

Editorial/Commentary

Frank Callen's Legacy Sold for a Few Dollars More

By **Walter B. Simmons**



The late Frank Callen

An ever increasing number of alumni and friends of the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club are expressing serious concerns over the recent change of name for the local club. Communications from the club is now under the heading of "Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Savannah." A recent news letter seeking financial support gives a ninety year history of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Savannah that mirrors the Frank Callen Club's history. It does not, however, mention Frank Callen nor any individuals or organizations who played a role in its ninety plus years of history.

After an involvement of more than seventy years as a member, volunteer, part - time employee, coach, program director acting executive director and board member, I have become rather uniquely identified with the club. Consequently, I am constantly besieged personally and via mail and telephone calls, from across the nation asking 'Who did it and why? And then I am invariably asked, "What are we going to do about it?" The Frank Callen Boys

& Girls Alumni and Friends Association previously asked the Board to not change the name. An inquiry from Boys & Girls Club Regional Office replied that the decision is strictly up to the local club. The Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club board of directors insisted that they could more profitably market the Boys & Girls Club without the name Frank Callen attached to it! say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

The Alumni and Friends Association is now in the process of procuring signatures on a petition to ask the board to rescind this action. Following this, if necessary, they will move, with the promise of help from individuals and other organizations, to do what is necessary to restore Frank Callen's name to its deserved place of honor.