmund Kirby in the Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capital Building with a statue of a more appropriate citizen, one who had more ties to the state and who made more significant contributions to it. HB 141, sponsored by Jose Felix Diaz (R, parts of M-D) and Edwin Narain (D, pt. of Hillsborough) and SB 310, sponsored by John Legg (R, pts. of Hillsborough) have received bipartisan support from, among others, U.S. Reps. Carlos Curbelo, Iliana Ros Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Frederica Wilson, and the City of South Miami.

Fiscal / Budget Impact

Staff time to process.

October 6, 2015

Commission Agenda Report

Resolution 2015-49

Recommendation

Approval of Resolution 2015-49

Attachments

- Resolution 2015-49
- Website links that provide further information. The “EVE” (Equal Visibility Everywhere) site provides links and photos of Statuary Hall, a link to the Government bios of those represented in it.
- Texts of the two bills, newspaper articles, incl. account of other states that have changed to the statues representing their state in S.H.

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4 **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-49**
5

6 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF**
7 **THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA,**
8 **SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 141 AND SENATE BILL 310**
9 **AND CALLING ON THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO**
10 **INFORM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS OF ITS**
11 **DESIRE TO PLACE A STATUE OF ENVIRONMENTALIST**
12 **MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS OR CIVIL RIGHTS**
13 **LEADER MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, OR OTHER**
14 **APPROPRIATE FLORIDIAN IN THE CONGRESSIONAL**
15 **COLLECTION REPRESENTING FLORIDA AND TO**
16 **REPLACE THE STATUE OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL**
17 **EDMUND KIRBY SMITH, CURRENTLY ONE OF TWO**
18 **STATUES REPRESENTING FLORIDA IN STATUARY**
19 **HALL IN WASHINGTON, DC; PROVIDING FOR AN**
20 **EFFECTIVE DATE**
21

22 WHEREAS, in 1864, in accordance with legislation sponsored by Representative Justin
23 Morrill, Congress invited each state to contribute two statues of prominent citizens for
24 permanent display in a room in the U.S. Capitol, which was renamed National Statuary Hall;
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, in 1914, the State of Florida gave a statue of John Gorrie, considered the
28 father of air conditioning and refrigeration, to the National Statuary Hall Collection; and
29

30 WHEREAS, in 1922, the State of Florida gave a statue of Confederate General Edmund
31 Kirby to the National Statuary Hall Collection; and
32

33 WHEREAS, in 2000, an act of Congress (2 U.S.C. § 2132), permits states to provide
34 statue replacements and repossess the earlier one; and
35

36 WHEREAS, as of 2015, six states (Kansas, California, Alabama, Iowa, Michigan, and
37 Arizona) have replaced statues; and
38

39 WHEREAS, in 2015, several Florida members of Congress wrote a bipartisan letter to
40 the leaders of the Florida Legislature requesting that the statue of Confederate General Smith be
41 removed from Statuary Hall; and
42

43 WHEREAS, according to the Tallahassee Democrat the leaders of the Florida Legislature
44 expressed a willingness to replace the statue of Confederate General Smith with another
45 prominent Floridian; and
46

47 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was an important environmentalist in the 20th
48 century who made improvements in Florida's quality of life; and
49

1 WHEREAS, her most influential work was the book *The Everglades: River of Grass*
2 (1947)”, which redefined the popular conception of the Everglades as a treasured river instead
3 of a worthless swamp; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 1933, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of
6 Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian; and
7

8 WHEREAS, in 1987, she was named a great Floridian by the State of Florida; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Douglas was inducted into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame in
11 1999; and
12

13 WHEREAS, she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 2000; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection named its headquarters
16 in Tallahassee after her in 1980; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Conservation Association established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas
19 Award in 1986, that honors individuals who often must go to great lengths to advocate and fight
20 for the protection of the National Park System; and
21

22 WHEREAS, she was honored with a visit from Queen Elizabeth II in 1991; and
23

24 WHEREAS, instead of gifts and celebrations on her birthday, Douglas asked that trees be
25 planted that resulted in over 100,000 planted trees across the state; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas would be the 10th woman in National Statuary
28 Hall Collection should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune was an important civil rights leader and educator in
31 the 20th century who made improvements in the quality of life in Florida; and
32

33 WHEREAS, she also served as an advisor to five of the Presidents of the United States.
34 Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her to several government positions; and
35

36 WHEREAS, she established the school that would eventually become Bethune-Cookman
37 University in Daytona Beach; and
38

39 WHEREAS, she was a recognized leader in promoting equal opportunity and helped
40 establish the National Council of Negro Women and United Negro College Fund (UNCF); and
41

42 WHEREAS, Bethune was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1935 by the National
43 Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and
44

45 WHEREAS, she played an important role during World War II as the assistant director of
46 the Women’s Army Corps; and
47

48 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune was the only black woman to participate at the
49 founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945; and

1
2 WHEREAS, in 1973, Mary McLeod Bethune was inducted into the National Women's
3 Hall of Fame; and

4
5 WHEREAS, in 2002, she was named a great Floridian by the State of Florida; and

6
7 WHEREAS, in 1974, approximately 250,000 people attended the unveiling ceremony of
8 a statue of her in Lincoln Park in Washington D.C.; and

9
10 WHEREAS, in 1985, the US Postal Service issued a stamp in Bethune's honor; and

11
12 WHEREAS, in 1991, the International Astronomical Union named the Bethune Patera on
13 planet Venus in her honor; and

14
15 WHEREAS, in 1994, the National Park Service acquired Bethune's last residence and
16 designated it as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site; and

17
18 WHEREAS, schools have been named in her honor in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego,
19 Dallas, Palm Beach, Florida, Moreno Valley, California, Minneapolis, Ft. Lauderdale, Atlanta,
20 Philadelphia, Folkston and College Park, George, New Orleans, Rochester, New York,
21 Cleveland, South Boston, Virginia, and Jacksonville, Florida; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune would become the first African-American in
24 National Statuary Hall should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the statue of Confederate General Smith has already had 93 years to
27 represent Florida and can now be moved to another appropriate location; and

28
29 WHEREAS, in 2009, Alabama swapped its statue of Confederate soldier Jabez Curry for
30 one of humanitarian Helen Keller.

