

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Name change shouldn't become racial issue APRIL 29, 2004

Permit me please to plead with you not to allow the proposal to change the name of Airport Road to become a racial issue. It is definitely not a racial issue though racial overtones were brought into comments being made at the April 19th Public Forum to Consider the Renaming of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

It was disappointing to me to hear that and I felt as though I was going backward in time to when I so diligently worked toward integrating our community. It was for my efforts that I was presented "The Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Award" for community service to humanity by word and deed, for which I am grateful. It is hanging on my wall and I am very proud of it.

Regretfully [the newspaper] selected remarks made at the meeting about race as newsworthy! One statement was enlarged and boxed into a two column wide square. That is most unfortunate!

Another speaker said that candidates for the last election had been contacted, prior to the election, and asked to agree to support the change of the name of Airport Road. Three of the committee members appointed by Mayor Foy to the Naming Committee were elected. The fourth member was already serving on the Town Council. That also seems unfortunate to me.

Please note then that the NAACP has been working on the proposal for some time and citizens preferring that the road change not be made are just beginning. Let me urge you to express your opinions to the town manager requesting that he give your messages to the elected officials.

Please write letters to the editor, to the Town Manager, call elected officials, broadcast commentaries on WCHL and attend the "Continued Public Hearing" scheduled for May 24th at 7 p.m. On the 19th the matter was referred to the Naming Committee again and their report will be submitted prior to the May 24th meeting. Your opinions must be submitted before the meeting also.

Claudia Cannady
Chapel Hill

To: Rev. Pike

Dear Jim

5/13/04

I am very disappointed to learn that a "racial committee" within Binkley has chosen to make the proposal to change the name of Airport Road a racial issue within the church! The statement in the bulletin and your statement from the pulpit does not represent my view nor the views of many of my Binkley friends. Members of that committee can only speak for themselves - not for ALL members. That is most inappropriate.

Claudia C. Cannady

COMMENTARY ON WCHL RADIO - MAY 21, 2004

Charles B. Carver

Our mayor and council members would do well to reconsider the proposal to rename Airport Road for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There isn't anything unique or honorable about having another road named for Dr. King. According to information compiled by Town Staff for The Council Naming Committee there were already at least 650 throughout our United States as of November 4, 2003.

Why can't we all use our energy, ingenuity and influence to create interest in, and raise funds for, a statue of Dr. King? Or select a building worthy of bearing his name? Creating ill will and incurring wrath among citizens doesn't honor Dr King. To the contrary, it would disturb him greatly. We could pay real tribute to him by becoming a colorblind society as he encouraged us to ~~do~~. Working TOGETHER to recognize him would be a true memorial.

I personally think it is wrong to even consider renaming Airport Road for ANYONE. To make a change would create a great deal of inconvenience and expense for the businesses and homeowners along the road. Many citizens would be very unhappy. That road has been a big part of my life and very much a part of the history of Chapel Hill.

CAN'T WE JUST KEEP IT THAT WAY?

The Herald-Sun
The Chapel Hill Herald

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APRIL 27, 2004

**Renaming proposal
needs discussion**

I attended the public hearing on the proposal to change the name of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. If you live on Airport Road and didn't attend the meeting, perhaps it's because you weren't aware there was such a proposal, as the council seems to have done a good job of not publicizing the issue.

Some Airport Road residents and business owners spoke in opposition, giving as their reasons the costs involved both to the town (read taxpayers) and to the individuals and businesses, and also the historical significance of the Airport Road name.

Following this, Fred Battle was the first person to speak in favor of the change. It was unfortunate he was first because I was so disturbed by Mr. Battle's hateful harangue I really wasn't listening well when others spoke. I know other speakers gave passionate, well thought-out remarks only because I obtained a taped copy of the meeting and listened again later.

There may be some merit to this proposal, and the committee charged with researching possible alternatives may have actually done a good job, but at this point there is no way of knowing because none of the details of what the committee did was made public. When asked they gave assurances they considered alternatives and had valid reasons for eliminating them, but very few of those reasons were articulated.

There are alternatives the committee says they considered as well as some suggested by citizens that would provide the same "major thoroughfare" exposure that is desired while causing much less disruption and expense.

