

Chair Ramee Gentry, members of the board, Dr. Berlin, staff and guests.

I am Lynnwood Campbell an Alexandria resident and native. I like to say that all of my children graduated from T.C. Williams. I only have one child.

Thank you for all you do for the children of our city and for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I am here to support naming the new school in honor of Mr. Ferdinand Day. Mr. Day is an Alexandria hero.

I reduced my comments to writing because I can talk non-stop about Mr. Day.

I grew up a block away from Mr. Day on North Alfred Street. We also attended the same church for our entire lives.

I recognized him as an outstanding statesman and leader helping others when I was in elementary school.

I remember delivering the Alexandria Gazette and seeing Mr. Day on the front page as the first African American School Board member in the city of Alexandria. It was a proud moment.

Mr. Days appointment to the school board was a monumental event. Just remember he was never able to land a teaching position with the Alexandria Public Schools. He later became Chairman of the Board. I am sure he is looking down on us tonight and smiling over the fact that our incoming superintendent is a home-grown T.C. Williams graduate.

Have you ever wondered why we have 9 school board members and 7 city council persons? The school board was originally composed of 7 members. To avoid replacing any of the existing 7 appointed board members the council added two more seats to accommodate Mr. Day.

Mr. Day not only dedicated his life to improving public education in the city but he was instrumental in ensuring decent housing, providing respectable jobs, and requiring that all practice diversity as opposed to just providing lip service.

Mr. Day was directly responsible for every minority that was appointed the school board following his service on the board. He was also instrumental in actively supporting many elected school board members. His home was always a meeting place to discuss school related issues, complete with great food and deserts. He supported every single Alexandria Superintendent and made his home their home.

Many of us get the opportunity to read about our heroes. I and many others in this city had the opportunity to serve and stand side-by-side this man of such greatness. I served with him on the Urban League Board. He was a major force on education and housing. I had the opportunity to serve with him as a member of the National Conference of Christians and Jew. He was a major force in bringing bilingual members to the Alexandria Police Department. In the late 80's I had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Day on the school boards minority achievement committee and on the redistricting committee. His input and knowledge of the school system paid tremendous dividends. If I had time I would tell you about how I taught him how to maneuver a power boat.

All of the school naming recommendations are excellent thanks to the hard work of the naming committee.

I firmly support honoring Mr. Ferdinand Day. Let's recognize our local heroes first.

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