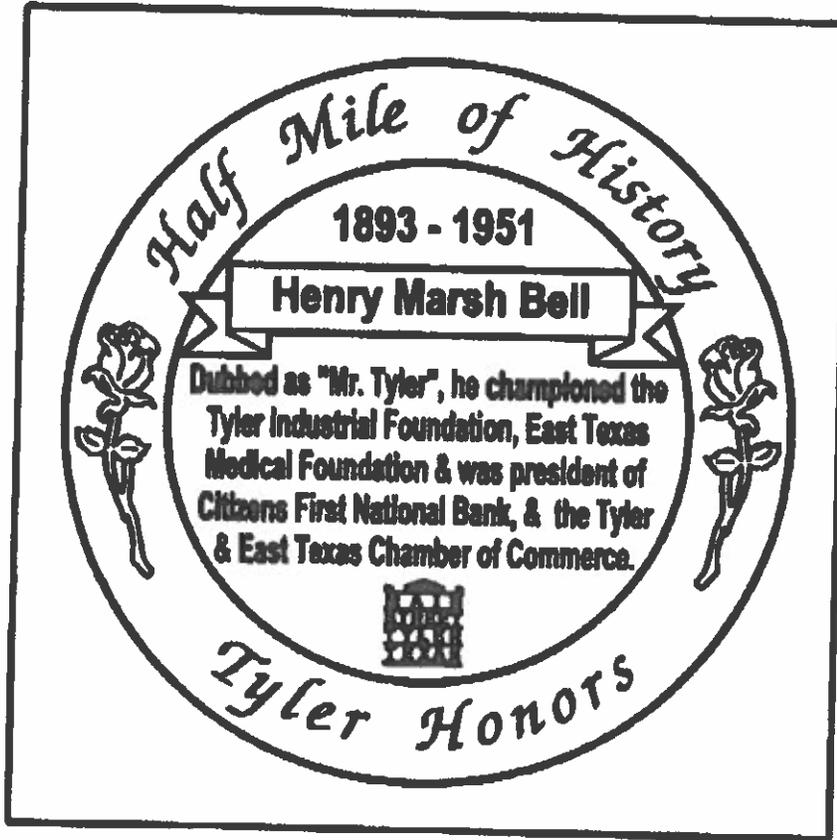


FORT WORTH MONUMENT
5811 Jackboro Hwy.
Ft. Worth, TX 76114
817-628-2721



Total Cost - 500.00 delivered

**The Lettering on this stone is smaller than we recommend
We cannot guaranty the lettering.
Sign and fax back to 817-624-8428**

*ATTN: Bernadette Spitz
2/23/09 BS, OK,
Thank you*

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2009
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Planning and Zoning
423 W. Ferguson
Tyler, TX. 75702
(903) 531- 1175 (Office)
(903) 531-1170 (Fax)

To: Fort Worth Monument
Fax Number: 817.624.8428

From: Bernadette Spitz, Senior Planner *BS*
City of Tyler

Date: February 18, 2009

RE: 17x17 Stone
City of Tyler

To whom it may concern:

We would like to place another order for the City of Tyler 17x17 stones.
The inscription should read as follows:

HENRY MARSH BELL
1893 -1951

Dubbed as "Mr. Tyler", he championed the Tyler Industrial Foundation, East Texas Medical Foundation and was president of Citizens First National Bank, and the Tyler and East Texas Chambers of Commerce.

Thank you and I will look forward to receiving the copy to approve. If you have any questions, please call me at 903-531-1173.

Bernadette Spitz

From: Henry Bell [hbell@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 11:36 AM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: Half Mile of History

Bernadette, this looks great.

By the way we got a check for registration for a seminar we are sponsoring Thursday and the check says for Bernadette but no last name....could this be you?

Thanks

Henry

Henry Bell
Chief Operating Officer
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce
Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau
SPORTyler
P.O. Box 390
Tyler Tx 75710
903-592-1018
903-593-2746(f)
903-360-2927(cell)

From: Bernadette Spitz [mailto:bspitz@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 10:30 AM
To: hbell@tylertexas.com
Subject: Half Mile of History

Henry:

As you know the application for the Half Mile of History for your grandfather, was approved by City Council, below is the proposed language to be placed on the plaque. Could you please review it and let me know if it is ok? We are limited to 30 words. Thanks for your help. And once it is order and received you will be contact with the details for the presentation. Bernadette

HENRY MARSH BELL
1893 -1951

Dubbed as "Mr. Tyler", he championed the Tyler Industrial Foundation, East Texas Medical Foundation and was president of Citizens First National Bank, and the Tyler and East Texas Chambers of Commerce.

Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler

2/9/2009

903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

Bernadette Spitz

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 10:30 AM
To: 'hbell@tylertexas.com'
Subject: Half Mile of History

Henry:

As you know the application for the Half Mile of History for your grandfather, was approved by City Council, below is the proposed language to be placed on the plaque. Could you please review it and let me know if it is ok? We are limited to 30 words. Thanks for your help. And once it is order and received you will be contact with the details for the presentation. Bernadette

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Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler
903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

423 W. Ferguson Street
(903) 531-1175 Office
(903) 531-1170 FAX



MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

FILE COPY

CITY OF TYLER
Planning & Zoning

January 30, 2009

Henry Bell III
608 Green Lane
Tyler, Texas 75701

Dear Mr. Bell:

Re: Nomination of Henry Marsh Bell for Half Mile of History

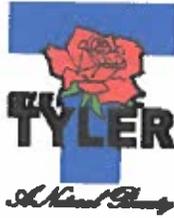
The Tyler City Council, at their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, voted 7-0 to approve your request to designate Henry Marsh Bell as a Half Mile of History recipient. You will be contacted by the Planning and Zoning Department regarding placement of the stone.

If you have questions concerning the Council's decision, please contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 903-531-1175.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Holly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Holly
Director of Planning



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Henry Marsh Bell

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: Henry Bell III

Address: 608 Green Lane

City: Tyler State: Tx Zip: 75701

Daytime telephone: 903-592-1018 Email: hbell@tylertexas.com

Relationship to nominated individual:
grandson

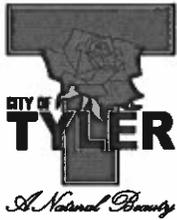
Nominated Individual's year of death: 1951

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710



**CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



Agenda Number:

Date: January 28, 2009

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Henry Marsh Bell as a Half Mile of History recipient.

Page: 1 of 2

Item Reference: Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On December 3, 2008, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Henry Marsh Bell for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows.

Mr. Henry Marsh Bell was born in Tyler on April 6, 1893, and for fifty-eight years, Mr. Bell led a remarkable life. Mr. Bell's first job after graduating from high school was as a runner for Citizens First National Bank, he served the bank for 38 years eventually becoming bank president. He served as president of both the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. During the oil boom era, Mr. Bell was instrumental in promoting Tyler as the banking, legal and commercial center of East Texas. Mr. Bell was president of the Willow Brook Country Club for 14 years; during his tenure he led an expansion and renovation project that made the club one of the finest in the area.

Mr. Bell was very involved in the economic development of Tyler and East Texas; he and other business leaders in 1944, organized and created the Tyler Industrial Foundation. This foundation helped to expand the city's economic base and provide jobs for returning World War II veterans. Carrier Air Conditioning and Trane Air Conditioning are two companies brought to Tyler as a result of the Foundation's early efforts. The East Texas Medical Foundation, of which Mr. Bell served as president, was another outcome of the Tyler Industrial Foundation's effort. The East Texas Medical Foundation helped to build East Texas Medical Center Hospital. Through these and many other efforts in promoting Tyler, Henry Bell was dubbed "Mr. Tyler".

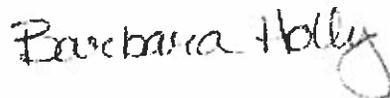
Mr. Bell cared deeply for the community of Tyler; he was very involved as a vestryman at Christ Episcopal Church and held leadership roles in many civic organizations. He also, although a total abstainer himself, was instrumental in organizing Alcoholic Anonymous in Tyler as he saw a need. He supported Texas College in their efforts to be the first in the Negro Division of the Southwest Conference to have football stadium lights.

A week after Mr. Bell's death in 1951, Bell Elementary school, named in his honor, was opened. In another affirmation of the community's awareness of Mr. Bell's contributions, the Christ Episcopal Church built a Sunday school building and named it the Bell Memorial Sunday School Building in Henry Bell's honor.

Henry Marsh Bell always promoted and lived his family's values of giving back to your country, state, and community and to make your community a better place to live for all of its citizens. The man known as "Mr. Tyler" was certainly an example of this and his influence continues to benefit Tyler and East Texas.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board recommends by a vote of 7-0 that the City Council designate Henry Marsh Bell as a Half Mile of History recipient.



Drafted/Recommended By: Barbara Holly
Department Leader

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager

City of Tyler: Half Mile of History

Henry Marsh Bell

When one thinks about citizens in Tyler that greatly affected the local community, many names come to mind; one of which is Henry Marsh Bell. Henry Marsh Bell was born in Tyler on April 6, 1893 to Francis Marion Bell and Sally Swann Bell. This man from the Piney Woods grew up to do extraordinary things for his community. For fifty-eight years Bell led a remarkable life. It is often said of him, if he had a hobby, it was helping people. He was dearly devoted to his family, his country, his state and especially devoted to the City of Tyler.