The matter was tabled until May 24. In the meantime I hope more citizens will make themselves aware of what has been done so far and inform the council of their own opinions. Those who live and own businesses on Airport Road, especially need to make their voices heard.

The fact the council is only now making sure those citizens who will be most affected by any change are aware of the proposal gives the appearance of an attempt to make major changes in the town with no consideration of whether or not the citizens approve of the change.

As for you, Mr. Battle, your comments did nothing to honor Dr. King and may well have hardened the hearts of those you opposed. The only racially biased remarks I heard came from you and I think that is really sad.

Jan Cosby, Chapel Hill

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

■ The Chapel Hill News

No need for King road

Every other town in the country has a Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. I do not see the need, or expense, of changing the name of Airport Road.

We can respect each other on any street in town or county with a smile. If it's returned by the other, what a brighter day it will be.

Kathy Jorgensen
Chapel Hill

The Herald-Sun
The Chapel Hill Herald

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Please note then that the NAACP has been working on the proposal for some time and citizens preferring that the road change not be made are just beginning. Let me urge you to express your opinions to the town manager requesting that he give your messages to the elected officials.

Please write letters to the editor, to the Town Manager, call elected officials, broadcast commentaries on WCHL and attend the "Continued Public Hearing" scheduled for May 24th at 7 p.m. On the 19th the matter was referred to the Naming Committee again and their report will be submitted prior to the May 24th meeting. Your opinions must be submitted before the meeting also.

Claudia Cannady
Chapel Hill

Thursday

April 29, 2004

THE CHAPEL HILL HERALD

Town can do better for King

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a truly great American, worthy of honor and respect from all of us. As the Town Council debates the renaming of Airport Road, they should ask themselves if Dr. King really needs another street named after him.

There must be 50,000 such streets across the country, and adding yet another one seems like a small honor indeed. Surely we can do better.

Peter Aitken
Chapel Hill

...SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2004

THE CHAPEL HILL HERALD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't change road name

Although I've lived in Carrboro now for quite a few years, I was born and raised in what is now Chapel Hill. I lived near Airport Road, and my grandparents owned land, farmed, lived and died along this same road. I still have relatives and friends with an Airport Road address.

I can remember visiting Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice when he attended UNC and lived on Airport Road. I've snow sledded from Rosemary Street to the old "Steel Bridge," which used to span Bolin Creek near the now-Chapel Hill Police Department building.

I've rushed to see several plane crashes along Airport Road in years past, watched ROTC cadets march up and down this road, carried my children and grandchildren to visit the airport, and also have memories of delivering mail to residents of Airport Road when I worked for the Postal Service. If the use of the name "Airport Road" seems overused in this letter, it's intended.

Whether the airport remains at its present location or not, I will still hold fond memories of it being there, and would find it sad and difficult to know this road by any other name. I have some suggestions for a road honoring Martin Luther King Jr., which I'm sure are not original. I recall reading that someone suggested renaming South Road. This sounds OK to me, especially since it runs east to west.

Also, renaming the 15/501/54 bypasses might satisfy the evident need expressed by some Chapel Hill and Carrboro town leaders to name another street in honor of Dr. King.

Another idea is to leave the current Martin Luther King Jr. street as-is, and hundreds of people and businesses won't have to change their address, order new stationery and office supplies, or notify their many correspondents and business contacts.

Devan Clark
Carrboro

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Herald-Sun
The Chapel Hill Herald

Find other ways to honor King besides Airport Road

After attending the April 19, 2004 public forum on the renaming of Airport Road I was very discouraged.

I have lived in Chapel Hill most of my life. Living on Airport Road for about 40 years has made me aware of its importance to the community. My home now is still on Airport Road. My children grew up on it, and now own property on Airport Road. The road has been here a long time and it is part of Chapel Hill's history.

I would like for the elected people to consider another way of honoring Dr. King. It would be a lot better to have a new building named for him, or a statue of him, or another street.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2004

Faye Stinson
Chapel Hill

■ The Chapel Hill News

Sunday, May 9, 2004

Find another way to honor King

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I would like for the elected people to consider another way of honoring Martin Luther King Jr. It would be a lot better to have a new building named for him or a statue of him, or another street.