31
32
33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE
34 VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

35
36
37 **Section 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and hereby
38 ratified and confirmed by the Village Commission.

39
40 **Section 2.** The Village Commission supports Florida House Bill 141 and Florida
41 Senate Bill 310, and the Florida Legislature should replace the statue of Confederate General
42 Edmund Kirby Smith in National Statuary Hall Collection with Marjory Stoneman Douglas or
43 Mary McLeod Bethune or another appropriate Floridian.

44
45 **Section 3.** The Village Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this resolution to the
46 Florida Speaker of the House, the President of the Florida Senate, the Mayor and County
47 Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, and all elected municipal offices in Miami-Dade
48 County.

Saturday, September 26, 2015

3

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[Home](#) [Bills](#) **HB 141**

HB 141 - National Statuary Hall

General Bill by Diaz, J. (CO-SPONSORS) Narain

National Statuary Hall: Provides for replacement of statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in National Statuary Hall of U.S. Capitol; provides for selection of prominent Florida citizen to be commemorated in National Statuary Hall; provides for selection of sculptor to design statue; provides for gathering of necessary funds to carry out replacement of statue; provides for submission of state's request to U.S. Joint Committee on the Library of Congress for approval to replace the statue.

Effective Date: upon becoming a law

Last Event: Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee on Thursday, September 24, 2015 5:32 PM

Referred Committees and Committee Actions

House Referrals

- [Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee](#)
- [Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee](#)
- [Economic Affairs Committee](#)

Related Bills

Bill #	Subject	Relationship
SB 310	National Statuary Hall	Similar

*SB 310 filed by Leggs
John Leggs Republican
reps. parts of Hillsborough, Pasco Ctys.*

Bill Text

[Original Filed Version](#)

Staff Analysis

(None Available)

Vote History

(no votes recorded)

Bill History

Event	Time	Member	Committee
Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee	Thursday, September 24, 2015 5:32 PM		Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee
Referred to Economic Affairs Committee	Thursday, September 24, 2015 5:32 PM		Economic Affairs Committee
Referred to Government Operations Appropriations	Thursday, September 24, 2015 5:32 PM		Government Operations Appropriations

HB 141

2016

26 the National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, NOW,
 27 THEREFORE,

28
 29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30
 31 Section 1. (1) At its first annual meeting following the
 32 effective date of this act, the ad hoc committee of the Great
 33 Floridians Program within the Division of Historical Resources
 34 of the Department of State, as established under s.
 35 267.0731(1)(b), Florida Statutes, shall select, according to
 36 guidelines prescribed by the division, a prominent Florida
 37 citizen to be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall of the
 38 United States Capitol.

39 (2) At its first meeting following the effective date of
 40 this act, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, as
 41 established under s. 265.285, Florida Statutes, shall select,
 42 according to guidelines prescribed by the Department of State, a
 43 sculptor to design a statue of the prominent Florida citizen
 44 selected pursuant to subsection (1) for replacement of the
 45 statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary
 46 Hall and shall gather necessary funds to carry out the
 47 replacement of the statue.

48 (3) In accordance with 2 U.S.C. s. 2132, upon the
 49 selection of a prominent Florida citizen under subsection (1)
 50 and a sculptor under subsection (2), the Legislature shall
 51 request by memorial that the United States Joint Committee on

HB 141

2016

52 the Library of Congress approve the request to replace the
 53 statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith and that the Architect of
 54 the Capitol carry out the request. Upon adoption of the memorial
 55 by the Legislature and approval of the request in writing by the
 56 Governor, the memorial shall be submitted to the United States
 57 Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

The Florida Senate

SB 310: National Statuary Hall

GENERAL BILL by [Legg](#)

National Statuary Hall; Providing for replacement of the statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol; providing for the gathering of necessary funds to carry out replacement of the statue; providing for submission of the state's request to the United States Joint Committee on the Library of Congress for approval to replace the statue, etc.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

Last Action: 9/17/2015 Senate - Filed

Location: Filed

Bill Text: [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

Bill History

Date	Chamber	Action
9/17/2015	Senate	• Filed

Related Bills

Bill Number	Subject	Filed By	Relationship	Last Action and Location	Track Bills
H 0141	National Statuary Hall	Diaz	Similar	Last Action: 9/24/2015 H Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee; Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee; Economic Affairs Committee Location: In committee/council (EDTS)	

Bill Text

Version	Posted	Format
S 0310 Filed	9/17/2015 2:13 PM	Web Page PDF

Committee Amendments

No Committee Amendments Available

Floor Amendments

No Floor Amendments Available

Bill Analyses

No Bill Analyses Available

Vote History - Committee

No Committee Vote History Available

Vote History - Floor

No Vote History Available

Citations - Statutes (0)

No Statute Citations Found for Senate Bill 0310

Citations - Constitution (0)

No Constitutional citations.

