

STONEWALL JACKSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD, INC. 7814 Garner Drive, Manassas, Virginia 20109-3134 Phone (703) 369-5396

The Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad has proudly served the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the County since 1971. Today, our diverse and dedicated volunteers protect approximately 17.4 square miles of the county, including the Manassas National Battlefield. We respond to over 5000 calls per year and our membership provided just under 40,000 hours of service to the community last year. We take our responsibility and commitment to serve and protect all members of our community very seriously.

Immediately following the events in Minneapolis and around the country, we recognized the need to consider our department's name in the context of today's national sentiment. We agree that the imagery and name of Stonewall Jackson may be seen as a symbol of racism and oppression; however, that is not, nor has it ever been the reason behind its selection as the name for this department. We do not condone discrimination against any person for any reason. At its most fundamental level, the name was chosen because of our department's proximity to the battlefield, to the most famous event that took place there, and the statue being its most prominent feature. Simply stated, the name "Stonewall Jackson" is representative of the area which we serve.

That said, we are not defined by the name or image of Stonewall Jackson. Rather, our enduring principles define who we are and what we believe in: selfless service, fairness, diversity, empowerment, quality of life, bravery, communication, accountability, unity of effort, learning, and tradition.

With these in mind, we are compelled to responsibly address this issue, incorporating the input of our members, our community, and County leadership. This is a complex and important issue, and we are working toward a resolution that is in the best interests of our community and our department. While we are working quickly and diligently, we cannot provide a specific timeframe for resolution. Meanwhile, our members remain committed to respond and provide fire and emergency medical services to all those who call for help.