

OPEN LETTER TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

From: John C. Tomlin
358 Ridge Road

Subject: Proposed renaming of McCathran Hall

1. I was astounded to hear that there is a strong sentiment among some town residents to change the name of McCathran Hall to simply the Hall solely on the basis that former mayor Roy McCathran acted in a black face minstrel show and administered a town with certain restrictive deed covenants. This is the most ludicrous thing I've ever heard!
2. The current popular trend among living room liberals to apply current cultural standards in a retroactive manner is just plain silly. Would these folks remove the names of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, as well as others, from the roles of past Presidents of the United States merely because they were slave owners?
3. Roy McCathran did an awful lot to put the Town of Washington Grove on the map. That he did some things that we would not do today is irrelevant. I have strong feelings about the number of "Black Lives Matter" signs prominently posted on some town residences, yet I see no evidence that minorities are welcome in the town. The town rejected state Project Open Space funds to help maintain play areas and fields because the acceptance of these funds would require the town to open these fields to outside groups. "They don't look like us" I heard one resident mutter at a Town Council meeting discussing the topic.
4. Changing the name of McCathran Hall won't do anything to change mindsets. Roy McCathran and his descendants have done much to contribute to the town as it currently is. **DON'T CHANGE THE NAME!**

Respectfully,

JOHN C. TOMLIN
358 Ridge Road