Citations - Chapter Law (0)

No Chapter Law citations.

Disclaimer: The information on this system is unverified. The journals or printed bills of the respective chambers should be consulted for official purposes.

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MIAMI
New Times

FROM MONEY TO STATUES TO STAMPS, LYNETTE LONG FIGHTS FOR MORE FEMALE SYMBOLS

BY JESSICA WEISS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 | 3 DAYS AGO



Lynette Long: "We wonder why we can't elect a woman president."

Photo by Alex Markow

On a drizzly September morning, Lynette Long sits rapt in the passenger seat, looking out the window at the passing Venetian Islands. The 67-year-old with short blonde hair and a slight smile carries a pad of paper and a pencil, ready to make a list.

"See that there?" she says eagerly, pointing to the black outline of a bicycle on a crossing sign along the MacArthur Causeway. "Notice it's always a male bike."

Amid the Miami bustle of honking cars and pedestrians, Long sees signs and names and statues in bronze and stone, and notes them on paper. The vast majority represented are men.

In fact, on the stretch from South Beach to Biscayne Boulevard and then south over the Brickell Avenue Bridge, Long spots 14 sculptures. They're a cross section of celebrated explorers, politicians, and war heroes, such as Simón Bolívar, Uruguay's José Gervasio Artigas Arnal, and a Tequesta Indian leader. Of the 14, only two are women: Miami's founder Julia Tuttle, in Bayfront Park, and 19th-century businesswoman Mary Brickell, on the Brickell Avenue median.

"It's not to say those men didn't do important things," Long says. "But just two women?"

Of more than 100 statues around the nation's capital, six portray women.

The Miami Beach resident has spent much of the past decade documenting the same problem across the nation: women grossly underrepresented in public spaces, from sculptures to stamps to Google Doodles. And lately she's making real progress to fix that fact, with her group fueling national momentum to swap out statues of Confederate generals for female pioneers and

to add a woman to the \$20 bill.

"Symbols matter, and it's a powerful message," says Florida Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez, a Miami Democrat backing the efforts. "We are changing the conversation about how we recognize the contributions of women in our public displays."

For Long, nothing less than the future of America's women and girls is at stake. "We tell them, 'You can be anything you want,' but we're showing them they can't," she says. "We're showing them that women have done nothing."

For as far back as she can remember, Long has been fascinated with women's equality. She was born in New York to an Italian family, and her father "had very specific, traditional views about how a woman should be," she says. After earning a master of science in mathematics from the University of Illinois, Long began teaching remedial math to high-school girls. After receiving a doctorate in psychology, she worked as a professor and a school principal, researched sex-role stereotyping and gender issues, wrote numerous articles, and even coined the term "latchkey child." She later worked in private practice as a psychologist for 20 years.

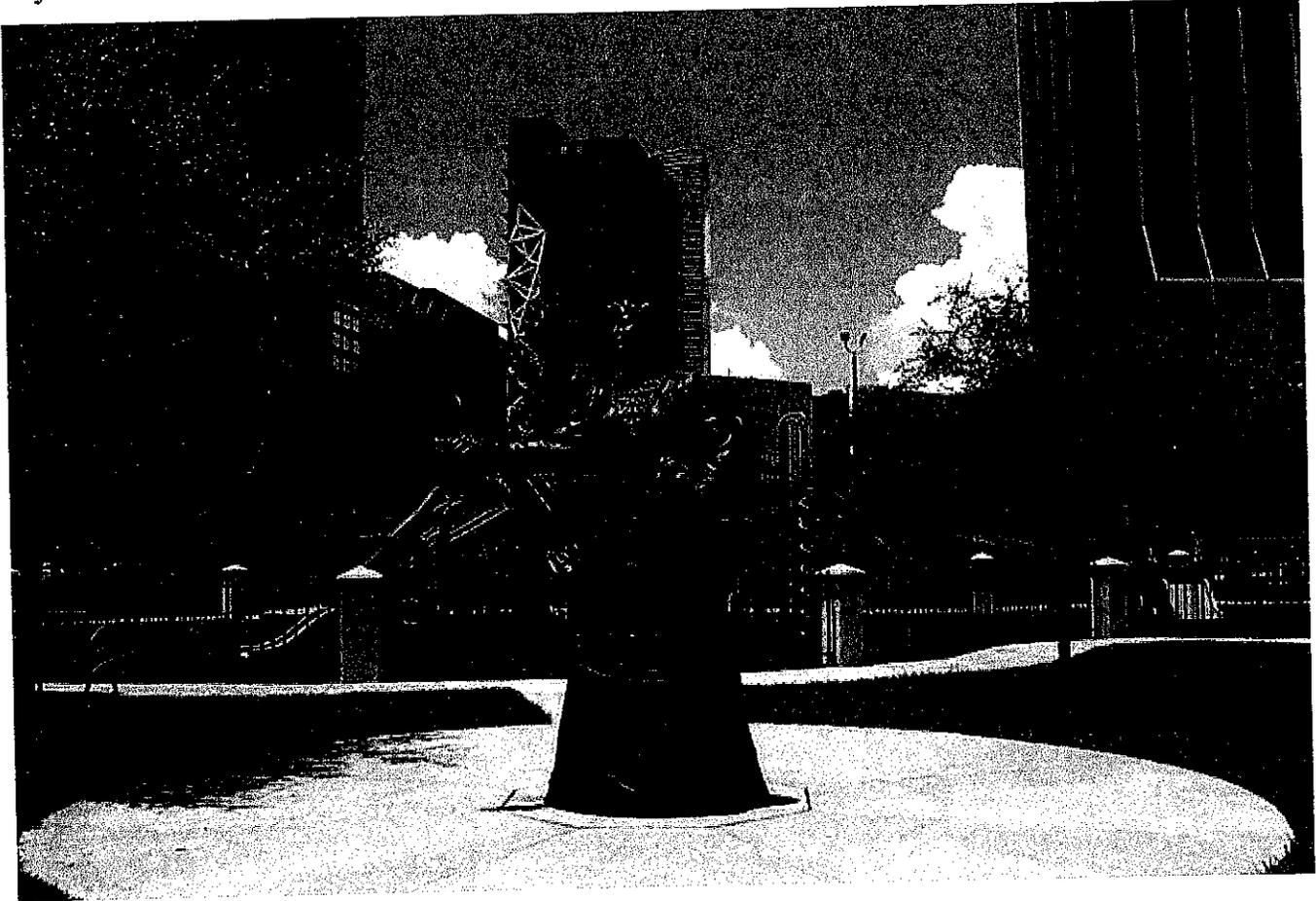
Long's daughter, Sarah Tarnowsky, recalls her mom always preaching gender equality.

