



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Charles Evans Coleman, Sr.

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

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

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: Joyce Armstrong Scurry

Address: 2413 Frankston Hwy.

City: Tyler State: TX Zip: 75701

Daytime telephone: 403 372-0386 Email: joycescurry@stcglobal.net

Relationship to nominated individual:

Nominated Individual's year of death: 2003

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

need obit

Bernadette Spitz

From: Joyce Scurry [joycescurry@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: Charles Coleman

Charles E. Coleman

Parallel to the economic limitations imposed in the late forties and early fifties on African-Americans there were severe political restrictions, particularly in the South. Although the Constitution declares specifically that “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged...on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,” Southern tradition is strongly opposed to permitting African- Americans to vote, except when their voting served a purpose.

Charles E. Coleman, a young attorney, and Tyler’s first licensed African American attorney, wanted to change the tradition on non- voting African-American to voting African-Americans. Attorney Coleman, along with a group of leading citizens in the Black Community, organized the North Tyler Voter’s League to encourage African- Americans to get out and vote. Despite of the poll tax device used to discourage African- Americans from voting; Attorney Coleman and the North Tyler Voter’s League registered and paid the poll tax for many African- Americans voters. Attorney Coleman served at the president for many years and continued to serve as president until the organization stopped meeting.

From the early fifties until the late seventies Attorney Coleman was the only African- American attorney in Tyler who could represent his people fairly. It was quoted by many of his peers that he always came to court well prepared. Many times Attorney Coleman represented his clients without charging a fee.

Along, with Henry Morgan, Dr. Blakemore, and Dr. Frank Williams, Attorney Coleman was one of the few African –Americans who owned property on the east side of the square. Today, the Smith County Jail is sitting on some of the

property once owned by Attorney Coleman.

Despite the many restrictions placed upon the African- Americans, Attorney Coleman achieved many outstanding successes in the community. Lawyer Coleman served on many boards for the City of Tyler and Smith County.

Bernadette, I tried to find out more from the family. They stay out –of – town a lot. I have had sickness in my family and I have also been on the road a lot. If this name doesn't work we will try S.E. Palmer.

Thanks,
Joyce

Bernadette Spitz

From: Barbara Holly
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 1:59 PM
To: 'Malena Ogles'
Cc: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: Info on Charles Coleman

Hey! Thank you very much!

Barbara Holly, AICP
Planning Director
MPO Executive Director
City of Tyler
423 W. Ferguson
Tyler, TX 76520
903-531-1175

www.tylerpz.org

A Natural Beauty

Called to S-E-R-V-E

-----Original Message-----

From: Malena Ogles [mailto:malenaogles@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 1:36 PM
To: Barbara Holly
Subject: Info on Charles Coleman

Barbara,
This is the obit i pulled from our archives.

-Malena Ogles
Tyler Paper

Charles Coleman Sr. Services Wednesday

Source: MT
Tuesday, July 8, 2003
Section: OBT, Page 4B

Services for Charles Coleman Sr., 86, Tyler, are scheduled for 2 p.m.
Wednesday at True Vine Baptist Church with the Rev. E.E. Roberson officiating.

Services for Charles Coleman Sr., 86, Tyler, are scheduled for 2 p.m.
Wednesday at True Vine Baptist Church with the Rev. E.E. Roberson officiating.

Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery under direction of John R. Harmon Undertaking Co., Tyler.

Mr. Coleman died July 5 in a Tyler hospice.

He was born Nov. 8, 1916, in Ennis and attended Ennis Colored High School, Texas College and Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Mo. He had resided in Smith County since 1949 and was a member of True Vine Baptist Church.

He was the first African-American attorney in Tyler and had practiced law since 1949. He was a member of the Texas Bar Association, National Bar Association, NAACP, Oters League and Tyler Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. He served in World War II in the Army.

His parents, wife, two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.

Survivors include his son, Charles E. Coleman Jr., Tyler; daughters, Lynda Coleman Franklin, Tyler, and Clara C. Thomas, Missouri City; brothers, J.B. Coleman, Ennis, John Coleman, Langston, Okla., and Eugene Coleman, San Antonio; sister, Madeline Giddins, Ennis; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Pallbearers are Charles E. Coleman III, Jimmy Franklin, Irik Thomas, Carlos Coleman, Raymond Coleman Jr., Anthony Coleman Jr. and Reginald Williams.