Faye C. Stinson
Chapel Hill

— Sunday, May 16, 2004 —

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Claudia C. Cannady
Chapel Hill

The Chapel Hill News ⁺

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

**Find another way
to honor King**

I have nothing but the greatest respect for Martin Luther King Jr. I feel, however, that renaming Airport Road in his honor is not the appropriate way to honor his memory.

I think naming the new high school after him would be far more in keeping with his legacy and something he would prefer, if given the choice.

We should try to keep what remains of the old Chapel Hill. There is so little left.

Please find some other way of recognizing this great American.

Joe Patterson
Chapel Hill

Citizens In Favor of Airport Road

My name is Dave Walker. Airport Rd. has been my home for thirty eight years. It has been a large part of my life. I have raised four children at that address who are now scattered throughout the U.S.A. They all relate to the name Airport Rd. This is one of the reasons I am opposed to changing the name to anything other then Airport Rd.

On April 19th, I attended the town council meeting regarding changing the name of Airport Rd. I spoke to the council and asked them to give me one good reason to change the name and to this date the only reason I have heard is because "We think it should be changed" and nothing else but that we think it should be changed to honor Dr. King.

While I have no objection to doing something to honor Dr. King, I can think of many reasons not to change the name.

First is the time and the inconvenience imposed on 600 people who live and operate a business on Airport Rd. Council woman Edith Wiggins stated that the inconvenience is minor compared to the good it would do. She will not be involved with making the changes we will have to do. And I do not think she gave it much thought before making her recommendations. Some of the things involved are going to the post office and changing our address, going to the bank and changing our checks, calling the credit card company, calling our insurance co. to notify them to change the address on our insurance policies so that if we have a claim there will not be a legal problem, contacting our attorney to have the legal description on our deeds corrected and pay them \$125 dollars per hour to do so, notifying social security and medicare of the change, notifying our supplemental insurance co. of the change, notifying the motor vehicle bureau to change our auto license, we then have to go to the driver licensing bureau and stand in line and pay them to change our drivers license, we will have to change all our calling cards and stationary, and we must notify all our creditors from phone to gas to satellite companies to electricity to newspaper etc.

The second thing is the expense of the change. There are twenty street signs on pipe poles and ten large street signs on power poles that will have to be changed. Council woman Wiggins stated that the cost would be minimal. The estimate they gave for the cost of the signs on Airport Rd. was \$16,700. This does not include changing the signs

on the existing Martin Luther King Rd. You can add another \$5,000 for the expenses. Then council woman Greene stated they were going to have the large signs on I-40 changed to reflect the name change. These signs are very large and very expensive. Add another \$10,000 to the cost.

I was a business man in Chapel Hill for thirty years and I know from experience if the materials cost a certain amount the labor cost is almost equal. Therefore we would have a cost of around \$60,000. of tax payers money just for these items. Then we have the cost in town hall to make the changes to all town maps and plats showing Airport Rd. all records pertaining to Airport Rd. in the various departments will need to be changed. This will require many hours of paid help to accomplish. I could go on and on but I think you get the message that the changing of an existing street name is no small project. It costs many hours of work and many tax payers dollars.

What also disturbed me was, the next day in the Chapel Hill newspaper the town manager said we need to raise taxes again because the town needs more money. If the town council spends all our tax money in this reckless manner it is no wonder they need more. I wish they would think about the residents who are retired and on a fixed income.

I am not against having a monument for Dr. King but I can think of several ways to do this and be less expensive and no impact on 600 to 800 businesses and residences.

We are building new schools for our Chapel Hill students and naming one after Dr. King would certainly be appropriate. We have a beautiful library in Chapel Hill where both black and white go to further their knowledge that would make a great monument. We have a new and beautiful Homestead Park where children and adults of all races go to play soccer, baseball and soft ball, walk the trails, and have picnics under the trees.

Is this not more in keeping with the vision of Dr. King rather than a street that does nothing more than assist going from point A to point B and adds to our air pollution.

I sincerely hope that when the council meets to discuss this agenda they will give it full thought and consider the feelings and concerns of the many and not just the few who are advocating the change most of who do not live in the town of Chapel Hill.

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Should Airport Road Be Renamed For MLK?

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ralnews

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Should Airport Road Be Renamed For MLK?