"She'd get annoyed if teachers more specifically focused on my handwriting instead of my brother's," Tarnowsky says. "And she'd always notice when I spoke in the passive, diminutive voice. She'd tell me to stand up for myself and believe in myself – not to be rude, but to be confident."

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Long's ire hit a fever pitch when Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton battled it out among their male counterparts. "I thought sexism was gone," she says. "But then I saw the treatment Hillary got from the press, and I could not believe people would wear T-shirts that said, 'Iron my shirt, don't run my country.'"

That's when she became curious about another type of discrimination: hidden, symbolic gender disparity. While predominantly male panelists argued about the election on TV, she wondered about the damaging effect of the lack of women in public view. Long calls this a "sin of omission," which she says is "subtle, insidious, and persistent."

Ever the mathematician, she began looking and counting the quantifiable everyday symbols in society that favor men. And the numbers are startling.



Statue of Julia Tuttle in Bayfront Park.

Photo by Phillip Pessar/CC 2.0

According to her findings, from 2000 to 2009, the U.S. government honored 206 people with a stamp – 163 men and 43 women. From 1998 to 2010, 43 Google Doodles honored people – 42 men and one woman. In 1999, when the government issued state quarters, ten of 56 were of people (the rest were animals or places), and nine of those ten were men; the sole woman was Alabama's Helen Keller. Women haven't been seen on paper currency in more than 100 years. And in the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which began in 1924, there have been only ten female character balloons, Long found.

She also began counting statues in major U.S. metro areas, from Washington, D.C., to Chicago. Of more than 100 statues around the nation's capital, six portray women. Of the 48 statues in Chicago's parks, not one depicts a woman. Of the 22 nonallegorical statues in Central Park, 22 represent men and zero represent women.

"What is the subliminal message? 'Men are leaders. Men are presidents,'" she says. "And then we wonder why we can't elect a woman president."

She pondered how to address the disparity in a meaningful way. She called and wrote to the U.S. Postal Service and Google. But clearly, adding hundreds of new statues to Central Park would be a tough task.

In 2010, during a trip to the U.S. Capitol, she realized how. She was visiting with her son when she took note of a unique feature in the dome: a two-story, semicircular room full of statues. Since 1864, National Statuary Hall has given each state the chance to honor two deceased natives by displaying busts and statuary.

As Long wandered the room, she became dismayed. Only nine of the 100 statues depicted women. "I consider the Capitol a museum – nobody gets millions of visitors like that," she says. "And I thought, *nine?*"

She decided to fight, founding the group Equal Visibility Everywhere (EVE) to improve the exposure of women in daily life. EVE quickly took aim at Statuary Hall.

Her first target was the statue of John James Ingalls, a former Kansas senator. Kansas had already voted 20 years earlier to replace his statue with one of Amelia Earhart, but the state had never found money to commission it. EVE helped raise \$300,000, and the statue is now ready for its bronze casing. Soon Earhart will be the tenth woman in Statuary Hall.

"She is the right person to have on your team," Tarnowsky says of her mom. "Everybody has ideas of something they can do. But when my mom has an idea, thought, or passion, you know something's actually gonna come from it."

It's not EVE's only effort that's gaining steam. Pressure on the Postal Service and Google have yielded a higher percentage of women on stamps and in Doodles. In 2010, Long wrote a *Baltimore Sun* op-ed piece about getting women on U.S. currency. Now the U.S. Treasury plans to put a woman on the next \$10 bill (although many women are still rooting for the \$20, which is more widely circulated). EVE is also spearheading efforts to get Maya Angelou to represent North Carolina in Statuary Hall, in place of white supremacist and former governor Charles Brantley Aycock.

The organization also launched a giant parade balloon of Amelia Earhart, which has been flown in parades in Indianapolis and Iowa.

In July 2013, when Long retired from her psychology practice and moved to Miami Beach, her focus turned to Florida. EVE has since led efforts to add Marjorie Stoneman Douglas – a champion for the Everglades and women's suffrage – to Statuary Hall. Douglas would replace Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, who was born in Florida but didn't live for any considerable amount of time in the state.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women recently voted to help with the project. Last week, Long traveled to Tallahassee to address the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. Local politicians are lining up behind the move, including Rodriguez, whose district includes Coconut Grove, where Douglas lived.

"No one can dispute Marjory Stoneman Douglas' prominence or continued impact and contribution to the state of Florida," says Rodriguez, who plans to introduce a bill supporting the statue in this year's session.