Honorary pallbearers are Tessie Washington, Pearlie D. Smith, Ray Ross, Hershel Clement, the Rev. F.M. Dews, Mr. Willie, J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Enois Starling, Mr. and Mrs. Utah McElroy, Judge Harry Loftis, John Trube, James Mosely and A.R. Cook.

Viewing will be 1-10 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home and 1-2 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Charles Evans Coleman, Sr.

November 8, 1914 – July 5, 2003

Charles Evans Coleman was the first licensed Black to practice law in Tyler and Smith County. The practice started June 1949 and ran for a period of fifty-two years ending in November, 2001.

Attorney Coleman was born on November 8th, in Ennis, Texas to the late John and Beatrice Coleman. He was the fourth born of eight children, three girls and five boys.

Attorney Cole attended Ennis Colored High School where he graduated Valedictorians in June 1933. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas College in Tyler, Texas on May 24th, 1933. In June 1949, he received his Law Degree from Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis Missouri. May 1949 he received his license to practice law in the State of Texas.

Attorney Coleman married Clara Helen Johnson on April 3rd, 1949. To this union three children were born Lynda, Clara and Charles, Jr.

Attorney Coleman was a member of True Vine Baptist Church in Tyler. He was a veteran of World War II. He was affiliated with National and State Bar Association received a fifty year pin from the Texas Bar Association.

Other affiliations include member and past president of the NAACP and Voter's League. He was a mason and member of the Tyler Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Attorney Coleman served the entire Northeast Sector of Texas as a lawyer, a mentor, a teacher and an activist, and most of all a true leader in his community.

Bernadette Spitz

From: Joyce Scurry [joycescurry@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2008 1:07 PM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE:

- Father of the North Tyler Voter's League
- One of the few African American that owned property in downtown Tyler
- Help to organize the NAACP
- Gave courage and free legal help to those who needed
- Well known for pre Civil Rights Movement
- Political Activist

If you need anymore information call me or Andrew Melontree @ 903.531.1821

593

Thanks,
Joyce

From: Bernadette Spitz [mailto:bspitz@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2008 9:20 AM
To: joycescurry@sbcglobal.net
Subject:

Joyce:

Were you able to get additional information to include in the half mile of history application for Charles Coleman? I will be setting the agenda and sending packets out on Wednesday, November 26th. So if you can get the updated application to me by Tuesday at five that would be most helpful, feel free to e-mail if that will help. Thanks for your interest in preservation. Bernadette

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

CHARLES EVANS COLEMAN SR.

November 8, 1914 - July 5 2003

First Licensed Black to Practice Law
Tyler + Smith County. The practice
started June 1949 and ran for a period
of fifty-two years ending in November
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Attorney Coleman was born on November
8th 1914 in Ennis Texas to the late
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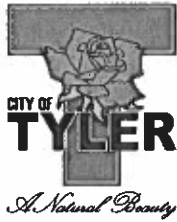
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in the State of Texas.

Attorney Coleman was married to Clara
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this union three children were born
Lynda, Clara, + Charles Jr.

Attorney Coleman was a member of True Vine Baptist Church in Tyler. He was a veteran of World War II. He was affiliated with National + State Bar Associations receiving a fifty year pin from the Texas Bar Association.

Other affiliations include ~~member~~ member + past president of the NAACP + Voter's League. He was a mason + member of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce,

Attorney Coleman served the entire Northeast Sector of Texas as a lawyer, a mentor, a teacher, an activist, + most of all, a true leader in his community.



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



Agenda Number:

Date: April 22 2009

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Charles Evan Coleman, Sr. 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 April 1, 2009, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Charles E. Coleman, Sr. for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows.

Charles Coleman was born in 1916, in Ennis, Texas, one of eight children. He attended the Ennis Colored High School and graduated as valedictorian in 1933. He received a law degree from Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri in June 1949. Following this, he received his license to practice law in the State of Texas. He moved to Tyler in 1949.

Mr. Coleman, as Tyler's first licensed African-American attorney, felt compelled to help encourage non-voting Africans-Americans to vote. He, along with other leading citizens, organized the North Tyler Voter's League to help African-Americans get out and vote. The organization registered many African-American citizens and also paid the poll tax, a device used to discourage those from voting. Mr. Coleman became president and served in that capacity until the organization no longer met.

