

From: Mary Arnold
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Trustees <trustees@austinisd.org>
Subject: Support for naming new Middle School for Dr. General Marshall

Dear Trustees,

My name is Mary Arnold, and I serve as chair of the Save Historic Muny District. You have heard from others that General Marshall was a golfer and a supporter of Saving the Lions Municipal Golf Course. General was a caddy at Muny, starting when he was about 10 years old. He and his friend William Bacon would walk all the way to the course from their home in Clarksville, to Muny, including crossing the railroad tracks — way before MoPac was built.

I got to know General because we both served on the city's Golf Advisory Board, headed by Dick Kemp, in the 1980's — including the struggle to get the Univ of Texas to renew the golf course lease with the City of Austin that was due to expire in 1987. After several years of negotiations, there was an agreement that was approved by the Texas Legislature, in 1989, giving the City another 30 years to lease the course and pay a hefty rental to the University of Texas, owner of the land.

Beginning in 2006, the University Board of Regents began to once again “study” what should be done with the Brackenridge Tract — including the golf course. And General Marshall once again became part of the Save Muny efforts. This time he provided the spark that resulted in Muny getting a listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its early desegregation. General shared with us his memories from the early 1950's - of African American golfers coming from Houston, San Antonio, and other towns in Texas to play at Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin — when they could NOT play on municipal courses in their own home towns. Hearing General's account about desegregation of Muny, at a time BEFORE even Brown v. Board of Education, caused several Save Muny supporters to start looking for proof that Muny really was desegregated in 1950-51 — and indeed the proof was found in the newspapers, City Council minutes, and accounts of former Mayor Taylor Glass and former Council member Emma Long.

So General Marshall is a hero in the eyes of Save Muny supporters - in addition to his being a volunteer photographer taking pictures at the Save Muny golf tournaments, and to his service to the community as a teacher, coach, mentor, and all-around good citizen. Bringing General Marshall's name and story to a new Middle School can mean sharing with the future generations of students the history of Austin, as lived by a special teacher who was born and raised in historic

Clarksville. (He would also appreciate the fact that the Middle School is not far from Morris Williams Golf Course where he also played....)

At its board meeting on April 27, 2022, the board of the Save Historic Muny District voted unanimously to recommend the name of Dr. General Marshall for the AISD's new Middle School.

Sincerely, Mary M. Arnold, Chair
Save Historic Muny District