



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Tonya B. Lacey, Clerk of Council
DATE: July 8, 2020
RE: 2020 Wall of Honor Recommendations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Lacey', is located to the right of the 'FROM' and 'DATE' fields.

ISSUE

2020 Wall of Honor recipients.

BACKGROUND

The Memorial's Advisory Commission received eight applications for their consideration of the City's 2020 Wall of Honor.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve the recommendation of the Memorials Advisory Commission to place the following four (4) individuals upon the City's 2020 Wall of Honor:

- Jerry Brent
- O'Neal Mercer
- Robert "Hotsy" Moore
- Josiah Rowe

Attachments:

Applications

Print

Wall of Honor Application - Submission #27121

Date Submitted: 5/29/2020

Any person seeking to nominate an individual for inclusion on the City's Wall of Honor, located in Fredericksburg City Hall, should complete the following application and submit it to the Clerk of Council for consideration by the Memorials Advisory Commission. Each year, the Commission recommends the names of up to 4 persons to Council, which makes the final decision on all nominations. To be considered by the Commission and City Council, nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees must be recently deceased individuals who, during their lifetimes, were residents of the Fredericksburg area and who made significant contributions to the welfare of the City.
2. Nominees should have been deceased for at least one year prior to nomination.
3. Nominations may be submitted by any person who was personally acquainted with the nominee, except that no individual may be nominated by an immediate family member.

Please attach any supporting documentation, letters, obituaries, news articles, or other information to support your nomination.

Date*

5/29/2020

First Name*

Jerry Holland

Last Name*

Brent

Date and Location of Birth

June 1, 1952, Fredericksburg, VA

Date of Death & Burial Location

June 17, 2014, Fredericksburg, VA

Educational Background:

Jerry attended local schools, graduating from James Monroe High School and the University of Virginia (McIntire School of Commerce) 1974.

Civil Service/Elected or Appointed Positions

Military Service

None

Awards and Honors Received

Significant contributions to the welfare of the City and to the betterment of society:

Jerry Brent loved history and found his passion in his hometown, Fredericksburg. An avid collector of local historic ephemera, he amassed a collection of artifacts that told the stories of the town's people through events, businesses and photography. He willingly shared his collection for public display at the Fredericksburg Area Museum. When he retired from a career with the United State Department of Agriculture in the Rural Utilities sector, he became the Executive Director for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. As a member of the Friends of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Jerry willingly helped to sort books for the annual book sales.

In your own words, discuss your reasons/justification for making this nomination.

Fredericksburg is lucky to have people like Jerry Brent as citizens. Quiet, capable and unassuming, he helped to tell the story of our historic past. Although a commuter for his professional career, he never lost his identity as one of Fredericksburg's own. Through preserving artifacts, many found at yard sales and auctions, he amassed a valuable collection that cumulatively told the stories of the townspeople and their events. His collection of photographs and early postcards documented the buildings and vistas both locally and of Virginia. His affable personality, charming good looks and demeanor contributed to his reputation as a gentleman. Perhaps his best acquisition was a local girl, Lou Thornton, who became his wife. Together they nurtured a lovely garden at their Washington Ave. home and supported local artists as benefactors.

Attach supporting documentation/information such as, but not limited to, photographs, newspaper articles, letters of commendation, obituaries, etc. The Memorials Advisory Commission and the Fredericksburg City Council will be depending solely upon your supplied information and research in considering nominations

Supporting Documentation

JerryBrentObituary.docx

Supporting Documentation

No file chosen

Supporting Documentation

JerryBrentSpeechMemorialDay2010.docx

Supporting Documentation

No file chosen

Nominating Person or Group:*

Jeanette Cadwallender

Address1

801 Hanover St.

Address2

City

Fredericksburg

State

VA

Zip

22401

Phone*

540-840-9990

Email*

jcadwallender@mac.com

Applicant Signature: I understand that checking the box below is the equivalent of signing my name.*

I Accept

Applicant Name*

Jeanette R. Cadwallender

Date*

5/29/2020

Jerry H. Brent

Jerry Holland Brent, 62, died quietly at home after a valiant fight against cancer on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. He was surrounded by his beloved wife and family.

A Fredericksburg native, he graduated from James Monroe High School and was a graduate of the McIntire School of Commerce of the University of Virginia in 1974. He worked for 30 years with the Rural Utilities Service at the United States Department of Agriculture. After retiring, Jerry became the executive director of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

His gracious manner and good humor will be missed by all who knew him. His great affection for local history inspired an impressive collection of historic documents and artifacts specific to Fredericksburg and Virginia. He remained a loyal University of Virginia supporter throughout his life. He held memberships in Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center, Fredericksburg Area Museum, the Civil War Trust, Friends of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library and the University of Virginia Alumni Association.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Lou. He is also survived by his brother, Bill Brent (Lila) of Reedville; his brothers-in-law, Bill Thornton (Linda) and Ed Thornton (Janet); his nieces and nephew, Holly Brent Moore (Rich), Stefanie Thornton, Jennifer Farrar (Chris) and Will Thornton. He was predeceased by his parents, Bill and Mary Brent.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 20, at Covenant Funeral Service, Fredericksburg. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 21, at the Fredericksburg City Cemetery on Washington Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402; the Fredericksburg Regional SPCA, 10819 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22408; or Mary Washington Hospice, 5012 Southpoint Parkway, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

Speech presented May 31, 2010, by Jerry H. Brent at the Ladies Memorial Association program at the Confederate Cemetery.

As we gather today to honor those that have fought, and are still fighting, in our nation's wars, I thought it might be interesting to go back and examine the time period immediately after the Civil War. The feelings that pervaded among the general population and the many veterans, both north and south, eventually led to the creation of a national military park and the preservation of the ground upon which they had fought and spilled so much of their blood. Not surprisingly, several individuals who played active rolls in these events rest in the Confederate Cemetery or the Fredericksburg City Cemetery. I'll note this as I go along.

Nowhere else but the Fredericksburg area can be found four major Civil War battles in such close proximity. In the ensuing years, veterans, on both sides, returned to the local battlefields to remember old times and honor fallen comrades. Monuments were dedicated as permanent memorials. Soldiers' cemeteries were established and Memorial Day celebrations were attended by returning veterans and the local populace.

The first order of business after the fighting ended was to find a proper burial place for the thousands of soldiers that had died both of wounds and disease. It was very important that the dead be buried properly and in a place of honor. In July of 1865, the Fredericksburg National Cemetery was established by the Federal government as the final resting place of the Union casualties. Construction began in 1866 and over the next three years the remains of Union soldiers were dug up throughout the surrounding countryside, mostly in unmarked graves, and brought to the new cemetery and reinterred there in a place befitting their sacrifice. Today, over 15,000 Union soldiers lie in that cemetery.

According similar treatment to the dead was just as important to Southerners as it was to those in the north. By 1864, townspeople had begun to bury Confederates in the City Cemetery, in neat graves. But, after the war ended, the Federal government, quite understandably, was not about to foot the bill to so honor their recently vanquished foe. Thus it fell to private individuals and groups to find the means to create a cemetery for their fallen heroes. In 1866, the Ladies Memorial Association was organized to accomplish this important task. The plan was to raise as much money locally and within the state as possible, and then issue an appeal to be sent all throughout the southern states for funds. In 1867 the association was able to purchase the property that would soon become the Confederate Cemetery. Soon the work began of gathering the dead from the surrounding battlefields resulting in the graves of approximately 3,300 that you see before you today.

Today, the Federal government still cares for the National Cemetery and the Ladies still care for the Confederate Cemetery. I leave you decide which is the most powerful organization.

Thus, at first, all efforts were focused on the proper burial and memorializing of the dead. But once this task was accomplished, there began to be an interest amongst the veterans of the conflict to gather and relive old times and honor their fallen comrades.

Although Memorial Day celebrations began soon after the war ended, one of the first such large scale gatherings documented in the local newspapers occurred in May of 1884 when about 200 veterans of the First Corps-Army of the Potomac arrived in Fredericksburg. Initially veterans groups from the north and south meet separately. As animosities brought about as a result of the war faded, however, the old foes often would meet together as friends. Certainly the seeds of reconciliation had been sown by this time as the town was bedecked with flags, bunting and banners. The entourage was warmly greeted by the mayor, the City Council, a number of Confederate veterans and a committee of citizens. The entire party then proceeded to the Opera House where a splendid feast had been laid out by the city government. The group consisted of a number of prominent veterans, both Union and Confederate, and over the next 3 days they walked the battlefields and explained the engagements in which they had participated only 20 years earlier. At Fredericksburg, Gen'l Abner Doubleday described the union advance to Prospect Hill and at Marye's Heights, Union artillery chief, Genl. Henry T. Hunt directed the groups' attention to Stafford Heights and pointed out the position of the Federal artillery across the river and proceeded to offer a detailed account of Burnside's crossing. Lee's old warhorse, Gen'l James Longstreet, narrated in detail the operation of the Confederate forces and spoke of the carnage he recalled in front of the stone wall. "A truce was called after the fight to bury the dead", Longstreet said. "I have seen a great many battlefields, but none so shocking as this. The dead were buried in numerous pits, 8 feet deep and 30 feet square."