Moving south on Brickell Avenue, cars inch their way on a road dwarfed by towering cranes and office buildings. Suddenly, between SE Seventh and Sixth streets, a bust of Mary Brickell appears in the median – a potent reminder of women's history in the only major American city founded by a woman.

"I want our sisters and our daughters to think they can do anything they want," Long says. "And the visual overrides the verbal. What you see matters."

Contact: Jessica Weiss **Follow:** @jessweiss1 **Miami New Times**
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Florida! Put a Woman in Statuary Hall!



Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

*links to governmental
his s*

*see next page
for M.S.D. links*

Florida's current representatives in Statuary Hall: [John Gorrie](#) (1803–1855) and [Edmund Kirby Smith](#) (1824–1893).

EVE's proposed candidate for a replacement statue: Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1890-1998), conservationist and writer who devoted her life to preserving the Florida Everglades.

Biographical links for Marjory Stoneman Douglas:

- [Marjory Stoneman Douglas: Defender of the Everglades](#)
- [Everglades Biographies: Marjory Stoneman Douglas, 1890-1998](#)
- [Marjory Stoneman Douglas in the National Women's Hall of Fame](#)
- [Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "Mother of the Everglades"](#)
- [The National Parks: America's Best Idea: People – Marjory Stoneman Douglas](#)

EVE State Coordinator for Florida: Open. Contact Dr. Lynette Long at president@equalvisibilityeverywhere.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Florida Statue Project Updates

Florida Statue Project in the News

- **Statuary Hall: Links to State Projects**

States in green indicate active projects. Click on the state to go to that project.

- **Statuary Hall Project Section**

- [Statuary Hall Project Home](#)
 - [California Statue Project](#)
 - [Florida Statue Project](#)
 - [Kansas Statue Project](#)
 - [Maryland Statue Project](#)
 - [New York Statue Project](#)
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- [Statuary Hall Background](#)
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 - [The Nine Women of Statuary Hall](#)
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- **Statuary Hall: Quick Links**

- [The National Statuary Hall Collection](#)
- [List of Statues by State](#)
- [Office of the Architect of the Capitol](#)
- [Statue Replacement Guidelines \(pdf from the Architect of the Capitol\)](#)
- [History of Statuary Hall](#)
- [The Splendid Hall: a virtual tour of the Old House Chamber](#)

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Project Section: Statuary Hall

Put a woman in Statuary Hall!

The National Statuary Hall Collection is one of our nation's most prominent memorials to outstanding citizens. Located in the U.S. Capitol Building, the collection features 100 statues of distinguished Americans, two from each state.

Only nine of the statues are of women.

EVE's Statuary Hall Project is dedicated to changing that number. We're working with supporters in each state to recommend outstanding women who deserve to be honored in our nation's Capitol.

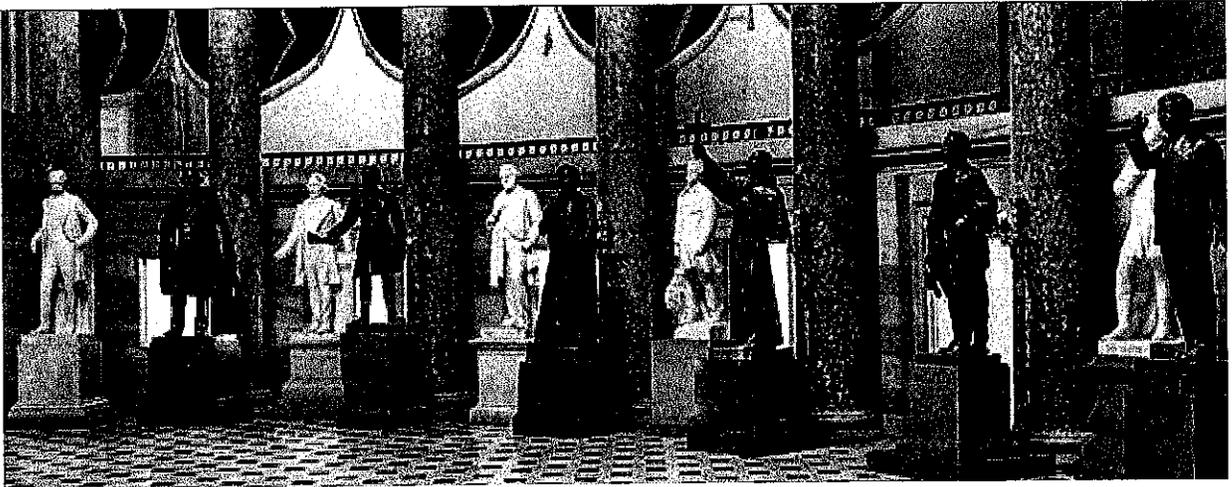
In Maryland, we are urging lawmakers to put Harriet Tubman in Statuary Hall. Tubman would be the first African-American woman in National Statuary Hall.

In Kansas, EVE has been entrusted with responsibility for funding and commissioning a new statue of Amelia Earhart.

We're also beginning projects in California, New York, and Florida.

- **Statuary Hall: Links to State Projects**

States in green indicate active projects. Click on the state to go to that project.



PLAY SLIDESHOW « PREVIOUS PHOTO NEXT PHOTO »

About the Project

National Statuary Hall in the Capitol features statues of 100 great Americans, two from each state.

Only nine of the statues are of women.



Background & Basics

The Basics: How are the statues chosen? Who decides? What are the rules? How are statues replaced?

