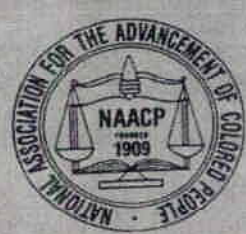


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**NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

P. O. BOX 1236 • CARRBORO, NC 27510
919/697-6146



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President, State Conference of Branches

Fred Battle
President, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch 5689

March 3, 2008

Ms. Sally Greene, Chapel Hill Council Member
Chapel Hill Town Hall
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Chapel Hill, NC

HAND DELIVERED

RE: Peace and Justice Plaza Honorees

Dear Sally:

We understand you are the Council member leading a Committee charged with implementing the suggestion to honor citizens who have made substantial contributions to the struggle for justice and peace here and around the world. We understand the plan is to honor Ms. Charlotte Adams, Ms. Lucy Straley, Joe Straley, and Joe Herzenberg by installing a marker with their names on the Plaza in front of the Franklin Street Post Office during this Easter season. Our History Committee Chair, Dr. Yonni Chapman, asked you to slow the process a bit to allow more time to consider my remarks at the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service about the importance of including African American activists in the initial group of citizens honored. Your response to Dr. Chapman did not directly address his request, except to say you believed the process was already taking too much time.

At our Branch's regular meeting last Saturday, our membership conducted a discussion about what appears to be a great affront to those of African American heritage who everyday wage the struggle for justice and peace. The four activists the Town plans to honor moved to this area as young adults because of the University. I worked alongside each of them. I have the highest regard for them. Their steadfast support for the courageous African Americans who put their lives, freedom, and jobs on the line to challenge the injustices here and across the South is worthy of great honor. But I daresay they would be appalled if they were to learn the Town had decided to honor four white activists alone at the initial ceremony. This would represent a giant step backwards by the Town, since its recent steps in regard to its segregated cemeteries, re-naming a major boulevard, honoring the Navy Band, and other important African American contributions to Chapel Hill.

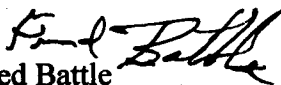
Let us go back to the drawing boards. I know Ms. Adams, the Straleys and Joe Herzenberg would join with me in this request. To help your committee know how easy it would be to find four or five qualified deceased African Americans that could be honored at the Peace and Justice Plaza, I have quickly compiled a list of people who I believe never received their just recognition by Chapel Hill. I write this list with great hesitation, since I know I am forgetting some very important people. Ms. Rebecca Clark, Rev. J. R. Manley, and other people who have better memories than me, can quickly add to my list.

James Brittan
Ms. Barbara Powell
Roosevelt Wilkerson
Ed Caldwell, Jr.
Rev. Marie Mann
Wade DeGraffenreid
Ms. Gaither Lassiter

Hank Anderson
Ms. Frances Hargraves
Ms. Gloria Williams
Ms. Brenda Harris
Hubert Robinson
George and Esther Tate

Our Executive Committee will meet soon to discuss the NAACP's next steps regarding this problem. But I wanted to alert you of our perspective on this matter as soon as possible, in hopes we can solve this problem quickly. I am presently recuperating from surgery, but I would be glad to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,


Fred Battle

C: All City Council Members
NAACP Members and Friends