Bell grew up living with his family at the Bell homestead located at the southwest corner of Broadway and Front Streets which included the property to the corner of Houston and Broadway and west to Vine Street. Here with his three sisters and one brother, he was taught by his parents the importance of making one's community a better place to live for all of its citizens. Sunday was a day of rest and the Bell Family invited all of the people of Tyler (of any race, religion or economic background) to come and spend the day on their property and to become a part of a much larger family named Tyler.

After graduating from Tyler High School in 1911, Bell went to work at Citizens First National Bank as a runner. He declined a college education, saying someone had to stay home and take care of business, but no amount of schooling could have instilled the community concern and ability to get things done that characterized his life. He served the bank for 38 years eventually becoming the bank's president. He was a member of virtually every civic organization in Tyler and served as president of both the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. He was often introduced as "Mr. Tyler."

Bell became known as almost a one man economic development arm of Tyler and his leadership was a vital factor in Tyler becoming the city it is today. When oil was discovered in neighboring Gregg and Rusk counties, people from all over the country converged on East Texas. Not all East Texans welcomed them. But Bell backed them and worked to make Tyler the banking, legal, and commercial center of the East Texas oil field. Related to that, he also promoted Tyler as a residential community, a place owners and employees of businesses generated by the oil boom would want to locate. In 1936 he became president (which he held for fourteen years) of Willow Brook County Club and led an expansion and renovation project that made the club one of the finest clubs in the country further enhancing the quality of life promoted by the community.

The oil industry shielded Tyler from the depression, and Camp Fannin bolstered the local economy during World War II, but Mr. Bell realized the post war years would hold new challenges. In 1944, he and other business leaders organized the Tyler Industrial Foundation as a means to expand the city's economic base and provide jobs for returning veterans. By 1946 the group had raised \$300,000 of investment capital. Bryant Heating, now Carrier Air Conditioning, and Trane Air Conditioning are two companies brought to Tyler as a result of the Foundation's early efforts. The Foundation also bought the land in the vicinity of Mother Frances Hospital with the idea of developing the area as a medical complex. The East Texas Medical Foundation, of which Mr. Bell also served as president, was subsequently created to build East Texas Medical Center Hospital.

In the years ahead, in addition to serving as president of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce (1947) and the East Texas Chamber of Commerce (1949), Bell was chairman of the executive committee of the East Texas Agricultural Council, and played a part in the founding of Lone Star Steel.

Bell was as well known for his humanitarian involvements as his business acumen. He was a 33rd degree mason, a vestryman at Christ Episcopal Church, and held leadership roles in about every civic organization in town. As a diabetic himself, he assisted with the establishment of the Sweeny Diabetic Foundation at Gainesville; as a total abstainer, he was nevertheless instrumental in organizing Alcoholic Anonymous in Tyler as he saw a need. His interests extended into all areas of the community, and he often held business meetings at the tea room of Texas College. It was in large part due to his support that Texas College was the first in the Negro Division of the Southwest Conference to have stadium lights. In addition, it was Bell who pushed for a seating capacity of 13,000 for Rose Stadium when it was built when many other leaders thought that it would never be filled to that amount.

As an example of Bell's effectiveness, Mr. B.J. Pryor, retired Smith County Agricultural Agent once related an incident that occurred one evening while he was visiting Bell in his office. "He got a call from a person whose daughter was stranded somewhere up north. It was during Christmas time and all flights out were booked and she could not get home. Bell made a few calls and then called the friend back and told him his daughter was on the next plane out. He was the most influential person I have ever known, said Pryor and at all times he used his influence and contacts for the good of others and the betterment of the community." Countless other stories abound. The mere mention of his name to anyone who lived in Tyler at the time evokes memories of his willingness and ability to help everyone.

Henry Bell died suddenly of a heart attack on August 24, 1951, a week before Bell Elementary, named in his honor was to open. He was also a strong supporter of education at all levels, supported athletics within the schools often served as master of ceremonies at award ceremonies. After his death, condolence messages poured in from throughout the state and nation for the man who had been dubbed "Mr. Tyler."

As a memorial by the entire community, a fund was created under the leadership of A. S. Genecov and Ike Rudman, themselves members of Congregation Ahavath Achim to have the church Bell loved, Christ Episcopal Church, air conditioned. The idea was embraced by the community and the response was so great that in addition to the church being air conditioned, the Bell Memorial Sunday School Building was also built.

Bell shared his life with Elizabeth Loftin Bell, his wife of 32 years. She was a fourth generation descendant of the Marsh family and they were fifth cousins. Mrs. Bell was equally out-going and highly involved in helping the community as well. Soon after World War II, she and a group of friends organized the Tyler Service League which later gained accreditation as the Junior League of Tyler.

Henry Marsh Bell continued to hand down the tradition within the Bell family given to him by his parents, that it was one's duty to give back to your county, state and community and to make your community a better place to live for all of its citizens. The man known as "Mr. Tyler" was certainly an example of this and his influence continues to benefit Tyler and East Texas.

City of Tyler: Half Mile of History

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