

February 28, 2024

To the Mayor and Town Council of Washington Grove,

I am writing on behalf of not only myself, but, my husband, Steven, as well.

As most of you may know, I was born and raised here in Washington Grove. My parents (Carl & Regina Franck) moved here from Washington, DC, in 1951. I have been blessed to have had such a wonderful childhood here in the Grove, and, I now feel very fortunate to live in my family home. As an adult, I have come to appreciate the unique history of our town and to value the many passionate volunteers (past and present) who have worked together throughout the years to preserve what we, as a community, share today.

With that being said, Steven and I listened in on the special Town Council meeting last evening, and, we have read the many letters that been submitted thus far regarding the five recent recommendations proposed by RASEC. We both agree that these proposals are not necessary (the sentiments of Shelly Winkler and Tom Land were well presented in their letters), and, in particular, we feel that the proposal to consider changing the name of McCathran Hall is misguided and should be rejected. Making this a racial issue is, in our opinion, very wrong.

We, as a community, should be proud and acknowledge all the good that Roy McCathran did for our Town - his passion and insight lead us to where we are today. As long-standing town residents, we are proud to honor his name.

We believe that the constant dwelling on past racial issues is unnecessary and in many ways damaging. Erasing history is not the answer - learning from our mistakes in the past and moving forward together is what we need to be passionate about - not pointing fingers and digging up things that cause division amongst us.

Sincerely,

Cynthia and Steven Werts  
410 Oak Street