The next day the group proceeded to Chancellorsville where the Rev. James Power Smith, the pastor at the Presbyterian Church and formerly of Stonewall Jackson's staff, pointed out the place and described the council of Genls. Lee and Jackson in the woods over a small fire kindled by themselves. Proceeding to the spot of Jackson's wounding, Smith described the difficulty in getting Jackson off the field and the treatment of his wounds.

In September of 1884, a confederate reunion was held involving veterans from the local units: the 30th Va., the 9th Va. Cavalry and the Fredericksburg Artillery. At an early hour, crowds from the surrounding counties began to pour into town and by 10am the streets were thronged with people. Following a parade through town, everyone assembled on Scott's Island, which had been appropriately decorated for the occasion. General Fitzhugh Lee was present and the featured speaker. He asserted that 'they did not meet in these reunions to revive bitter memories of a stormy past, or to dig up again buried political issues, but simply to clasp hands as comrades of grand deeds, to talk over a past that is secure, and to go forth with fresh inspiration and fresh courage for the duties of today and the hopes of the future.' James Power Smith spoke next. Smith remembered the first time he had ever seen Fredericksburg was on the Sunday

before the battle, when he sat on his horse next to Gen'l. Jackson and saw the refugees streaming from town in the midst of the Union bombardment. After the speeches the crowd, estimated at 2,000 enjoyed a bountiful meal followed by fireworks from a barge in the river.

Reunions were not always large grand affairs. Throughout the mid 1880s Company A of the 30th VA regiment met annually at Alum Springs. Always in attendance, and the center of attention was Lucy Anne Cox, who was married to one of the members of the regiment. Remarkably, Lucy remained with the regiment for the entire war, assisting her husband and administering to the sick and wounded. Upon her death in 1891 an impressive stone was erected on her grave in the Confederate Cemetery.

A Union veteran, Major J. C. Kerbay visited Fredericksburg on Memorial Day in 1889 and wrote, "Fredericksburg, what a cloud of war memories hangs over this old town! The mere mention of the name awakens the veteran's slumbering interests;—I have estimated that every soldier of the Army of the Potomac, as well as that of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, has, at one time or another been at Fredericksburg.

And then Kerbay voiced a sentiment that was becoming paramount in the minds of the veterans and the local populace. "Perhaps the time may come", Kerbay said, "when this old town, so close to the Capital, may become a Mecca; such as has been made of Gettysburg, and maybe the blood-stained soil may yet produce a crop of monuments that will equal Gettysburg. Who knows—perhaps the government will, in time, preserve more of this battle-ground as a National Park."

In the 1890s national parks were being established at other battlefields including Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh, Chattanooga and Antietam. But the Federal government was slower to move in the Fredericksburg area, primarily because several of the battles were stunning Confederate victories! Thus it fell to private entities and individuals to initially attempt to preserve the battlefields. In 1891, the Chancellorsville Battlefield Association was incorporated. The officers and directors were primarily veterans of both sides along with some prominent Fredericksburg residents. The organization's goal was, through funds raised from the sale of stock, to purchase local battlefield property. The Association began to purchase land at Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania Court House, eventually acquiring approximately 800 acres on each battlefield. While successful in initially acquiring properties, by 1893 the Association was in financial difficulty and was eventually forced, in 1895, to dispose of its holdings. Thus these important battlefield properties were again in private hands.

A separate movement to establish a Park began in 1896 when the Fredericksburg City Council passed resolutions urging the formation of a Park. A local committee was formed to foster a Park and to elicit the help of the U. S. Congress. On April 16, a mass meeting was held at the Opera House to organize a group for the park establishment. The local paper wrote, "Bowering's Band discoursed sweet music during the evening, and the meeting adjourned with a feeling that with a strong pull, a long pull, and a pull

altogether, we will soon have established a great Battlefield Park on the historic Battlefields of this section. During the War, A. B. Bowering was the principal musician of the 30th Virginia Regiment. After the war Bowering's brass band would typically perform at any number of events in the area. Bowering is buried in the City Cemetery and the inscription on his stone suggests that he composed the funeral dirge and led the band at the funeral of Stonewall Jackson.

In May 1900, the Society of the Army of the Potomac, the largest Union veterans group in the country, held its annual reunion in Fredericksburg. This was the first time that this group had met on southern soil. With bills to create a local national Military park circulating in Congress, local battlefield preservationists achieved a coup when President McKinley, himself a veteran, accepted an invitation to attend. It was hoped that a visit by the President would result in political capital and the easier passage of a bill. The Society officially endorsed the creation of a Park and hoped Congress would soon act. On May 25, at the exercises in the Courthouse, Gen'l Dan Sickles gave a long oration, stating that "Fredericksburg is consecrated by precious historical memories....within a small area near the spot where we are now seated, are the great battlefields where more men fought and fell than upon any space of equal dimensions on the face of the earth. These famous battlefields should be made a National Military Park." Later that night at the Opera House, Judge John T. Goolrick welcomed the former officers and dignitaries to the city and observed that he was the most distinguished guest present, being one of the few former Confederate privates in attendance.

Despite the positive publicity generated for the creation of the park and resolutions sent supporting its creation, Congress did not act. Though the turn of the century attempt to create a military park had failed, interest in permanently preserving the battlefields did not wane in the ensuing years. Veterans, tourists, students and writers continued to visit the area in large numbers.

In 1921, a huge military maneuver at the Wilderness, involving some 4200 Marines, again brought nationwide publicity to the area. The program involved demonstrations geared toward battleship defense against airplanes. The outlines of a battleship and an aircraft carrier were laid out on the ground near Wilderness Tavern, (near the present day intersection of routes 3 and 20). For four days the Marines defended the battleship against attack. Bombers flew overhead and searchlights, blank charges and rockets lit up the night. Throughout the exercises, the Marines staged "amphibious" landings, using Wilderness Run to mark the "shoreline."

This event attracted thousands of people and received national attention. Among those present were President Harding, high ranking military officers and members of Congress. President and Mrs. Harding actually spent the night at the site in a tent that was called the Canvas White House. The national and statewide attention the maneuvers brought to the area helped to rekindle an organized effort to establish a

park. By the way, the property where these maneuvers occurred was recently purchased by the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The efforts to create a park during the past 25 years finally began to bear fruit in 1924. That year Congress authorized the creation of a Commission to inspect the battlefields around Fredericksburg and to report on the feasibility of marking and preserving them. The Commission would consist of a Union and Confederate veteran and a current officer in the Corps of Engineers. As they had done so often in past efforts to preserve the battlefields, local residents played a key role. Judge John T. Goolrick, the private who had greeted the dignitaries and expressed his importance at the 1900 gathering of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, was designated the Confederate veteran on the Commission. Upon Judge Goolrick's death in 1925, his place was taken by another Fredericksburg resident, Vivian Minor Fleming. Goolrick is buried in the City cemetery, and Fleming in the Confederate cemetery.

And finally in 1927, the Act to establish the Military Park was approved by Congress. At a Commission meeting in 1929, Fleming stated, somewhat prophetically, that their recommendations, everybody realized, did not provide for enough area to be acquired and that the importance of the fields called for greater holdings. He believed that the work should be finished as outlined and then augmented by requests for more land.

In 1932 the Park had acquired over 2,100 acres. Today it encompasses approximately 8,300 acres. But the fight to preserve these hallowed grounds continues. There is still much more to do, much more to save. On average 30 acres of civil war battlefields are lost every day. How better to honor the memory of these men that lie before you and those in the National Cemetery than to continue to preserve the ground over which they fought and died. And what a noble cause, to perpetuate the legacy of battlefield preservation begun so long ago by the veterans and local residents of this community.

Bibliography

Happel, Ralph. A History of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Park. Fredericksburg, 1955.

Mink, Eric J. The Link/Atkins Tract. National Park Service, 2009

Phanz, Donald C. War So Terrible: A Popular History of the Battle of Fredericksburg. Page One History Publications. Richmond, Va. 2003. Pages 115-117.

Fredericksburg Star: 1884

Print

Wall of Honor Application - Submission #27184

Date Submitted: 6/1/2020

Any person seeking to nominate an individual for inclusion on the City's Wall of Honor, located in Fredericksburg City Hall, should complete the following application and submit it to the Clerk of Council for consideration by the Memorials Advisory Commission. Each year, the Commission recommends the names of up to 4 persons to Council, which makes the final decision on all nominations. To be considered by the Commission and City Council, nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees must be recently deceased individuals who, during their lifetimes, were residents of the Fredericksburg area and who made significant contributions to the welfare of the City.
2. Nominees should have been deceased for at least one year prior to nomination.
3. Nominations may be submitted by any person who was personally acquainted with the nominee, except that no individual may be nominated by an immediate family member.

