

Renaming the Hall

Hi Kathy,
I'd appreciate if you could please forward this recommendation to the Mayor and Council members.
Thanks as always,
Eva

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
I have followed this discussion with interest and until recently, found it to be valuable and educational. I hadn't intended to participate actively, but now find myself compelled to do so.

Surely, none among us can deny that the history of African Americans in this country is unique. No other immigrant group was brought here involuntarily in chains for the purpose of enslavement. I have to believe that the impact of that is immense and generational and continues to affect Black Americans economically, socially, and psychologically.

When we talk about things like compensation for the past, I confess that I balk at it. My family here derives from Eastern European Jews that were driven to emigrate to escape violent religious persecution. My predecessors weren't here in the 1800s or early 1900s and came here as poor (and not particularly welcome) people. Do I owe anything to African (and other Black) Americans? I think so. I owe the courteous and dignified treatment that everyone deserves. I owe respect (as warranted by character). I also believe personally that I owe a political perspective that promotes equal opportunity for socioeconomic growth and advancement.

Regarding renaming the Hall. I do see the significance of names. In science, we are actively renaming anatomical structures with this same purpose in mind (e.g. textbooks are now starting to refer to 'uterine tubes' instead of 'Fallopian tubes'). Is this the issue I find most salient and the battle I want to choose? No. It isn't. Vicious hateful prejudice is running rampant on our country, targeting Blacks, Hispanics, Jews, Arabs, Asians, non binary-heterosexuals (and also disturbing for me is the reactionary backlash against all white men, some of whom probably deserve it but most of whom certainly don't). Am I missing anyone? I'm sure I am. If the haters in our country feel like they need more targets, they'll find them for sure. If you do the math, this means that well over half of our nation's people are now living in fear. How can this be America?

For me, Now is the issue. Now is the battle. The work to be done is here and now.

I find the discourse around the name of the Hall to be degrading in value as the comments become more personal, more snarky, and less thoughtful. So I propose we put this to vote as a referendum in our upcoming elections. We can all vote, we can see how it comes out, and we can then all hopefully move on to work on the things we each deem most necessary "...in Order to form a more perfect Union."

Respectfully,
Eva Polston