The Nine Women of Statuary Hall

The National Statuary Hall Collection (external link)

The Origin of the Collection (external link)

List of Statues by State (external link)

History of Statuary Hall (external link)

Have Your Say

Who do *you* think should be in Statuary Hall?

Do you live in one of the 41 gender-challenged states? Would you like to suggest a candidate for Statuary Hall?

Post a suggestion on our **Have Your Say** page. We also welcome your ideas, comments, and questions about Statuary Hall.

If you'd prefer to send us a private email, write to statues@equalvisibilityeverywhere.org.

Statuary Hall Project Updates

Press Release on Harriet Tubman Statue Bill, with statement from EVE President Lynette Long

March 28, 2011 by [EVE](#) · Comments Off

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Last Thursday a Maryland Senate committee approved an amendment that effectively guts the bill to place a statue of Harriet Tubman in National Statuary Hall.

The original bill (Senate Bill 351) calls for Maryland's existing statue of John Hanson to be replaced with one of Harriet Tubman. The new amendment almost completely rewrites the bill, asking Congress instead to give Maryland special permission to place *three* statues, with the Tubman statue as the third addition.

“But we already know the answer to that,” says Suzanne Scoggins of EVE ([Equal Visibility Everywhere](#)), which sponsored the original legislation. “The answer is no. Each state is allowed two statues. The rules for Statuary Hall are precise and carefully formulated. There are 100 statues in the collection—two from each state—and the Capitol barely has room for all of them as it is. If you want to change a statue, you bring one home and send the new one in its place. There is absolutely no reason to expect that Congress will make a special exception for Maryland and allow them to have three statues. The supporters of the amendment are calling it a ‘compromise,’ but it’s not a compromise. Maryland isn’t going to be allowed to have three statues, and they know it. The effect of the amendment is to kill the Harriet Tubman statue.”

In an statement, EVE President Lynette Long said:

Maryland had a unique opportunity to replace a slaveholder with a slave, a white man with a

Black woman, a colonial figure with a Civil War figure. They have squandered that opportunity. Instead, they've chosen to petition Congress for something they know they won't get, in a transparent attempt to pass the buck to the federal government.

The population of Maryland is 29% African-American and 51% female. Harriet Tubman, an African-American woman from Maryland, was one of the most courageous and inspiring individuals in our nation's history. She was truly one of the all-time great American heroes, one of a handful of names that every schoolchild in this country knows. It is only right that she should be one of the two individuals representing Maryland in National Statuary Hall. Yet a small group of white male legislators has derailed the entire project.

Leading the opposition is Maryland Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr., a 68-year-old Democrat who has been a member of the Maryland Senate since 1975. He is joined by two other long-standing Democrats, Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton (a member of the Senate since 1995 and a relative of John Hanson) and Senator Roy Dyson, also a member of the Senate since 1995.

These gentlemen apparently believe that Maryland is best represented in Statuary Hall by an all-male, all-white contingent. Rather than honor Harriet Tubman, they prefer to keep the statues of Charles Carroll and John Hanson that have been in place since 1903. Charles Carroll was the largest slaveholder in the American colonies, and John Hanson was a minor figure who served a one-year term presiding over the Continental Congress.

What is especially disturbing is that on February 16, 2011, the [Southern Maryland News](#) reported Senator Miller as proposing that "a special category should be established in Statuary Hall for women and blacks who were not considered when states first were invited to contribute statues in 1864." This smacks of separate but equal. It's a sexist and racist statement that ignores the fact that women and Blacks have made contributions throughout history that have been ignored.

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Lynette Long featured in March issue of DC Spotlight

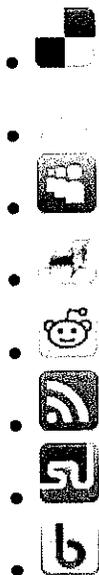
March 22, 2011 by [Suzanne Scoggins, Director of Women's History](#) · [Comments Off](#)

The March issue of DC Spotlight is online, and the “In the Spotlight” featured person is none other than our own Dr. Lynette Long, president of EVE. Spotlight Editor-in-Chief Wendy Thompson interviewed Lynette at home, and the result is a fascinating article about the inspiration for EVE, our current projects, the background to the Harriet Tubman Statue Project, and more. Go read!

Thanks to DC Spotlight and Ms. Thompson for this wonderful piece. Here’s the video portion of the interview included with the article:

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Tubman statue would help write women back into history

March 11, 2011 by [Lynette Long, Ph.D., President of EVE](#) · Comments Off

(Ed. Note: This op-ed is being published in the [Baltimore Sun](#) on Friday, March 11, 2011. See our [Harriet Tubman Statue Project](#) for more.)

The Maryland General Assembly has an opportunity to send a new representative to the United States Capitol. This person wouldn't be a voting member of Congress but would stand tall in the halls of the Capitol and serve as a symbol of freedom, courage and equality to all Americans. This session, the Maryland legislature will decide whether or not to replace the statue of John Hanson that has stood in National Statuary Hall for more than 100 years with one of Harriet Tubman.