TOPIC Discussion Started: 04-18-2004, 11:53 PM



Q Because it is a major thoroughfare into Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill/Carrboro branch of the U NAACP wants to rename Airport Road Martin Luther King Boulevard. There already is a Martin E L. King Street in Chapel Hill, but some people claim King deserves better recognition than a S street many people don't know exists. Where do you stand in this debate?

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cantaloupe 04-19-2004, 12:13 PM

I don't know why people want to rename roads all the time. It's confusing, it's expensive for the businesses and residents, and it consumes state resources (new maps, new signs) that are better spent. I think MLK was a fantastic man, a leader and visionary, but I don't need a road named after him.



jlambert 04-19-2004, 11:53 AM

Leave it as it is, find another site.



deviliken 04-19-2004, 11:39 AM

No. Let's get off this stuff. The man is well known. Would you like someone to drive over you. This is what I think when you name a road after someone.



beachman 04-19-2004, 10:02 AM

No.

Snuggles12 04-19-2004, 8:52 AM



I don't think so. There were other important people that has contributed to society and they don't have roads' name for them. I'm not saying that his political contributions were not important but why should he be the only one recognized. I am sure there are other people that has contributed to Raleigh and its progress just as much if not more than MLK.

Thanks for reading.

DarkRaven 04-19-2004, 8:41 AM



NO.... If we keep doing that, we will have named every road on the planet MLK (Rd, Blvd, St., etc..) There are other honorable people in America's history to honor as well as MLK of all races... caucasian, black, asian, hispanic, etc..

rweadon 04-19-2004, 7:42 AM



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Should Airport Road Be Renamed For MLK?

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DagNabbit 04-22-2004, 4:15 PM

Why not Abraham Lincoln? MLK inspired African Americans and gave them hope, but none of that would have been possible without AL, don't you think?

KOZMOT 04-22-2004, 8:28 AM

I am totally against a name change. It does not help anybody. It is just another issue for the naacp to stir up. I just wish the media ignored them.

WhatAbout 04-22-2004, 6:55 AM

Yes, Chapel Hill should join the rest of the country in having a MLK Blvd. All the politically correctness going on there.. it only makes sense. *LOL*

@rcher 04-22-2004, 6:16 AM

I am sure there are many local leaders that have gone undistinguished and have done much for the community. MLK may have been a national leader in the civil rights movement but he has been distinguished many times over; who were our local leaders that have done so much for our community?

Straight Shot

postmyop 04-21-2004, 9:55 PM

I am very happy to see all the comments and to know that people are really opposed to this subject. I also think it is ridiculous that if you oppose the renaming that you are automatically branded racist. No matter what the name being suggested was I would still oppose the road name change whether they were going to name it Martin Luther King JR or if they were going to name it George Bush Ave I as many poeple do not want the name changed! If you are opposed please let the town council know!

gbbarey 04-21-2004, 4:48 PM

Heck No !!! Why doesnt the NAACP stick there nose where the sun doesnt shine

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Garnet57 04-26-2004, 11:27 PM

Why name a road that name (MLK, Jr) when there are soooooooo many roads named after him already? And I agree with the person who said what good will it do to name a road after MLK when there is racism all around us that we have to see each and every day? What good will that do? People need to stop the hate, and love one another, before it's too late. Forget naming a road. Enough already.



cantaloupe 04-26-2004, 2:42 PM

calloway, can you point out specific racist comments that the writer isn't recognizing as racist? Or conversely, can you give us an example of how someone can oppose renaming airport road without being a racist? your comments should be supported by examples, especially when you've asserted that the "writer(s) don't even recognize that their comments are racist." I just think that the kind of broad generalizations you've made should be supported by more than just your words. How are the rest of us to know what others might perceive as racist if someone doesn't point it out specifically?



scalloway 04-26-2004, 10:46 AM



While I don't have an opinion on the name change per se, I do have an opinion on some of the comments. They only show that we have taken 36 steps BACKWARDS since MLK's death (at least one per year since his death). I am saddened by the blatant racism in those comments. The sad thing is that it does not appear that the writers REALIZE that they are in fact being racist. Is that better or worse than 36 years ago when racist people usually MEANT to be racist? I don't know. Either way, whether or not the name is changed, our society has gotten worse, not better. What's the point in changing a name if our attitudes have gotten worse? It seems meaningless to me.





