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To: The Chapel Hill Town Council
Chapel Hill, NC

I am late with this. Please
consider postponing vote on renaming
Airport Road.

It seems that....

The local chapter of the NAACP has proposed a
controversial idea in wanting to rename Airport
Road after Martin Luther King. I hear, have
discussed and read about both sides of the controversy
and see some merit in all the points of view.
Some are reasoned. Some are not.

In my view....

Wanting to commemorate King is valid. Indeed
his importance to all people, not just those of his
own race, is in a class with Lincoln and Gandhi.
It's not just local; it's national. It's global.

I've resisted renaming Airport Road and here's why.
I've lived here longer than most people who want
the name changed. It's part of my history that I
don't want erased. Many older Chapel Hillians
feel this way. We have helped build and name
parts of this town, and we are even angry that
our history is ignored in this discussion.

As others have asked, I ask too, "Why just another
street naming? So many towns have done that."
Bruce Egan (Chapel Hill Herald June 13, p.2) has come
a little closer to my view even though he proposes
renaming the road as well as a memorial

in the form of a walkway with statuary and quotations by King.

I suggest a bust of King or life-sized figure placed prominently downtown on Franklin Street, maybe in the open gathering place in front of the old post office. There is already a significant work of art from the early part of the last century in the inside mural. The space is also used for a lot of public business.

But let's not change what works for many. Let's not erase Airport Road's name, and let us find a more fitting memorial for Martin Luther King.

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