Please attach any supporting documentation, letters, obituaries, news articles, or other information to support your nomination.

Date*

6/1/2020

First Name*

O'Neal

Last Name*

Mercer

Date and Location of Birth

Essex County, June 23, 1940

Date of Death & Burial Location

November 18, 2007, Quantico, VA

Educational Background:

Graduate, Walker-Grant High School, 1958

Civil Service/Elected or Appointed Positions

Appointed by City Council to the Fredericksburg Biracial Commission to address racial issues in Fredericksburg
Fredericksburg City Schools School Advisory Commission
Fredericksburg City Schools Transportation Chairman
Appointed by Citizens United for Action to run for a seat on City Council
Appointed President of the Hazel Hill Corporation
Appointed by Area 13 Virginia State Chairperson NAACP
Parliamentarian of the Virginia State Conference NAACP

Military Service

US Army, 1958-1961. Member of the Paratrooper 82nd Airborne Division

Awards and Honors Received

Mr. Mercer was the recipient of numerous community and civic awards for he was very humble, so much so that many have gone unnoticed.

Image Award

NAACP State Conference in 2001

Fredericksburg Branch NAACP Award

Mayfield Civic Association Award

Significant contributions to the welfare of the City and to the betterment of society:

Help to lead the effort for the first free school bus service for all students to attend Hugh Mercer, including the charter bus operated by Mayfield Civic Association.

Considered to be the champion for the City to build a public pool so that everyone -- old, young, rich, poor, black, white -- could go to swim as he first had the opportunity to swim after he joined the military.

Served on Fredericksburg's school advisory committee that implemented a system to give children with disabilities educational opportunities before any other jurisdiction in Virginia.

He managed the regions' first subsidized housing complex, Hazel Hill Apartments, which greatly increased the availability of subsidized housing in Fredericksburg.

Committed to the preservation of African-American history of Fredericksburg; had a silver historical marker erected to mark the site of the Fredericksburg Normal and Industrial Institute (Mayfield High School), the regions first high school for blacks from 1905 until 1936.

President of Mayfield Civic Association where he implemented many innovative programs and services for the residents of the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods.

Former President of Fredericksburg Branch NAACP

Served as a member of the Board for the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP (the state association) whereby he was avid supporter of activities benefiting the African American community of Fredericksburg and Virginia

Volunteer teacher of Parliamentary Procedures to Head Start Parents

Active member of the Walker-Grant Alumni Association

In your own words, discuss your reasons/justification for making this nomination.

Mr. Mercer was a dedicated citizen of Fredericksburg and a selfless and loyal individual committed to all of which he was a part -- his family, his church, his neighborhood, his alma mater, his community, and his state. He contributed greatly to the success of each of these despite any of the obstacles he encountered. In fact, he was an achiever in multiple facets of life.

O'Neal grew up here in the segregated Fredericksburg of the 1940's and 1950's in the Mayfield area of the City where he returned to after his military service. He never grew angry because of the pain and challenges he faced through the discrimination he encountered. For example, he did not let the fact that the discrimination and limited opportunities afforded black students of his time precluded him from attending college. Instead, he became a self-taught man of many different intellectual subjects and topics.

The discrimination he faced also made O'Neal even more stronger and more determined to fight the social inequities and injustices people of color suffered prior to integration and thereafter. For example, he was a strong advocate for the hiring of black nurses in physician offices -- an effort from which I benefited. This determination to fight discrimination fueled his participation and ascension into the leadership ranks of the NAACP at the local, region, and statewide levels.

Even after O'Neal was diagnosed as a diabetic at the age of 27 and subsequently lost his right leg and three other toes on his left foot, he did not stop his commitment to all of family, church, and community activities. His handicapped helped him instead to be an even more compassionate father to his son who was born with cerebral palsy.

Lastly, Mr. Mercer was a very driven individual who followed his passions and goals, especially those for which others would benefit. He was passionate about the Fredericksburg community building a public pool for the entire community for over three decades. He never lost site of that goal and finally saw it realized. He is considered to be the champion for the pool now enjoyed by thousands each summer.

Attach supporting documentation/information such as, but not limited to, photographs, newspaper articles, letters of commendation, obituaries, etc. The Memorials Advisory Commission and the Fredericksburg City Council will be depending solely upon your supplied information and research in considering nominations

Supporting Documentation

ONeal Mercer Funeral Program.pdf

Supporting Documentation

ONeal Mercer Free Lance-Star Article.pdf

Supporting Documentation

Choose File No file chosen

Supporting Documentation

Choose File No file chosen

Nominating Person or Group:*

Trudy Smith

Address1

415 Tyler Street

Address2

City

Fredericksburg

State

VA

Zip

22401

Phone*

540-899-5558

Email*

16smithm@gmail.com

Applicant Signature: I understand that checking the box below is the equivalent of signing my name.*

I Accept

Applicant Name*

Trudy M. Smith

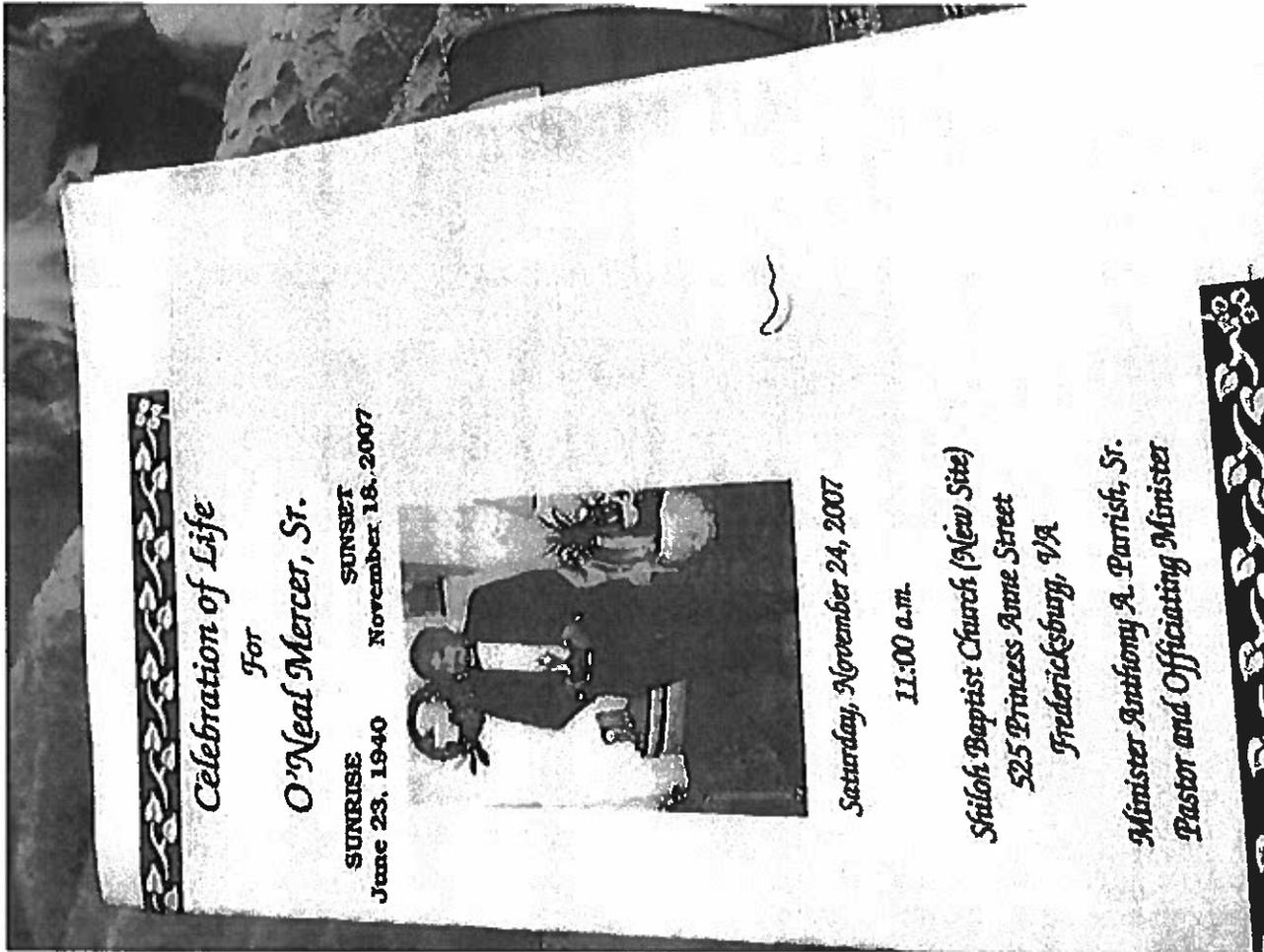
Date*

6/1/2020

Xavier R. Richardson

From: Trudy Smith <16smithtm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Xavier R. Richardson
Subject: O'NEAL

