

**RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE NAME OF THE RESIDENCE HALL LOCATED AT
570 WASHINGTON STREET, SW, ON THE CAMPUS OF VIRGINIA TECH**

WHEREAS, the residence hall located on the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech at 570 Washington Street was built in 1966 and named officially for Claudius Lee in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Claudius Lee was born in 1872, the founding year of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and was proven to be a key figure on the electrical engineering faculty at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from the 1890s to the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, Claudius Lee was deemed a worthy recipient of having this campus building named in his honor six years after his death at the age of 90 in 1962; and

WHEREAS, in fall 1997, students in a History of Virginia Tech class discovered a page in the 1896 student yearbook, *The Bugle*, of which Claudius Lee was editor in his graduating year, and in which he was presented as president — “father of terror” — of a group that called itself the “K.K.K.”; and

WHEREAS, the appropriateness of having a building bearing Lee’s name has continued to be challenged from that day to the present; and

WHEREAS, according to the university’s Principles of Community and commitment to inclusion and diversity, Virginia Tech rejects all forms of prejudice and discrimination; strives to maintain a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect conducive to positive learning, working, and living; and acknowledges the inherent dignity and value of every individual; and

WHEREAS, any building honoring Claudius Lee is contradictory to the values and principles that have become an integral component of the institution’s responsibility to current and future students, faculty, staff, and university partners to uphold a welcoming environment for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in acknowledgement of the university’s pledge to diversity and commitment to an inclusive and welcoming community, the name Claudius Lee will be removed from the residence hall built in 1966 and located at 570 Washington Street, SW, and the residence hall will no longer be referred to as Lee Hall.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution removing the name Claudius Lee from the residence hall built in 1966 and located at 570 Washington Street, SW, be approved.

August 13, 2020