

March 6, 2024

To the Mayor and Town Council:

Before proceeding to rename McCathran Hall, we should consider whether the resulting good will outweigh any harm. I do not think it will. First, the debate around this issue is poisoning the spirit of friendship and neighborliness that makes Washington Grove unique. If it is allowed to continue, we may not recover. This poisonous atmosphere is also undermining RASEC's other positive recommendations.

Some commenters suggest that renaming the hall is worth whatever pain it might cause. These comments are dismissive of the proposal's actual effects. We are behaving with incredible cruelty to the McCathran family, who over several generations has done more for our town than any other.

Renaming McCathran Hall will not affect anyone's behavior or attitude toward race.

In the name of healing the past, we will create a gaping wound in our present.

Bob Christin