

**Public Hearing on the Renaming of Schools**  
**October 19, 2020 School Board Meeting**  
**Wayne Sanders**

This is a petition to change the name of T.C. Williams High School to Boone Yoast Senior High School. Thomas Chambliss Williams was the superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools from the 1930s to the mid-1960s. He also was against desegregation. After the 1954 Supreme Court ruling to integrate schools, T.C. Williams resisted integration for five years.

In 1971, racial tensions ran high at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, as three schools merged to form a newly integrated one. Out of this experience the story of "Remember the Titans" emerged. Football coaches Herman Boone and Bill Yoast, became significant while integrating the Alexandria City Schools. Boone knew he was not the favorite to take on the job as Head Coach mainly because he was a black man. Prior to joining the T.C. Williams football coaching staff, Coach Yoast had an illustrious football record at the all-white Francis C. Hammond High School.

Boone and Yoast could not have been a better example of integration. Coach Boone was a relentless advocate for students and social justice. For more than 40 years he gave his time and efforts to serve various civil rights organizations, such as the Urban League of Northern Virginia, and the NAACP, in turn becoming a key figure for the civil rights movement in Alexandria, and fulfilling his goal "To be an agent of change for all people". He worked alongside some of Alexandria's greatest Civil Rights leaders, such as Ferdinand T. Day, Nelson Green, Sr., Ira Robinson, and Melvin Miller, to name a few. Coach Boone's influence and inspiration earned him a number of honors and awards, including the 2020 Washington D.C. Sports Hall of Fame induction (posthumously).

Coach Yoast's story of integration did not start at T.C. Williams. As a child he worked as a sharecropper and picked cotton along with black sharecroppers in Alabama. This backbreaking work under the hot sun instilled the true meaning of hard work, dedication and gave him a true understanding of racial inequality at a young age.

Today, we are reliving the story of "Remember the Titans". We are being consumed by racial tensions and divisions. This is time for people of all races, creeds and cultures to come together and be the voice that is much needed in our country. Coach Boone and Coach Yoast stood proudly for equality and justice, and this is why the citizens of Alexandria should stand for the renaming of T.C. Williams High School to Boone Yoast Senior High School in their honor. They continue to be a positive reflection on the City of Alexandria, the State of Virginia and United States of America.

Join us and take a stand for change. As Ghandi stated " We must be the change we wish to see in the world."