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NEWS

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Name, not baggage

The pressure is on governmental leaders to remove all icons of the Confederacy. The latest push is to strike the Confederate names of 10 Army posts.

The targets are from Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia down though the Southeast Conference to Fort Hood in Texas.

Enforcing this political correctness would be expensive. But maybe there is a face-saving way out. We could do what Seattle did back in 1986. Its King County was originally named for William Rufus DeVane King, who was a vice president and had been our ambassador to France. (In that last role, he helped the United States get Texas.) But he also sponsored legislation that prolonged slavery.

Seattle did not want to continue to honor King, but at the same time they did not want to change all the letterheads on their stationery. So they decided to name the county in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Brilliant. Keep the name; lose the baggage.

We need to do the same. We need to find 10 upright citizens with names such as Bragg and Pickett, and then proclaim them as the "real" reason the forts are so named.

It is all so simple.

Now we just have to hope there is no dirt on Sam Houston.

Star Carey, Canyon Lake