National Statuary Hall was established in 1864 by an act of Congress. By law, each state is authorized to furnish two statues of citizens who are "illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services." Harriet Tubman certainly fits that description. She was an abolitionist, a union spy, a suffragist, and a great Marylander who risked her own life countless times to save the lives of others. John Hanson, a Colonial era farmer and first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation, is represented by one of Maryland's two statues in the collection. The other statue is of Charles Carroll, another Colonial-era Marylander, who was the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Our nation's Capitol is the symbol of our democracy. In a nation where we believe that anyone can accomplish anything, our government systematically sends the unmistakable message to girls and women that their contributions to our country's history were insignificant. The enormous Capitol frieze surrounding the Rotunda depicts the history of the United States, celebrating key moments in our history from the nation's inception to the discovery of flight, and yet there is only one recognizable woman depicted in those paintings: Pocahontas. In Statuary Hall itself, there is only one woman out of 38 statues, and only nine women in the entire Collection of 100 statues displayed throughout the Capitol. [...continue reading](#)

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Push to get Tubman Statue in the U.S. Capitol in Jeopardy

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Harriet Tubman won't displace John Hanson

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while Harriet Tubman's chances of securing one are spotty, thanks to a vote this evening... [...continue reading](#)

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FRED GRIMM JULY 27, 2015

Fred Grimm: Florida's general who? Time to replace obscure Confederate honoree



FRED GRIMM

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Yet there he is, or at least a bronze likeness of the old general, standing in for Florida at the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Smith's an anomaly on several counts. In an exhibit representing men and women, but mostly men, chosen by their home states as "illustrious for their historic renown," Florida's guy rates no better than a middling renown. And that mostly among Civil War scholars.

And while Smith was born in St. Augustine (1824), he spent most of his adult life elsewhere — fighting in Mexico, Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, teaching in Tennessee.

More bothersome is this notion of a Confederate general representing the least Confederate of the Old South states. His statue is as much of an anachronism in context of modern Florida as that Confederate battle flag that Marion County flies in front of the county government complex up in Ocala.

But there he is, in all his obscurity, sharing the same exalted historic status as George Washington, Ethan Allen, William Jennings Bryan, Sam Adams, Helen Keller, John C. Calhoun, Will Rogers, Dwight Eisenhower, Sam Houston, Brigham Young, Andrew Jackson, Robert Fulton, Sakakawea, Ronald Reagan, Roger Williams. All of them apt to pop up on a middle school history quiz. All but Edmund Kirby Smith.

Smith's not the only Confederate honored in the Capitol. Florida's fellow secessionist states have erected statutes to Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Gen. Joe Wheeler, Alexander Stephens. South Carolina honors the deplorable racist Wade Hampton, who headed up the murderous Red Shirts after the Civil War, a paramilitary terrorist outfit dedicated to undoing the democratic rights afforded blacks during Reconstruction.

But of all the southern states, Florida has the least reason to wallow in its Confederate heritage. There's just not much to it. When the state joined the secessionists, Florida's population was barely 140,000. More than 60,000 of those residents were slaves, whose modern day ancestors, I suspect, are not particularly thrilled to be represented by a Confederate general who brought a household slave to war to serve as his personal valet.

Each state is allotted two historic figures to be honored in the National Statuary Hall. In a sense, our other home boy in the Capitol, Dr. John Gorrie, was the guy responsible for undoing Florida's former status as a sleepy Old South backwater. The Apalachicola doctor invented a device that created both air conditioning and manufactured ice.

Gorrie built his patented revolutionary cooling mechanism in 1851, though it wouldn't catch on until the 1890s. But when it did, air conditioning and icy beverages made Florida bearable to a mighty deluge of folks moving down from the Yankee north. Gorrie's creation made his fellow honoree even more of an anachronism.

A statute of the old general has been standing in the hall since 1914 (a marble likeness which was replaced by a bronze in 1922), chosen when the state's population was barely a million, back when Florida was a defiant, segregated bastion of the Old South. But 101 years later, this isn't the same Florida. It's time for Smith's statue to be trucked down from Washington to the Edmund Kirby Smith Museum in St. Augustine.

There's a fitting campaign, led by Lynette Long, a Miami Beach psychologist, and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor of Tampa to replace the general with a statue of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Miami's great environmentalist.

Long pitched the idea to the Miami-Dade Commission for Women last week, pointing out that replacing an Confederate general with the champion of the Everglades would be a small step toward redressing yet another bigoted peculiarity in the National Statuary Hall — only nine women are honored among those Americans deemed “illustrious for their historic renown.” The commission voted unanimously to endorse her proposal.

Edmund Kirby Smith might even have approved of Marjory Stone Douglas. After the war and after a failed career in the telegraph business, Smith spent the balance of his life in academia, teaching at the University of the South in Tennessee.

In his later years, he was known as a passionate botanist and a collector of plant specimens. Edmund and Marjory would have gotten along swimmingly.

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Tryon: Which Floridian deserves statue?

By Thomas Tryon

Published: Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 1:00 a.m.

When my wife, oldest grandson and I toured the National Statuary Hall in mid-June, our terrific tour guide pointed to one of Florida's two statuesque representatives, John Gorrie, and told us his claim to fame.

Gorrie moved to Apalachicola after training in New York to be a physician. In the Panhandle of the 19th century, he developed the novel idea of suspending basins filled with ice blocks — transported to Florida from northern lakes — in order to chill the sickrooms of fever-stricken patients. He later earned a patent to create an ice machine; the concept led to air conditioning.

Cool.

A week after our visit, U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, a Democrat from Tampa, urged the Florida Legislature to replace the state's other statue, which pays tribute to Edmund Kirby Smith.

Smith was born in St. Augustine in 1824. At 21, he departed to attend the U.S. Military Academy. He fought gallantly for the United States in the Mexican American War but, in 1861, betrayed his nation by resigning from the Army and joining the Confederate forces. He surrendered the last military force of the Confederacy, which apparently was enough in 1922 for Florida to send his statue to the hall. (Every state has two statues in the U.S. Capitol.)