CAUTION: This email originated outside of MWHC. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Order of Service

- Officiating Pastor Anthony A. Parrish, Sr.
- Prelude Xavier Richardson
- Processional
- Prayer Rev. Nathaniel Young
- Hymn Men's Chorus
- Scripture
- Old Testament 90th Psalm
- New Testament 2nd Timothy Chapter 4:6-8
- Prayer of Comfort Rev. Lawrence A. Davies
- Solo Rev. Flahamel Turner
- Acknowledgement and Obituary Min. Rita Armstead
- Hymn Mrs. Della Holmes
- Tribute of Honors/Expressions of Sympathy (*maximum two minutes please*) Gayle Wilson Church Clerk
- David Williams Men's Chorus
- Debby Girvan President Mayfield Civic Association
- Jack Gravely Member of Fredericksburg City Council
- King Salim Khalifani Former President & State Director VA State NAACP
- Executive Director VA State NAACP
- Family and Friends
- Solo
- Eulogy Ms. Novella Jackson
- Min. Theodore Cunningham
- Pastor Emeritus SBCNS
- Remarks Pastor Anthony A. Parrish, Sr.
- Recessional Hymn Men's Chorus

Immediately following the service, the family invites you to share with them in a repast in the church fellowship hall.

Interment
Quantico National Cemetery
November 25, 2007
10AM

PALLBEARERS

*Deaconess and Organist
First Baptist Church - New Sic*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*His Home
in Life and
unto-Monroe
More Boofer*

*Sebn. Lawson
George McKers
Lanswood Smith
Whitson Gray*

FLOWER BEARERS

Deaconess and Friends of the Family

IN GRATITUDE



*"family wishes to thank each and everyone for their prayers,
re, concern, phone calls, and kindness shown to them during
the passing of their loved one.
"May God Bless Each of You"*

Services Entrusted To

BAILLY FUNERAL SERVICE

"Our Aim Is To Be worthy Of Your Friendship"
Fredericksburg, Virginia

August 19, 2006

The Free Lance-Star

TOWN & COUNTY



Legacy.

When O'Neal Mercer sees a civic need, he dives in to help. That's how the longtime activist spurred the city's first swimming pool. Pages 8-12

MAYFIELD CHAMPION

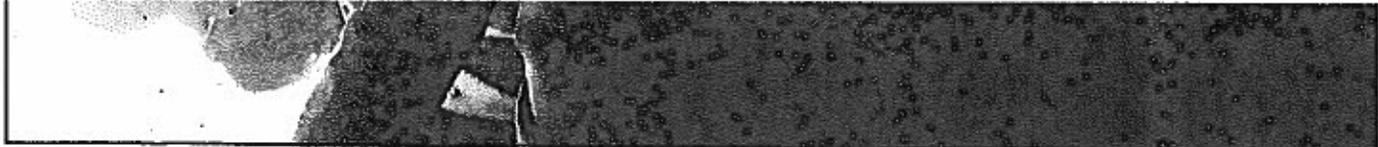
Activist makes a splash with new city pool

Story by **EMILY BATTLE** * Photos by **REBECCA SELL**
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

SIX-YEAR-OLD Jahla Mercer-Smith took to the waters of Fredericksburg's first public pool earlier this month to take the first swimming lessons ever offered by the city.

As she learned to kick, breathe and back-float at Dixon Park, she was fulfilling a dream her grandfather has talked about for more than three decades: that Fredericksburg should have a place where

O'Neal Mercer took his first dip in a real swimming pool at Fort Bragg, N.C., while serving a three-year stint in the Army, the



back-float at Dixon Park, she was fulfilling a dream her grandfather has talked about for more than three decades: that Fredericksburg should have a place where everyone—old, young, rich, poor, black, white—could come to swim.

O'Neal Mercer put the goal of building a municipal swimming pool at the top of his campaign platform when he ran unsuccessfully for the Fredericksburg City Council in 1972, but his wife, Mary, said he's been talking about the idea for longer than that.

Local Legacy

"He always said he felt like the city of Fredericksburg should have a public pool," she said. "He was saying that even before the election."

Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Director Bob Antozzi said Mercer was the pool's champion as the council deliberated over architectural plans and costs during the 1990s.

"He'd read the notices and he'd show up at the microphone and say, 'We need a pool,'" Antozzi said. "He did play a very important part, because he demonstrated the genuine need for the pool in Fredericksburg."

Many Fredericksburg residents know Mercer for his efforts to get a pool built in the city, but he has spent his life working for his community in other ways, too.

He managed the region's first subsidized housing complex, at Hazel Hill in

while serving a three-year stint in the Army—the only time in his life he spent outside Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg.

He and other residents of the Mayfield neighborhood banded together in 1969 to get their kids transportation to the city's new Hugh Mercer Elementary School, which was built on the opposite side of town at a time when the city did not provide school bus service.

He served on a school advisory commission that implemented a system to give children with disabilities educational opportunities before any other jurisdiction in Virginia had done so. He calls this one of his proudest moments, because it allowed his son, O'Neal, who was born in 1959 with cerebral palsy, to attend school.

"It helped him a lot," Mercer said of the opportunity. "He connected better, just socializing, being around all those children."

Mercer, 66, has lived in Fredericksburg since he was 3 years old, and he's spent all but two years of that time in the city's Mayfield neighborhood.

He lives with his wife and son in a house



Courtesy of O'NEAL MERCER

on Tyler Street.

He is a good-humored man, with an easy smile, despite his long battle with diabetes, which he was diagnosed with at age 27. It has taken his right leg and three toes on his left foot.

Mercer talks about growing up in segregated Fredericksburg not with anger, but with a tone that simply conveys the dark realities of those days, realities that he thinks are hard for younger generations who never lived through them to comprehend.

"It's hard to describe to my daughter," he said. "She grew up in an integrated system. I knew what it was like to go to a movie downtown and have to go upstairs."

Mercer's daughter, Traci, 41, lives in Fredericksburg and works for the federal government.

"As part of growing up in a segregated city, I somehow was drawn to civic activities," Mercer said. "It's funny how you get started in something, and you

to end up."

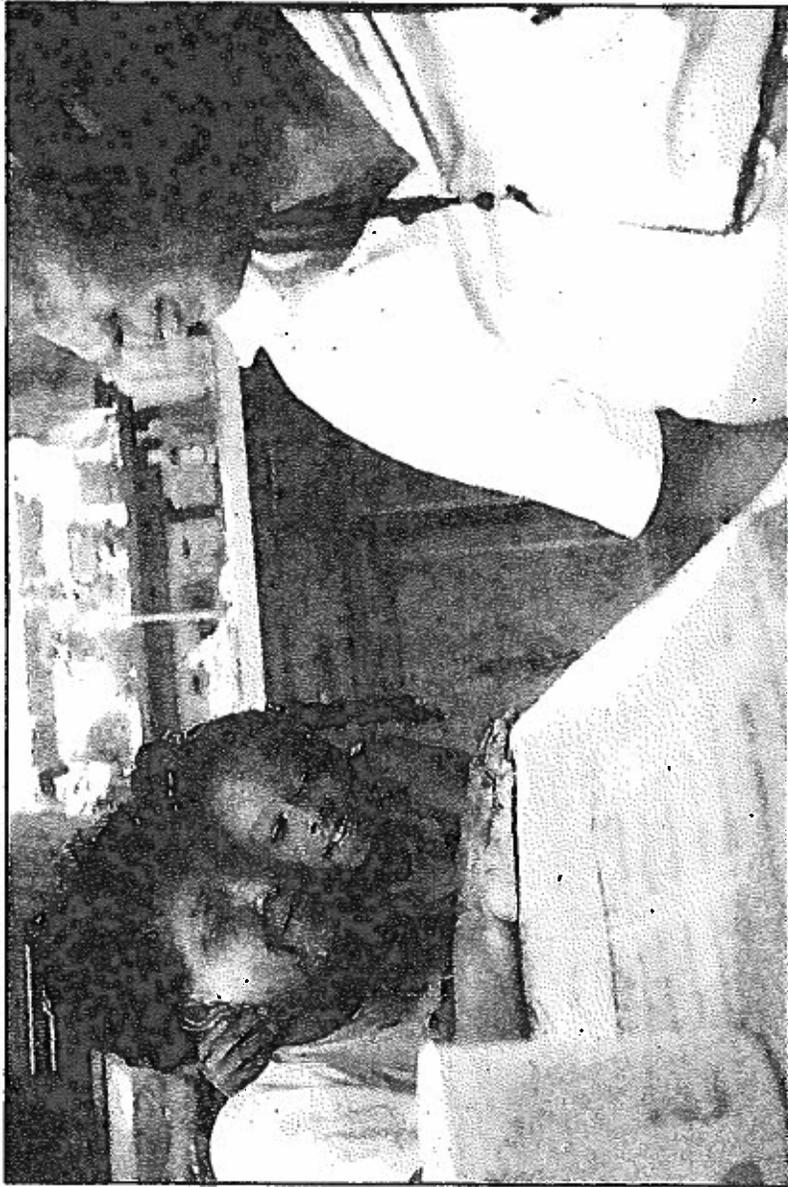
sex County on
mily moved to
r his birth.
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with his family.