Shadrack 04-26-2004, 10:17 AM

Disagreeing that Airport Road being renamed MLK Boulevard should not be a way to "root out" bigots and evil-doers. It is as though we in America have to conform to some liberal agenda in order to be "open-minded" and intelligent. Cannot the liberals see that others can disagree with their way of thinking and actually NOT be some hate-filled-redneck? Personally, these political litmus tests are getting old. People ought to spend much more time harping about being personally responsible and less about how others should feel about issues. No one



so long and has a history behind it?? The costs involved for businesses and residents will be high and also like nother person said in their post it will not only cost the people but the city and the state since it is a Major roadway into Chapel Hill.

 **gregorytor** 04-19-2004, 3:21 PM 



Airport Road is a traditional institution. To change it's name to ANYTHING else is wrong. But I fear if the council doesn't change it to MLK, then they'll be labeled as not sensitive to his cause. MLK is certainly worthy of all honor. So, allow a new prominent road to bear his name. There should be lots of options for that given all the growth UNC will be doing in the northern part of CH in the future. Keep it Airport Road!

 **patzilla** 04-19-2004, 1:51 PM 

Absolutely not! Why not find a more meaningful memorial to Dr. King. This is a useless venture that is very expensive to those who live along the road and have to change addresses, business cards etc. etc. Erect a memorial plaque in a park area with his words on them so parents can take their children, read the words and discuss what they really mean. Establish a scholarship in peaceful change. There are many more meaningful memorials than street naming.

 **JERRY 41** 04-19-2004, 1:39 PM 

No. Airport Road at least suggest where it leads. Nearly every town in America has a MLK something. Next thing the NAACP will want to do is change the name of Baghdad Blvd., or the name of the path to the moon. Mr. King has been sufficiently honored but enough is enough.

 **catpower70** 04-19-2004, 1:02 PM 

No, I think it about time for us to let mlk die and rest in peace.

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Should Airport Road Be Renamed For MLK?

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rainews

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zebrow 05-03-2004, 6:45 AM

Don't rename the road. It'll screw up a lot of people (address changes, directions etc.)! If someone is hell-bent on naming a road after MLK, name the next NEW road - duh! How much simpler can it get.

Ed The Z

billishere 04-30-2004, 12:50 PM

No, Why does everything have to be named after MLK. There are other Hero's and famous people that it could be named after.

givitnam 04-30-2004, 8:42 AM

NO.

scalloway 04-29-2004, 1:55 PM

Cantaloupe, Thanks for taking the time to consider my opinion. I agree with 99% of what you said and was not offended by the rest. In my opinion, that's what dialogue is intended for, e.g. to educate others about what you think, to become educated about what others think, and to agree to disagree.

cantaloupe 04-29-2004, 10:34 AM

scalloway, I really appreciate your answer to my question—it was an honest one, and you gave me an honest answer. I went back and reread this thread to find the examples you pointed out and here's my assessment:

—the "baghdad" blvd comment was a cheap shot at the NAACP. I agree. —the ?stir up trouble? comment—again I agree with your assessment —the ?minority rules??I think that could be seen as a ?liberal/ conservative? comment?I see that statement made a lot about things like gay marriage, prayer in schools?things that aren't racial in nature at all. However, I can see where someone might read it the way you did. Just consider that there might be another way the writer is thinking about this issue. —?form an NAAWP??I can see how you would read that the way you did. However, there is a school of thought that organizations based on race, gender, or sexual

There were SO many people that helped change the Civil Rights movement from a trickle to a wave across the country. MLK was the figurehead, the minister who could rally a crowd with words. But how about naming it to honor someone who was in the trenches of the fight against segregation?!! Ella Baker, Stokeley Carmichael, Julian Bond, etc. Put a plaque on either end of the road, and let people learn about more than "I have a dream", let people learn about actions taken, actions that were the real engine of change prior during and after the 1960s.

Racism will never be erased while ignorance is rampant, while Hollywood and TV spur divisive views just to make a profit, while misinformation and hate spread like wild fire across our new collective conscience, the internet.

