

Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club - Name and Legacy Denied

Commentary

Our hearts are broken. Memories are foregone. Our hero's legacy is being lost.

The alumni of the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Clubs are saddened beyond measure that the heralded namesake who created a well-deserved legacy is being unheralded.

We regret that we failed to impress upon those in the cockpit of the charitable corporation (Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club, Inc.) that we as passengers are not just along for the ride. Life is a journey and we all reach a destination. While that destination is important for eternity, the joy is in the journey.

Why delete "Frank Callen"? For Economic advantage, according to Mr. John Herdina, President of the Board of Directors of Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, Inc.? Or, is the question the expansion of the Boys and Girls Club to service additional counties? If so, the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club, Inc., charter is already set up to provide services to Chatham, Liberty, Effingham and Bryan counties. The umbrella is already in place.

Why deny "Frank Callen?" For the hope that the almighty dollar might be marginally enhanced? At what price? Some prices are too expensive and not related to success.

The Alumni are excited and committed to providing opportunity for as many youth as possible to realize the legacy of Frank Callen, "DO GOOD" in their lives. By 1917, as a local Probation Officer, Frank Callen had locked up so many youngsters who had no wholesome outlets for recreation, that he knew what needed to be done. He began the legacy enjoyed today that still graces his name, Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club Inc.

We urge the Board to reconsider and to resolve this matter as follows:

That the legal corporate name, as still on record with the Georgia Secretary of State remain Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, Inc. The Board may then approve each dub location to carry its established name, with the subtitle:

A Unit of the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, Inc.

The public knows that Frank Callen's name is a plus. It is something to be proud of, and not to be discarded as if he didn't matter. Had he not done what he did for our youth, this discussion would not even be taking place. We will never forget him, and the Board should not do so either. Good names are important. Would you give up yours? *James J. Holmes/Member- Frank Callen Boys and Girls Alumni & Friends Association County Commissioner District 2*