

Dear Renaming Initiative Committee:

For all of McDonogh 35 Senior High School's 104 years of defining excellence in New Orleans, one clear and undeniable fact is that our success has in the past, the present, and foreseeably in the future come from individuals that are deep, strong, and mighty...borne of a Pride that far outshines the name of the school. On October 11, 2019, the city of New Orleans recognized the historical relevance and monumental heritage of McDonogh 35 Senior High School. The legacy of the school far exceeds any minor connections to an individual who may have had the same name. Being that McDonogh 35 has always been called such, never bearing the full name of any person, it should remain separate from the life and actions of any individual who may bear that name.. In addition, finding that the funding assumed to be allocated for the school never found its way to assisting the African American students in the building since 1917, an even further case as to why the school stands independent of an individual is clear.

Let's instead review the products of McDonogh 35 and maintain the name in remembrance of the contributions 35 graduates have made to both the city of New Orleans and the country. Graduates of McDonogh 35 are the best and brightest in fields of medicine, law, education, athletics, and more. They have forged a trail of "firsts" in many of these areas. The legacy built by graduates over the years and the maintaining of our name is a highly valued part of our history. Changing McDonogh 35 would not be a progressive thing to do nor will it erase the sordid history of the past. What it will do, is slowly erase the hard work and efforts graduates put in to make the name and thought of the school as revered as it is.

With these factors in mind, we respectfully request that you maintain the name of McDonogh 35 Senior High School due to its historical significance.

All our best,

Proud Alumni