This country has a scarred and imperfect past, and will never be a utopia of racial harmony. But we can each take the time to open our hearts and minds to people on a daily basis. Some will respond positively, some otherwise. We're not talking about the internet, but actual real world contact and communications!! It becomes far too easy for the closed and clouded mind to hide behind text on a screen, just as talking heads hide behind phosphor dots on the TV

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Should Airport Road Be Renamed For MLK?

TOPIC Discussion Started: 04-18-2004, 11:53 PM

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should have their arm twisted or bullied by the liberal nightstick and made to feel a particular way about an issue. We've got plenty of diversity and equal rights and level playing fields and sensitivity for God's sake!. Why don't we all drop the silliness and get to work actually PRODUCING something for this country besides division.

 **schaf006** 04-23-2004, 11:27 PM 



Martin Luther King is rightfully honored as a leading figure in the civil rights movement. He led many marches, surrounded by thousands of his followers. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus, and she was alone. To my way of thinking, she was the greatest hero of the civil rights movement.

 **ap1010** 04-23-2004, 3:27 PM 

Under no circumstances should the Airport be named after MLK. There are so many other people who have directly contributed to our state, maybe even born here, lived here all their lives that would better represent the entire population.

 **smartmom39** 04-23-2004, 9:49 AM 



I am a woman of mixed race, african-american and white, while I do not believe Airport Blvd. should not have a name change, I am very sad at the threads that I have read. Some of you have made the statement that you are not biggoted just because you don't want MLK, while I would like to believe that, some of the comments I have read sound so prejudice. It's awful. I don't want the name changed one it is a waste of tax payers dollars and two it would just confuse me! (ha-ha) But, if I could touch ONE person in here, it is not your opinion of not wanting it changed it is the way you have expressed why you don't want it changed. Someone also made the comment where are the AL Blvds and George Washington, etc., please tell me you have seen these streets? If not, you haven't left the town you live in! I am from California, all our streets are spanish names, (not all), hard to pronounce, read and follow, but we have a George Washington, same as Nevada, and other states I have been in. Leave your town, travel, get a map look up presidents street names, you will find them. Let's not mention Ted Williams Pkwy. or other famous sports players or coaches that have their own names on buildings and other things, we as african-americans (that is what i mark on my applications), aren't even asked an opinion. We should be thankful people ask what we feel about things, in some countries, they don't have that luxury. There are far more other important things to think about than whether MLK should get another name on a street. He is well deserving of whatever becomes of his name, but as far as tax money spent, leave it alone.

 **rsmathers8** 04-23-2004, 9:31 AM 

I think MLK already has a lot of recognition in the Triangle area. There are several major roads bearing his name.



I'm perfectly okay with the road's name being changed to honor a minority or Civil Rights leader, but isn't there anyone else who deserves recognition?

How about "Rosa Parks Blvd" for example.

 **aloc211** 04-22-2004, 11:24 PM 

TO:dredwolff, I see we still have a long way to go in this country. Just think it was only 40 years ago the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed. I'm a Law Student At Duke Univ., and I'm trained to scrutinize everything. We are still divided as a nation. We are not educated as a nation. If we where we would know that even Abraham Lincoln used blacks for political expediency. We vote for two parties that do represent the minority in this country. That minority is the wealthy.

Antonio L Merrick

 **dixiechick29** 04-22-2004, 11:20 PM 

OK, I think MLK has gotten enough attention, he has a road named after him in every single city! Why can't the NAACP fight for the name of the road being changed to Bill Clinton Blvd? I mean come on people, the NAACP is going a little overboard on this issue. Give em an inch and they want a dang mile. I agree with the previous post that the NAACP is just stirring up more issues. Somebody should found the NAAWP for the white people and fight for the names of roads being changed to Robert E. Lee Drive. That's what I think.

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zebrow

05-03-2004, 6:45 AM



Don't rename the road. It'll screw up a lot of people (address changes, directions etc.)! If someone is hell-bent on naming a road after MLK, name the next NEW road - duh! How much simpler can it get.