AMPION, Page 10



O'Neal Mercer places
his hand on another member
of Shiloh Baptist Church
(New Site) in Fredericksburg
as three generations of
churchgoers pray together
during a Sunday morning
service. Mercer has been active
in the church for years.

Jahla Mercer-Smith,
her grandmother Mary Mercer and
her grandfather O'Neal Mercer sit
at the kitchen table. Jahla recently
finished swimming lessons
at Dixon Park. The pool was
a longtime dream of her
grandfather.



MAYFIELD CHAMPION CONT.

FROM PAGE 9

In 1949, Dick Mercer moved his family into the house on Tyler Street where he still lives at age 88.

The house was right across the street from the old school, and when the school burned down in 1955 it gave O'Neal and his younger brother, Bobby, a scare.

"Me and Bobby were down at Old Walker-Grant at a basketball game," Mercer said. "We heard the commotion, and looked over, and it looked like all of Mayfield was on fire. We thought it was our house."

The two teenagers rushed up to the neighborhood to see what was going on. When they got to their own front porch, Mercer said, "We couldn't even touch the storm door. The heat was so intense from the school."

In 1997, when Mercer was president of the Mayfield Civic Association, he had a silver historical marker erected to mark the site of the old school.

Mercer grew up going to Walker-Grant. He remembers using old typewriters that had been passed down after white students

dreaming of what the future would hold.

"We were in a citizenship class. The announcement came over the PA system, and everyone was jumping up and down saying, 'We're going to James Monroe next year!'" he said.

But that didn't happen. Fredericksburg schools did not integrate until 1968, one year before Mercer's daughter started kindergarten at Hugh Mercer Elementary School.

"Slow and deliberate speed," he says, shaking his head.

Still, Mercer said he enjoyed his school days, and looks forward to the Walker-Grant class reunions that are held regularly.

He met his wife at school there.

Mary said O'Neal's willingness to stand up and speak out was evident during his school days.

"He always was a person who would get up and speak, even in high school," she said. "O'Neal never brought books home to study, but the next day he could get up in class and speak."

O'Neal's sister Beverly—the youngest of his three siblings—

said she always looked up to her older brother's intelligence, and she wonders what he could have done if he'd continued his education past high school.

Mercer enlisted in the Army after graduating from Walker-Grant in 1958. He and Mary had just married, and Mercer had to leave her in Fredericksburg to go to Fort Bragg, N.C.

His three-year stint in the Army was the only time in his life he spent outside of Fredericksburg.

On the base at Fort Bragg, he took his first dip in a real swimming pool. But his time in North Carolina also included less pleasant experiences.

One night, he and some fellow soldiers wanted to go see a movie at a drive-in theater, but because of the realities of the Jim-Crow South, Mercer had to be smuggled in to catch the show.

"I had to get in some white person's trunk" to get in, he said.

When Mercer returned to Fredericksburg in 1962, things were starting to change.

While he had been away, during the summer of 1960 blacks in the See MAYFIELD CHAMPION, Page 11



MERCER FAMILY PHOTO

Mercer grew up in the city's Mayfield neighborhood and still lives there.

wore them out at James Monroe High School.

In 1954, when the Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, he was sitting in class,

STORY

The Free Lance-Star

Saturday, August 19, 2006

MAYFIELD CHAMPION CONT.

FROM PAGE 10

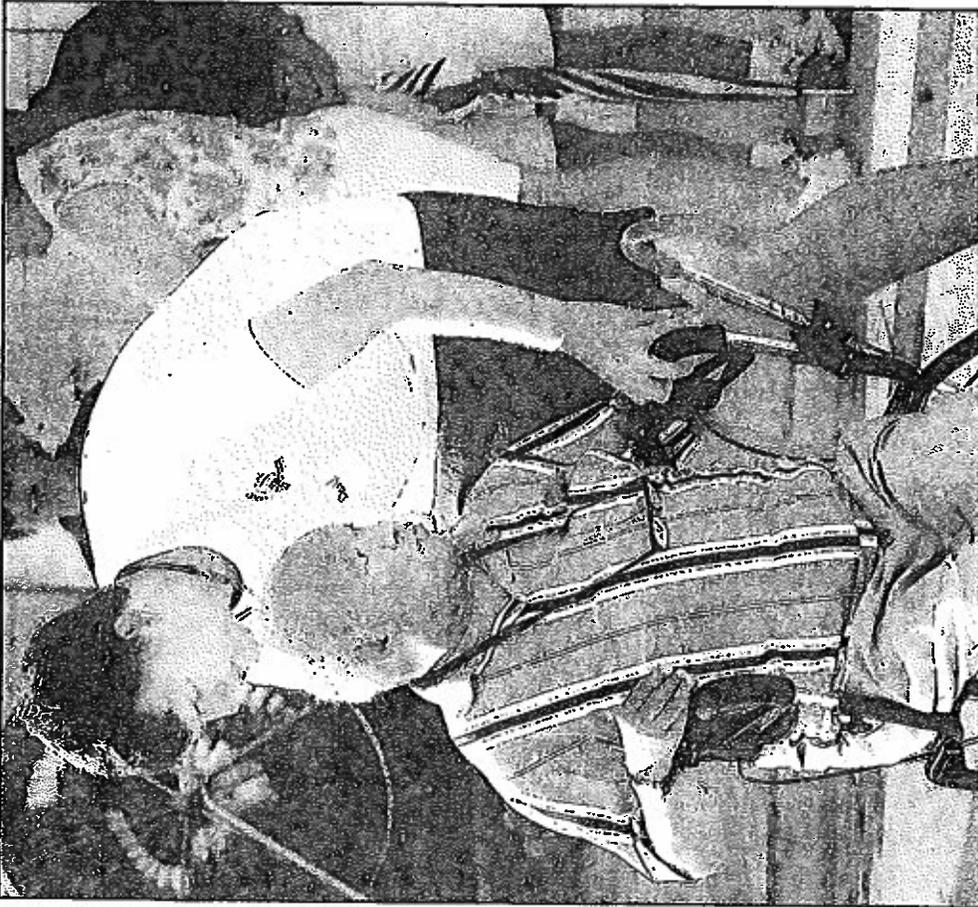
city had coordinated sit-ins at various lunch counters along Caroline Street, following the actions of similar groups around the South.

Mercer's sister Jerine was active in the sit-ins, and on a historical marker at the corner of William and Caroline streets she is pictured standing in front of the W.T. Grant store (where the Ben Franklin is now) holding a sign that reads, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

In 1963, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its state conference in Fredericksburg. Ten years earlier—the last time the state convention had been in the city—events for the roughly 400 delegates had to fit into venues at Shiloh (Old Site) and Shiloh (New Site) Baptist churches.

But in 1963, according to accounts in *The Free Lance-Star*, the delegates at the convention were able to gather at larger sites, such as the National Guard Armory. They held a rally in the auditorium at Maury School.

The School Board had initially declined the NAACP's request to use Maury, but relented after the



neighborhood today.

Mercer remembers spending Saturday mornings with another neighbor sitting in front of Bailey Funeral Service on White Street selling weekly passes on the bus, which went for somewhere between 25 and 50 cents a week, he said.

Through the fall of 1969 and spring of 1970, the neighborhood chartered a bus from Colonial Transit to take its children to and from Hugh Mercer.

O'Neal Mercer was working at the time as a salesman at Sears—which was in the William Street retail building that now houses Coldwell Banker real estate. He would take a few hours away from his job on school days to ride the bus and monitor the kids.

During that time, Mercer made what he said was his first foray into public speaking and city politics on the issue of school busing.

In February 1970, the city School Board held a public hearing on whether the city should provide bus service to get all children to school.

Before a crowd of about 300, Mercer was one of several dozen

MELVIN WILSON FOR MAYFIELD CHAMPION

the NAACP at around that time. He has remained active ever since, and spent 10 years on the board for the group's Virginia State Conference.

He said that for that 1963 convention, the General Washington and Princess Anne hotels downtown also opened for the first time to blacks.

"It was the first time we had a large enough space to accommodate everybody," he said.

