

Liberty University's Jerry Falwell Supports Effort to Rename Lynchburg

Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University, said he supports the effort to rename Lynchburg, Virginia, because it has been “an embarrassment” to the college founded by his late father in 1971.

“I personally support changing the name of the city of Lynchburg,” Falwell said in a statement, according to WDBJ-TV. “It’s been an embarrassment to Liberty University since we started it. That was one of the reasons Liberty’s original name was changed from Lynchburg Baptist College to Liberty Baptist College in 1976.”

The city was named after its Quaker founder, John Lynch, whose brother Charles, a judge, is believed to be the namesake of the term “lynching.” There is, however, much debate among historians over the origin of the word.

Lynchburg resident Daisy Howard started the petition last month, which she sent to the city council. It has so far collected more than 5,300 signatures.

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