Ed The Z



billishere

04-30-2004, 12:50 PM



No, Why does everything have to be named after MLK. There are other Hero's and famous people that it could be named after.



givitanam

04-30-2004, 8:42 AM



NO.



scalloway

04-29-2004, 1:55 PM



Cantaloupe, Thanks for taking the time to consider my opinion. I agree with 99% of what you said and was not offended by the rest. In my opinion, that's what dialogue is intended for, e.g. to educate others about what you think, to become educated about what others think, and to agree to disagree.



cantaloupe

04-29-2004, 10:34 AM





scalloway, I really appreciate your answer to my question—it was an honest one, and you gave me an honest answer. I went back and reread this thread to find the examples you pointed out and here's my assessment:



—the "baghdad" blvd comment was a cheap shot at the NAACP. I agree. —the ?stir up trouble? comment—again I agree with your assessment —the ?minority rules?? I think that could be seen as a ?liberal/ conservative? comment? I see that statement made a lot about things like gay marriage, prayer in schools? things that aren't racial in nature at all. However, I can see where someone might read it the way you did. Just consider that there might be another way the writer is thinking about this issue. —?form an NAAWP?? I can see how you would read that the way you did. However, there is a school of thought that organizations based on race, gender, or sexual

orientation segregate people and promote the very thing they are trying to fight and make race, gender, or sexual orientation mean more than it really should. I'm not saying I personally agree with this train of thought, but that discussion does not necessarily a racist make. In fact, there are some prominent black people (generally conservative thinkers) who believe that the NAACP actually props up discrimination against blacks. I do agree however, that the poster was being very hostile and it bothers me too. ---?name the road after Lincoln?---if you read that post carefully, the person is suggesting this name because of his/her understanding that Lincoln helped black people. How is that racist? I hear you loud and clear that you believe Lincoln really shouldn't be honored, but the poster's comment is better seen as ignorance of the information you brought up and an educational opportunity, not as an example of racism. I don't think in this context, given the other stuff that person said, that this was either intentionally or unintentionally a racist statement. ---?it will cost too much? ---here's where I disagree most strongly with your opinion---the leap you have made in your thinking to make this a racist comment is in my opinion unwarranted. It completely closes the door to any dialogue. For example, I am totally opposed to renaming the road at all because I don't think it's warranted. However, I am totally open to naming a new road, or naming a new building to honor someone who has made a big contribution to civil rights and justice, be it MLK or someone else. Our financial resources are limited, and I want to see them used to provide for needs in the community, and I don't think that renaming a road is high up on the list of needs.



Thank you scalloway because you did help me see some things I hadn't before. I hope my comments will do the same for you.

 **fuddydaddy** 04-29-2004, 5:31 AM 

I agree. Let's keep it local. There are already enough MLK this and MLK that around. How about the Wright Brothers Memorial Road since it is for the "airport". That would make more sense than MLK blvd/road since MLK had "NOTHING" to do with the airport or air travel.



 **schaf006** 04-29-2004, 12:37 AM 

To my friend Prinzowale- what an excellent idea! I salute you!

 **prinzowale** 04-28-2004, 11:23 AM 



Why not honor a local person of note? Its a shame that people must always look to the same few people of note on the national scene instead of people and things in their own locales...Another alternative would be to designate it a '_____ Memorial Road' and fill in the blank with a battle in which North Carolinians or local units of the Guard served the nation?

regards, prinzwale

 **scalloway** 04-27-2004, 2:07 PM 

First of all, let me clarify, I DO NOT think that everyone is against renaming the street is a racist, nor have I a strong opinion one way or another.

I believe I should clarify which comments I personally (as a minority) found offensive or racist: -comment suggesting that someone found NAAWP for white people- (NAACP like it or love it has been an invaluable vehicle for fighting for rights of black people when it is politically incorrect or unpopular to do so.) -comment suggesting naming the street after Abraham Lincoln (Blacks have been taught early on in secondary schools that Abraham Lincoln was a savior to blacks and freed them because of some humanitarian belief. However, his papers tell us that he regularly used the "N" word to describe the slaves and could care less about slaves as humans, but rather cared about what was necessary to save the union. Anyone who thinks that naming a street after Lincoln somehow isn't a smack in the face to blacks is either ill-informed or racist.) -comment that this is another issue for NAACP to stir up trouble (I'm sure that nearly any issue they have brought up in the past on behalf of people of color, SOMEONE thought was merely stirring up trouble, e.g. the rights of blacks to vote, the rights of blacks to go to white schools, etc... It's never been a troubleLESS venture for NAACP to defend rights of blacks.) -comment that "minority rules" in this country (Came across to me as an opinion that minorities always get what they want and the majority [whites?] always have to take a side seat for the benefit of blacks. Perhaps I misread this one, but that's how it came across.) -comment inquiring about why we should we as taxpayers go to the expense and what's the point (It seems to never been worth the expense to do something to honor a black person.) -comment that the next hing you know, NAACP will want to change it to Baghdad Blvd (Knowing about all of the political controversy about Iraq unfair to juxtapose black issues with Iraq. Futhermore, unfair to Arab Americans to make that statement.)

