

From: Devin Aycock <devinaycock@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2015 at 11:24:02 PM EST

To: <chancellor@ecu.edu>

Subject: Taking My Uncle's Name Off the Building

Hello Dr. Ballard,

My name is Devin Aycock. As you see, my last name is the same as Charles B. Aycock. This is no coincidence. Charles B. Aycock, the great governor, is my great uncle; however, I don't know exactly how far up the family tree he is. Nevertheless, he is my family and after hearing about the sudden pursuit to change the name of the dorm named after him I was confused. It is said that his name should be removed for his opinions at the time on segregation and slavery (please correct me if I am wrong). As lineage to him, it is like a slap in the face to our family. Why would you punish a great man for having the beliefs that were accustomed to his time? Many great men throughout the history of our country have had the same beliefs that he had, yet still are congratulated with memorials and even national remembrance days. What happened in our country's past cannot be changed no matter how horrible an act it was. However, there should be no reason to attack his beliefs so many years later when that was the natural beliefs of nearly everyone at the time that he lived. Things were definitely different back then as they are tremendously different today. We have different beliefs than him for we live in a different time than him where it is not uncommon for desegregation and equal rights. This was not the "norm" in his days. It is always shown through history that if it is not normal to us, we dislike it. I desperately urge you to reconsider the name change for his honor, as well as my family's honor, should not be extinguished because he believed in popular belief. I'm sure if more of us lived in his time, we would share his beliefs just because those are the beliefs we would be raised with. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

Thank you for hearing me out,

Devin Aycock, a great nephew of a great man.