Mercer said that when the convention had come to the city in the past, delegates would seek lodging in people's homes.

"They would have to sleep with friends, acquaintances, sometimes strangers," he said.

He credits the Bi-Racial Commission with helping to change that. That was a group appointed by the City Council to address racial issues. It consisted of four whites and four blacks.

Mercer was appointed to that commission in 1971.

A group called Citizens United for Action, which formed to fight discrimination in the community and had helped to establish the Bi-Racial Commission, recruited Mercer to run for a seat on the City Council the year after that.

The Rev. Lawrence Davies had become the first black member elected to the council in 1966. He said the CUA picked Mercer because he had already established himself as a leader.

Mercer lost by a small number



ROBERT A. MARTIN / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

O'Neal Mercer is wheeled (with the assistance of lifeguard David Kuckuck) into the shallow end of the Dixon Park Pool during the opening ceremony June 29.

of votes, but Davies said he was still effective in getting a message out on the causes he promoted, including the need for a public pool.

"He had a popularity, and it was an effort to utilize that natural popularity and the interest we knew he had in the improvement of life in the community," Davies said.

* * *

Mercer had helped make himself known in the community a few years earlier, when he and his neighbors in the Mayfield neighborhood banded together to solve another problem.

The city schools had integrated in 1968, but Mayfield residents recognized another barrier to getting their kids to class when

the city opened Hugh Mercer Elementary School in 1969, all the way across town.

"It finally dawned upon us that there was no way to get the children to Hugh Mercer," Mercer said.

The home mission department of Davies' Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site) had solved this problem for children—black and white—living in the areas around downtown and Hazel Hill by chartering a private bus to take kids to school.

"We just decided we would follow Rev. Davies' lead and in turn charter a bus," Mercer said.

This was the start of the Mayfield Civic Association, one of the first neighborhood associations in Fredericksburg, and one that continues to be active in the

probably spent more money trying to decide where to put a new firehouse and school than it would cost to provide transportation to all schools."

Later that year, the City Council approved funds to pay for the bus service.

* * *

Mercer has also been involved in another issue of equality in the city, and one that continues to be a problem for working families in the area—housing.

In 1969, Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site) and the city's human relations council set up a corporation to build the area's first subsidized housing—the 147-apartment Hazel Hill community.

The group got a federal grant and bought land at the lower end of Princess Anne Street to build the complex.

In 1969, Mercer was appointed president of that corporation, and on March 31, 1970, he and Davies gathered with city officials to celebrate Hazel Hill's groundbreaking.

Mercer managed the complex for most of the 1970s, and he said that it served much more than just city residents from its beginning.

"We had almost half of our first occupants from Stafford and Spotylvania," he said.

Hazel Hill continues to provide affordable housing in the city

See MAYFIELD CHAMPION, Page 12

MAYFIELD CHAMPION CONT.

FROM PAGE 11

today, and recently underwent a \$7 million renovation.

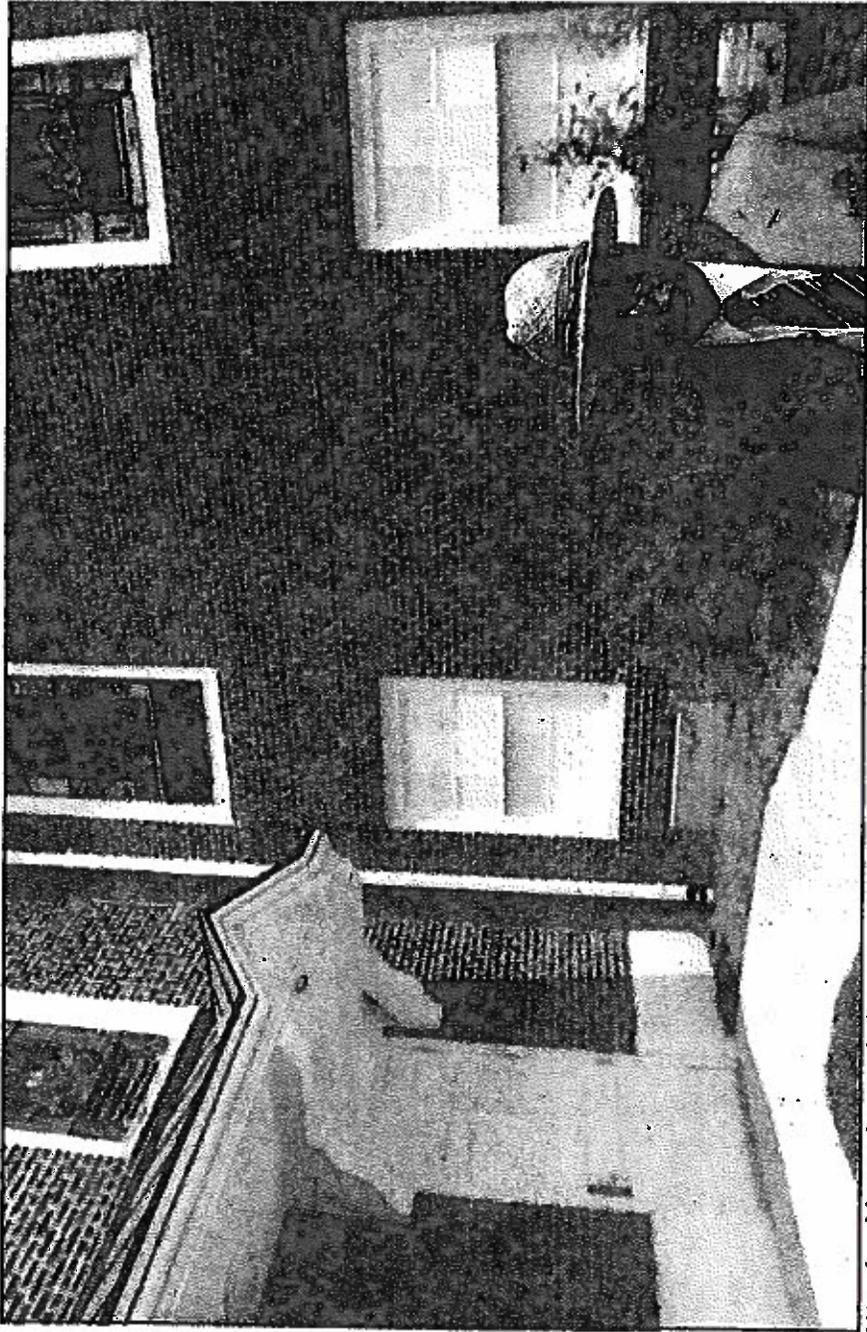
A lot has changed in the city since Mercer's days as a young boy in Mayfield playing games with his friends.

The city and region have grown, the Blue & Gray Parkway was built just a few blocks away from his house and new homes continue to sprout up from the few remaining empty lots in Mayfield.

But perhaps the change that gives Mercer the greatest joy is the transformation of what was a farm field across Dixon Street during his boyhood days into a city recreation complex, including the swimming pool he has asked for for so many years.

"I had no idea that 40 years later, there'd be a pool there," he said.

EMILY BATTLE is a staff writer with The Free Lance-Star. Contact her at 540/374-5413 or ebattle@freelances-tar.com. REBECCA SELL is a staff photographer with The Free Lance-Star.



Wearing his sun hat and glasses, Mercer makes his way out of church on a Sunday afternoon. Mercer currently lives with his wife and son in Mayfield.

Print

Wall of Honor Application - Submission #27120

Date Submitted: 5/29/2020

Any person seeking to nominate an individual for inclusion on the City's Wall of Honor, located in Fredericksburg City Hall, should complete the following application and submit it to the Clerk of Council for consideration by the Memorials Advisory Commission. Each year, the Commission recommends the names of up to 4 persons to Council, which makes the final decision on all nominations. To be considered by the Commission and City Council, nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees must be recently deceased individuals who, during their lifetimes, were residents of the Fredericksburg area and who made significant contributions to the welfare of the City.
2. Nominees should have been deceased for at least one year prior to nomination.
3. Nominations may be submitted by any person who was personally acquainted with the nominee, except that no individual may be nominated by an immediate family member.

Please attach any supporting documentation, letters, obituaries, news articles, or other information to support your nomination.

Date*

5/29/2020

First Name*

"Hotsy" Robert C.

Last Name*

Moore

Date and Location of Birth

2/14/1916 Rock Hill, SC

Date of Death & Burial Location

12/12/1971 Fredericksburg City Cemetery

Educational Background:

1933 Fredericksburg High School
1933-35 Virginia Tech ROTC, Blacksburg, VA
1935-36 Randolph Macon College, Lynchburg, VA

Civil Service/Elected or Appointed Positions

Fredericksburg Planning Commission organizing member and Chairman 1946-1963
American Legion Post 55- Post Commander 1951 and Program Chairman multiple years
Fredericksburg Lions Club - President 1951

Military Service

1942-1945 United States Navy WWII- served aboard the USS Conasauga a refueling ship in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship had the dangerous task of transporting gasoline to warships in the fleet.