Mr. Coleman and several other prominent African-American businessmen, owned property in the east side of the downtown square. Today, the Smith County Jail sits on some of that property. Also, Mr. Coleman was a member of the True Vine Baptist Church, the NAACP, and the Tyler Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. He received a fifty year pin for the Texas Bar Association.

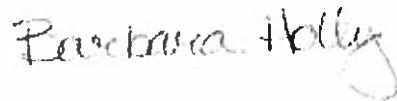
Agenda Number:

Page: 2 of 2

Mr. Coleman served his community, not only through providing encouragement and mentoring to those in need, he provided free legal aid and leadership to his fellow citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board, by a unanimous vote, request that the City Council approve the designation of Charles Evan Coleman, Sr. as a Half Mile of History recipient.



Drafted/Recommended By: Barbara Holly
Department Leader

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager

08/12/09

sent
8/13/09

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.

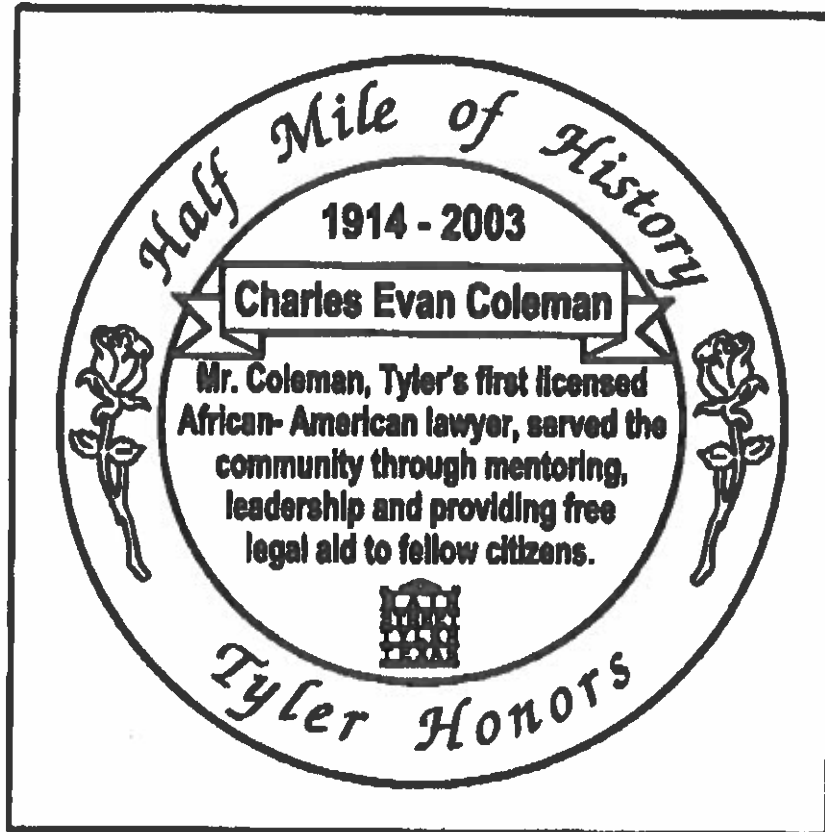
We are expecting to have our ceremony on September 24th.
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

CHARLES EVAN COLEMAN

1914 - 2003

Mr. Coleman, Tyler's first licensed African-American lawyer,
served the community through mentoring, leadership and
providing free legal aid to fellow citizens.

Thanks,
Heather
Senior Planner
903-531-1174



Total Cost - 500.00 each delivered

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

K. Bridger

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



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

CITY OF TYLER
Planning & Zoning

February 11, 2009

Ms. Joyce Armstrong Scurry
2413 Frankston Highway
Tyler, TX 75701

Dear Joyce:

At the February 4, 2009, Historic Preservation Board meeting, the board reviewed your application for inclusion of Charles Coleman as a Half Mile of History recipient. It was determined that the application did not provide enough information to adequately review the case.

We request, in addition to the completed application that we have on file, you provide the board with additional information detailing the achievements and accomplishments of Mr. Coleman. In an email received in November, you listed several achievements; the board is requesting that you provide more detailed information explaining those achievements.

If possible, please submit all additional information to the Planning and Zoning Department by February 24, 2009, in order to be placed back on the March 4, 2009, agenda. We look forward to reviewing the additional information, if you should have any further questions; please call me at 903-531-1175.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Holly".

Barbara Holly, AICP
Director of Planning

Bernadette Spitz

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Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
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