



# AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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June 18, 2014

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

In a June 12 letter to Washington Redskins president Bruce Allen urging the team to change its name, you stated, “during my time in the United States Senate, I have worked to right many of the injustices endured by Americans throughout the country.”<sup>1</sup> To that end, you stated you would “not stand idly by while a professional sports team promotes a racial slur as a team name and disparages the American people.”

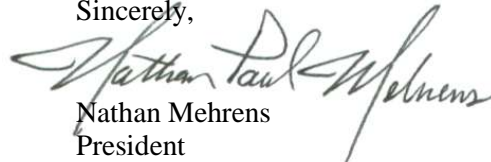
Right now, the Russell Senate Office Building, which acquired its name in 1972 after Richard Russell, Jr., an avowed racist, Democrat segregationist, stands as a symbol “of the injustices endured by Americans” of African-American descent in the segregated South by racist Democrat administrations and legislatures.

If the Redskins must change their name because it disparages Native Americans, then so too should the Senate rename the Russell Senate Office Building as it honors the legacy of a man who filibustered civil rights legislation, actively supported segregation, and even co-authored the Southern Manifesto against the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. What could be more disparaging to Americans of African-American descent?

If your intent is to “right many of [these] injustices,” we suggest, in your capacity as Senate Majority Leader, that you file legislation to rename the Russell Senate Office Building to the Hiram Rhodes Revels Senate Office Building. Revels, as you know, was the first black Senator elected after the Civil War, a Republican, who even though he was duly selected by the Mississippi legislature, had to endure a raucous debate on the floor of the Senate led by Southern Democrats who opposed his seating on purely racist grounds.

Renaming the building after Revels, a suggestion first made by Washington, D.C.-based talk show host Chris Plante, could be the first of many recompenses Democrat leaders such as yourself might undertake, particularly considering the Party’s historic support of both slavery and segregation policies, to scrub the Capitol clean of its racist, Democrat history. The Russell Senate Office Building remains a stain on the honorable institution that is the Senate. We urge you to consider renaming it with the same haste you have urged the Redskins to change their name.

Sincerely,



Nathan Mehrens  
President

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to Bruce Allen from Sen. Reid, June 12, 2014. Available online at: [http://www.reid.senate.gov/press\\_releases/reid-sends-letter-to-bruce-allen-calling-on-washington-sports-team-to-change-offensive-nfl-team-name#.U6GzPUCmXjI](http://www.reid.senate.gov/press_releases/reid-sends-letter-to-bruce-allen-calling-on-washington-sports-team-to-change-offensive-nfl-team-name#.U6GzPUCmXjI) (accessed June 18, 2014).