Awards and Honors Received

Leadership Award by Ralston Purina, 1961 and years prior
Rappahannock District Boy Scouts - Certificate of Appreciation

Significant contributions to the welfare of the City and to the betterment of society:

Hotsy organized numerous events during the period of the 1940s through the 1960s to promote his love of Fredericksburg, elevate patriotism, recognize veterans, encourage youth sports and fundraise for the less fortunate. He achieved success in his endeavors by using famous sports figures such as "Rocky" Marciano, the undefeated heavy weight boxing champion of the world, Eddie LeBaron, the Redskins quarterback and other professional athletes and olympians. If Hotsy organized it you knew it would be big!

"There hasn't been a good parade since Hotsy" has often been stated over the years by the local community. They didn't mean just the Christmas parade. Hotsy organized a George Washington parade as the culmination of a two day festival celebrating Georges birthday. Details of that parade included 18 marching units! There were also parades for the Fourth of July, Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day all because of Hotsy.

The local military facilities were another source for Hotsy to utilize by engaging their bands in local parades, inviting the famous officers for fundraising events and creating sports competitions with their military teams. For years he organized American Legion baseball tournaments against Quantico, Ft. Lee and Ft Belvoir playing the Fredericksburg All Stars. Willie Mays and other future professional players competed. The money raised went toward soldier rehabilitation, education of war orphans, the Jr. youth baseball team and Girls and Boys State camp.

The "Legion Bowl" was Hotsy fundraiser creation bringing college football excitement to Fredericksburg under the lights at Maury Stadium. William and Mary and VMI freshmen teams competed in an exciting game. At the time freshmen couldn't play on the varsity team so Hotsy took advantage of the situation to the excitement of the local alumni. During the half time a "Bowl Queen" was crowned by Redskin quarterback, Eddie LeBaron and several bands performed. It was a roaring success!

Hotsy decided the town needed a Miss Fredericksburg contest so he affiliated with the Miss Virginia pageant in Roanoke, convinced the owner of the downtown Victoria Theater to donate his profitable movie house building for a weekend and threw a first class event. He got volunteers to build a walk way over seating area for the contestants, persuaded yet more celebrities to come to town to judge and coordinated a reception and cocktail party to compliment the sold out production. These gala events led to future Miss Americas and Miss Virginias visiting Fredericksburg for more promoting of events by Hotsy.

The arts were cultivated by Hotsy with his involvement in the Lions Club Follies which showed off the talents of the locals. He was a charter member and production manager for The Fredericksburg Little Theatre and performed with The Mary Washington College Players.

Hotsy had an appreciation for the historic buildings in his beloved downtown and actively fought to prevent their destruction before HFFI was formed. The renovated "Carriage House" downtown is still standing due to his efforts.

I am sure this is only a partial listing of his accomplishments as most were done behind the scenes.

In your own words, discuss your reasons/justification for making this nomination.

Hotsy was Mr. Fredericksburg. He was our towns biggest promoter and deserves to be recognized for his unheralded service to the betterment of our community for years. It is even more remarkable knowing that he did not drive and accomplished all of his feats with old fashioned face to face networking, letter writing and phone calls. An extraordinary organizer, Hotsy magically arranged for numerous volunteers to happily serve his colorful events.

With his engaging personality he befriended many celebrities who often came to Fredericksburg for his promotions. "Rocky" Marciano, heavy weight champion of the world once asked Hotsy's wife Mary Frances, " Now why am I in this little town?". He came because Hotsy persuaded him to come and did whatever was asked to help the community.

Hotsy enjoyed working anonymously behind the scenes pulling off huge events to serve the public needs more fitting for a metropolis than a small southern town. He loved Fredericksburg and liked showing off his town to everyone.

When Hotsy passed there was a pall over the city. All celebrations stopped. Only then did Fredericksburg realize what this selfless man had done for so many for so long in such a big way. Yes, he deserves this honor.

NOTE: John Chichester, who was a happy volunteer for many of Hotsy's promotions helped me with this application as he lived the events. John was one of Hotsy's drivers and made many trips to Washington to pick up celebrities. John was an invaluable resource to understand this special person as I was only 13 when Hotsy passed. I have always been intrigued by this local legend and now I know the story. Thank you.

Attach supporting documentation/information such as, but not limited to, photographs, newspaper articles, letters of commendation, obituaries, etc. The Memorials Advisory Commission and the Fredericksburg City Council will be depending solely upon your supplied information and research in considering nominations

Supporting Documentation

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Supporting Documentation

IMG_6288.jpg

Supporting Documentation

IMG_6285.jpg

Supporting Documentation

IMG_6290.jpg

Nominating Person or Group:*

Jane Forbush Bailey with John Chichester

Address1

21 Little Creek Lane

Address2

City

Fredericksburg

State

Virginia

Zip

22405

Phone*

540-207-4335

Email*

bailey2011@verizon.net

Applicant Signature: I understand that checking the box below is the equivalent of signing my name.*

I Accept

Applicant Name*

Jane F Bailey

Date*

5/29/2020

Nostalgia

HOTSY: FREDERICKSBURG'S GREATEST PROMOTER . . .

reportage
Germany and Japan. In short, they were world travelers, who during their leisure in the armed services, had grown up and grown up fast and now that they were back home, they showed at a time right past 1945 before a peace had been declared by whom they wanted to make a difference, make things happen, and they did not want to wait to be taken for an answer. They returned to Stafford, King George, Spotsylvania and Caroline counties and I Fredericksburg with a totally different outlook on how things were to be done.

Most of the young men and a few women who had served in the war had been heavily involved in organized sports, organizations and clubs that they brought back. Football, basketball and the surrounding team sports were the main focus. There were also other sports, like boxing, wrestling, and keeping some boys' clubs with getting them really involved. They were far from the coast in the late 1940s, 1950s of even the 1960s. They were involved and the great part is that they were the backbone of the young involvement of today. They were the ones who were the main focus of making things happen.

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Writer Chip Houston (left in left photo) was quarterback at James Monroe High School in 1955, when he had his picture taken with Eddie LeBaron (right), starting quarterback of the Washington Redskins. Harry Moore had brought LeBaron to the high school football practice by coach Coach John Hayward and the player, later, Moore was promoted by LeBaron Moore (left in photo below) who managed to get world heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano (right) to come to town. Marciano was a big fan of the club days at the Recreation Center.

Recreation Center? Well, it happened and not just once, but several times. The headquarters of the Recreation Center on William Street had its picture taken with books that were being over the counter for sale after a few interesting changes. I suspect that most owners did not know who was in the picture and had taken it in the dark.

Marciano ended as the only undefeated world heavyweight champion and was later killed at the peak of his life in a small plane accident. While making his regular public appearance.

Paul ("Red" Fisher's) father, the 4-foot-4-inch star player of the Washington Redskins, who had a lifetime starting average of 22.6 points per game in the National Basketball Association during 1942-43 season was another friend of Moore's.

In those days, it was the custom of the basketball team at James Monroe High School to play against the faculty and the faculty team always had a "toughed" member - a star player who was also would help to bring the game, usually a star player and get the crowd into a high state of excitement. One day they had Paul Harris in the center, played with the faculty team.

One of the main reasons for the success of the Recreation Center was the fact of making things happen. They were the ones who were the main focus of making things happen.

It is difficult to believe the tales of 6-foot-tall Jack Nichols, who played for Washington and later the Texas Rangers when they played in the city of Fredericksburg. He was a star player and got the crowd into a high state of excitement. One day they had Paul Harris in the center, played with the faculty team.

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many others, he would have called them "hotshots" and he would have called them "hotshots" and he would have called them "hotshots".

Eddie LeBaron, a starting quarterback of the Washington Redskins, became Dallas territory and even became general manager of the Atlanta Falcons, was another of the 20's. Eddie Hasty would bring LeBaron to town and stay in many places as possible to be perceived and loved the Redskins' quarterback. LeBaron was certainly not the biggest or most muscular player, as he was only 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed about 180 pounds. And the biggest club you would think of when thinking of a starting National Football League quarterback.

Moore even brought LeBaron to the James Monroe football practice one afternoon to meet with the team. You can imagine the surprise on the players faces to look up and see the star of the Washington Redskins talking and fraternizing with young Ed who had never been to the club. He was not that tall or big. LeBaron had a picture taken with LeBaron, and then

returned and that he would have called them "hotshots" and he would have called them "hotshots" and he would have called them "hotshots".

Harry Moore had brought LeBaron to the high school football practice by coach Coach John Hayward and the player, later, Moore was promoted by LeBaron Moore (left in photo below) who managed to get world heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano (right) to come to town. Marciano was a big fan of the club days at the Recreation Center.

