

Please call it Old Main

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A group of our students stuck out their necks to tell us that Tillman is a hurtful name to them. They told us that attaching that name to our most visible building makes them feel unwelcome. These are just the students who spoke out, and just the ones who ended up choosing Clemson. Imagine how many more were driven away by the unwelcoming atmosphere.

Surely no one in the so-called Clemson family wants their kin to feel hurt or unwelcome, especially the more one learns about Ben Tillman. It's pretty obvious that honoring any legacy he has is far outweighed by the hurt that doing so causes.

For me, the name is embarrassing, and the refusal to officially change it is even more so. I want to work at a great university and recent events seem like a step in the wrong direction for Clemson.

I feel embarrassed, but I can only imagine how hurtful the pushback is for those who stepped out to ask and then were denied. Surely it feels worse than if they hadn't tried to make Clemson better in the first place.

But, together, we can do something more powerful than any administrative decree. We can immediately start a diversity initiative that is absolutely free. And for inspiration, we need look no further than the football stadium; "Clemson Death Valley" gets more google hits than its official name "Clemson Memorial Stadium."

A building's name is what we call it, and we can call the building with the bells that overlooks Bowman field whatever we want. We don't need approval from the state legislature, and we certainly don't need the endorsement of the board of trustees.

So please, if you care about your Clemson family, exercise your freedom of speech and call it Old Main.