 **chicoflaco** 04-27-2004, 9:27 AM 

There were SO many people that helped change the Civil Rights movement from a trickle to a wave across the country. MLK was the figurehead, the minister who could rally a crowd with words. But how about naming it to honor someone who was in the trenches of the fight against segregation?!! Ella Baker, Stokeley Carmichael, Julian Bond, etc. Put a plaque on either end of the road, and let people learn about more than "I have a dream", let people learn about actions taken, actions that were the real engine of change prior during and after the 1960s.

Racism will never be erased while ignorance is rampant, while Hollywood and TV spur devisive views just to make a profit, while misinformation and hate spread like wild fire across our new collective conscience, the internet.

This country has a scarred and imperfect past, and will never be a utopia of racial harmony. But we can each take the time to open our hearts and minds to people on a daily basis. Some will respond positively, some otherwise. We're not talking about the internet, but actual real world contact and communications!! It becomes far to easy for the closed and clouded mind to hide behind text on a screen, just as talking heads hide behind phosphor dots on the TV

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 **stevekerp** 05-10-2004, 9:10 PM 



Let's open all those records the FBI compiled, and any other SEALED RECORDS pertaining to this "hero" and see if he really deserves all this recognition.

Because I don't think he does. Has nothing to do with race, and everything to do with his real loyalties and the "content of HIS character."

Steve RogerShermanSociety dot com

 **Gomez13** 05-05-2004, 12:31 AM 

A thought for all. If it were not for the many veterans that have served this country over the many years of its existence Mr. King would not have had the opportunity to speak any of the inspiring words he spoke. Maybe we should consider nameing roads after people who dedicate thier lives in defense of or rights to speak as we wish!!!!



 **WilliamW** 05-04-2004, 3:44 PM 

Heck, double dadgumed NO!

Name change only if Necessary and then to someone contributing to the History of the Community or State...



Wright Brothers, Clay Akin, Charlie Justice A known Amercian War Hero from North Carolina.....!

FREEDOM BLVD So many have contributed to the State and Nation from North Carolina that are far more deserving – So much has been named, renamed and over named for the Late MLK – It may surrise the NCAAP. But Many others have contributed... What has NASCAR Contributed to North Carolina, Ned Jarret, was the First National Champion form North Carolina. This State is so rich in History; Musch has been forgotten and overlooked... Make a Statement that consideres ALL!



 **MAL1960** 05-03-2004, 6:57 PM 

Absolutely NOT!!! There are more than enough things named for MLK already. Agree with naming it after the Wright Brothers, or someone who has SOMETHING to do with AVIATION.



Let the people vote on it, and see how far it gets. While they're at it - there are other things that the citizens of NC are qualified to vote on, such as the lottery, and forced annexation - although we all know how NC politicians feel about allowing their constituents to vote on anything.

 **tom7165** 05-03-2004, 3:56 PM 

He** NO! Mlk was a great man and is a hero to many, but another road nameing ranks right up there with limiting # of cars in driveways and "pay as you throw" trash collection. Its amazing how these people get into positions of authority and manage to stay.

 **Archduke** 05-03-2004, 12:24 PM 

I think it only appropriate to make the point more cliché. NO, we DO NOT need another MLK slab of asphalt. NO, NO, NO, NO!

 **ncborn77** 05-03-2004, 11:08 AM 

I have to agree with the majority of the posters in here. DO NOT name another road in nc after mlk. I feel that if the road is to be changed it should be changed to something that reflects the wright brothers since they were the founders of flight not another mlk boulevard

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