Rocky "The Rock" Marciano, the world heavyweight boxing champion who got another bout of glory in 1952, would bring "The Rock" to town and they would have around the people realized that he was not the well thought of man, when Moore had an ever growing crowd that would get following from around 100 to over 1,000 people. The crowd of Fredericksburg and the surrounding area.

It is difficult to believe the tales of 6-foot-tall Jack Nichols, who played for Washington and later the Texas Rangers when they played in the city of Fredericksburg. He was a star player and got the crowd into a high state of excitement. One day they had Paul Harris in the center, played with the faculty team.

By CHIP HOUSTON

Nostalgia

Whether it was a parade, a beauty pageant or a sports celebrity coming to town, he was the mastermind behind the scenes, orchestrating the show with skill and flair. He was Frederickburg's greatest promoter, known to all as...

HOTSY



Robert 'Hotzy' Moore, shown here in 1952, brought many crowd-pleasing events to Frederickburg.

BY LYN CHAP HOUSTON

THEY SAY THAT the greatest showman and promoter in the United States during the last century was P. T. Barnum, who he combined business and curiosity in new heights, as the saying is. Barnum and Bailey Circus traveled the first 30 years of this century, and the circus is to the degree of every week, and the more hype it received, the more people of all ages wanted to see what was behind the scenes. It was to be the first of these days, and to be the first of these days, the biggest promoter in Frederickburg and the surrounding area for a number of years was Robert 'Hotzy' Moore. He had a number of businesses, but did he have a show with highly paid and paid people, but he did do just about everything else you could think of when it came to getting a first class...

Hotzy, an average sized man, had a thick mustache, pushing and pulling around, and he was in the area and making such of them. Never did he do a very about events or things, and he did it every way and the only one that surprised anyone. He had a number of businesses, but did he have a show with highly paid and paid people, but he did do just about everything else you could think of when it came to getting a first class...

Hotzy was promoted and managed of Young America Co., the five-story clock tower building down in the railroad station. It was a building business, selling land and carrying on business to support the area and especially the local business on the north side of town. The money was not so well as the local supply business, but in those days there were many other business...

Hotzy was promoted and managed of Young America Co., the five-story clock tower building down in the railroad station. It was a building business, selling land and carrying on business to support the area and especially the local business on the north side of town. The money was not so well as the local supply business, but in those days there were many other business...

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Moore points in 1952 here to a gallery of beauty queens. For years, he organized the Miss Frederickburg pageant and also brought numerous Miss Virginia and other major pageant winners to local appearances.

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Nostalgia

HOTSY; FREDERICKSBURG'S GREATEST PROMOTER

Special Page 4

Since Hoty established a reputation in Washington, Philadelphia, and a number of other cities in California, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, Frederickburg and Hoty, known by the name of Hoty, had made through Hoty.

Many of the members were of the type of men who were military men, with no other job, but they were working with Hoty when they started to call it Hoty with Frederickburg and the members of Hoty.

When Hoty brought in some top-notch players, baseball teams to play in Frederickburg, Maryland, to fill the place of Hoty and Dick Green and some other players, professional big league baseball players on the Virginia team, they had played for the Virginia military team, which in those days were the best of professional and very high caliber players. They had been playing for the best teams in the world to play for very good Frederickburg, Md. Since they were in working condition, they were in the best of health and were in the best of health.

The military team had been playing in the public places because it had with activities, they would not be considered as the public appearance of the military team and they were playing in the public places.

The military team had been playing in the public places because it had with activities, they would not be considered as the public appearance of the military team and they were playing in the public places.

It was not uncommon to have many Frederickburg men playing around the game at the military base at Quantico. The men were good, the competition was good, and they were playing in the best of health.

Hoty knew the military men who had been playing in the best of health and they were playing in the best of health.



Robert C. Hoty Moore, shown at his desk in 1924, was president of the Frederickburg Club, a team which played in Frederickburg. He was married to Mrs. Fred Moore (now Mrs. Fred Moore) and they had a son, Fred Moore, who was also a player on the team.

Hoty had a lot of money and he was playing in the best of health. He was playing in the best of health and he was playing in the best of health.

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Print

Wall of Honor Application - Submission #27026

Date Submitted: 5/17/2020

Any person seeking to nominate an individual for inclusion on the City's Wall of Honor, located in Fredericksburg City Hall, should complete the following application and submit it to the Clerk of Council for consideration by the Memorials Advisory Commission. Each year, the Commission recommends the names of up to 4 persons to Council, which makes the final decision on all nominations. To be considered by the Commission and City Council, nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees must be recently deceased individuals who, during their lifetimes, were residents of the Fredericksburg area and who made significant contributions to the welfare of the City.
2. Nominees should have been deceased for at least one year prior to nomination.
3. Nominations may be submitted by any person who was personally acquainted with the nominee, except that no individual may be nominated by an immediate family member.

Please attach any supporting documentation, letters, obituaries, news articles, or other information to support your nomination.

Date*

5/17/2020

First Name*

Josiah

Last Name*

Rowe

Date and Location of Birth

February 24, 1928 in Fredericksburg

Date of Death & Burial Location

November 3, 2018, City Cemetery, Fredericksburg

Educational Background:

Fredericksburg (now James Monroe) High School, Washington and Lee University with a Bachelor's of Science degree

Civil Service/Elected or Appointed Positions

Mayor of Fredericksburg, 1964 to 1972, preceded by six years of service on the Fredericksburg School Board

Military Service

U.S. Army, 1951 to 1953

Awards and Honors Received

Virginia Communications Hall of Fame, 1995; AP Broadcasters' Hall of Fame, 2010

Significant contributions to the welfare of the City and to the betterment of society:

It is no exaggeration to say that Josiah P. Rowe III was one of the most important contributors to the city of Fredericksburg over the last half of the 20th century. As a newspaper publisher, radio executive, mayor of Fredericksburg, philanthropist, noted athlete and beloved family man, Joe Rowe was a gracious and generous champion of his home city. Except for education time and military service, he lived his entire 90 years in his beloved Fredericksburg.

As mayor in the 1960s and early '70s, he helped lead the city through racially tense times. Former Mayor Lawrence A. Davies remembered how Joe Rowe joined him and other city leaders in a procession through downtown in 1968 as the city was mourning the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Davies credits that march with helping the community escape the violence and destruction that erupted elsewhere.

During Rowe's tenure as mayor, the city purchased 4,800 acres along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers to protect its drinking water. That created one of the best preserved stretches of river along the East Coast, protecting wildlife and water quality and providing recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors.

As a publisher of The Free Lance newspaper from 1949 (when he was 21) to 2010, he oversaw a business that became a beloved home to its employees and that was recognized by Time magazine in 1984 as representative of the best of grass-roots journalism. The paper regularly won the annual Sweepstakes Award from the Virginia Press Association as the best small daily in the commonwealth. From a part-time paperboy in the 1930s to a visionary publisher in the 1990s, Rowe's life was intertwined with the newspaper.

Under his oversight, WFLS Radio (once the broadcast service of the Free Lance-Star) became the leading station in the community, with an award-winning news department.

The many recipients of Joe and Anne Rowe's philanthropy included the University of Mary Washington and the Rappahannock Area YMCA (both through new indoor tennis facilities) and the Fredericksburg Area Museum. Rowe's community involvement included his service as president and board chairman of Mary Washington Hospital, and as a trustee for the George Washington Foundation, along with many examples of board service for local companies.

There is so much more I could add to Josiah Rowe's many contributions to our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to hear more.

In your own words, discuss your reasons/justification for making this nomination.

I had the honor of working for The Free Lance-Star over a 49-year stretch, from being an intern in 1964 to serving as editor in 2013.

No one captured the spirit of The Free Lance-Star as a "family newspaper" more than did Joe Rowe. He was the one person who knew how to operate every piece of machinery in the building. He was as skilled at catching typos as he was at adjusting the settings on the printing press.

He cared deeply about meeting the highest standards in every facet of his businesses, and that devotion inspired his staff -- many of them decades-long employees -- to care just as much. With his passing, we lost an inspiring champion of our community.

Joe's love of family ran deep. He was an exceptional man who is deeply missed.

Attach supporting documentation/information such as, but not limited to, photographs, newspaper articles, letters of commendation, obituaries, etc. The Memorials Advisory Commission and the Fredericksburg City Council will be depending solely upon your supplied information and research in considering nominations

Supporting Documentation

No file chosen

Nominating Person or Group:*

Edward Jones

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227 Princess Anne Street

Address2

City

Fredericksburg

State

VA

Zip

22401

Phone*

540 850-9321

Email*

deaconeddiejones@gmail.com

Applicant Signature: I understand that checking the box below is the equivalent of signing my name.*

I Accept

Applicant Name*

Edward Jones

Date*

5/17/2020