Citing Smith's allegiance to the Confederacy and his limited time in Florida, Castor said the Legislature should consider an alternative.

Before anyone says Castor's replacement idea is political correctness run amok, consider:

1. State Rep. Jose Diaz, a Republican from Miami, has filed a bill that calls for finding another "prominent Florida citizen" to replace Smith.
2. Four statue switches are cited on the Capitol's official web site. Arizona replaced John Campbell with conservative icon Barry Goldwater, California swapped Thomas King for President Ronald Reagan and Michigan dropped Zachariah Chandler for President Gerald Ford. The only replacement in that group who was not a Republican politician: Helen Keller was chosen by Alabama to replace Jabez Curry.

I missed the initial news about Castor's move but more commentaries were published last week. They have me thinking: Who would be a fitting replacement for a Confederate general whose selection set the bar low?

Some notables have surfaced: Walt Disney, whose movies and entertainment parks changed the world and Florida; John Ringling, the renowned circus impresario who created what is now the state's official art museum and turned the Sarasota region into a tourism and cultural mecca; Marjory Stoneman Douglas, whose book on the Everglades revolutionized environmental values. Henry Flagler, who extended railroads to Florida's East Coast and built fabulous hotels, has also been mentioned, though his rival Henry Plant, who did the same things on the West Coast, would provide competition.

Sept. 8, 2015 @ 6:43 p.m.

jacksonville.com

Florida lawmaker seeks to replace statue of Confederate general in U.S. Capitol

9:00pm

TALLAHASSEE | The bronze statue of Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, which has stood in the U.S. Capitol since 1922, would be replaced by a statue more representative of Florida, under a bill filed Tuesday by a Republican state lawmaker.

Rep. Jose Felix Diaz said he's been considering the proposal (HB 141) for several years, and the bill comes as people across the country have reconsidered Confederate symbols after the racially motivated slaying in June of nine black church members in South Carolina.

"I think that the shooting in South Carolina created an awareness that wasn't there before," Diaz, who represents parts of Miami-Dade County, said. "When I first started asking questions about Gen. Kirby [Smith], the political appetite wasn't there for this conversation to be had. People were not intrigued by him or Statuary Hall."

The Smith statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection is in the

Capitol Visitor Center.

The Florida Senate is considering similar legislation, Katie Betta, a spokeswoman for Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said in an email.

The proposal follows a call in July by 11 members of Florida's congressional delegation to remove the Smith statue. Each state is allowed to provide two statues of deceased prominent citizens to be placed in the National Statuary Hall.

Neither Diaz nor the congressional members seek to replace the state's other statue, a marble likeness of former Apalachicola resident John Gorrie, who is considered the father of air conditioning.

Unlike Gorrie, Diaz said Smith had little impact on the state, which needs someone "more emblematic of what Florida has become."

"We've had a lot of great Floridians come and go in the last 100 years, and for us to have last updated our statues in 1922 made no sense to me," Diaz said. "Gen. Kirby [Smith] had a limited amount of time here in Florida. By the time he went to West Point, Florida was still four years from becoming a state."

Under Diaz's proposal an ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians Program within the state Division of Historical Resources would select "a prominent Florida citizen." The Florida Council on Arts and Culture would be in charge of hiring and raising the money to pay a sculptor. Diaz said the money for the work most likely would come

from the state.

Diaz's proposal doesn't recommend what would happen to the Smith statue, which includes the inscription "Florida's Memorial to her most distinguished soldier."

This would be at least the second attempt to replace the Smith statue.

In 1993, the Senate, backed by heavy lobbying from the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, stood in the way of a House proposal to replace Smith with a statue of James Van Fleet. Van Fleet was a Polk City resident and early University of Florida football coach who served with honors in World War II and the Korean War.

Among the possible replacements that Diaz said have already been proposed for the Smith statue are railroad and hotel magnate Henry Flagler; entertainment entrepreneur Walt Disney; Seminole Chief Osceola; environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas; and writer Zora Neale Hurston.

However, Smith has his defenders.

C.J. Hart, commander of the Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Jacksonville, while deferring comment to the Sons of Confederate Veterans public-relations office, said Smith is a model citizen for Florida.

"Before they start slandering Kirby Smith's name they need to check

into what he did,” Hart said. “He was an educator. Who better to represent Florida than a guy that was interested in education?”

Other than being born to a distinguished family in St. Augustine in 1824, Smith had little to do with Florida during his lifetime.

A West Point graduate, Smith was wounded during the First Battle of Manassas, also known as the First Battle of Bull Run, and held a command in the Trans-Mississippi department. He is known for surrendering the last military force of the Confederacy. After the war, he was mostly an educator in Tennessee until his death in 1893.

In a letter to legislative leaders, members of Florida’s congressional delegates said that Smith “is not the best reflection of the great state of Florida.”

“We can replace this statue with one that celebrates the values that make our state so great like inclusion, diversity and justice,” the delegation members wrote.

The letter was signed by Republican U.S. Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Democratic U.S. Reps. Corrine Brown, Kathy Castor, Ted Deutch, Gwen Graham, Alan Grayson, Lois Frankel, Patrick Murphy, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson.

Smith would become the second statue of a Confederate war veteran removed.

In 2009, Alabama replaced a statue of Jabez Curry, a former U.S. House member who served as a staff aide to Confederate Gens. Joseph Johnston and Joseph Wheeler. Curry was replaced by a statue of author and political activist Helen Keller.

Five other states have Confederate soldiers or politicians as symbols in the national hall: Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.