

**CITY OF TYLER
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



Agenda Number:

Date: July 23, 2008

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Senator Tomas Glover Pollard 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 July 2, 2008, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Senator Tomas Glover Pollard for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows.

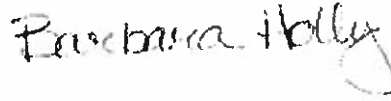
TX
Tomas Glover Pollard was born May 9, 1895, in Martins Mill of Van Zandt County, Texas, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William Benjamin Pollard. Mr. Pollard graduated from Athens High School and then attended and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with his law degree in 1922. As well as being in the House of Representatives for three years, he was elected and served as U.S. Senator for ten years. While in government, he was instrumental in passing education bills for rural communities, as well as the oil and gas bills and transportation funding bills that benefit the East Texas citizens today.

After moving to Tyler with his wife, Edna, in 1922, he obtained a charter and helped open Tyler's first state bank in 1924. Once finished with his public service, he concentrated on his law practice and land development. His family deeded a ten acre tract of land in southeast Tyler to the Tyler Independent School District. He developed the Pollard Home, Pollard Hills, Pollard School Subdivision and the Briarwood Addition. His family home, currently called Ravenwood, (owned by the Ellis Family) was designated as a Tyler Historic Landmark in 1998 and then accepted into the Smithsonian Institution of American Gardens in 1999. He also donated a gift to the Methodist Church in the early 1950's to create the Pollard United Methodist Church. He was an active member in the Rotary Club, Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the American Rose Society. After the Senator's death in 1962, another gift was given to the City of Tyler to create the Pollard Park in his honor.

For these and many other reasons, Senator Tomas Pollard should be recognized for his lasting contributions to the City of Tyler and Smith County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board recommends by a vote of 6-0 that the City Council designate Senator Tomas Glover Pollard as a Half Mile of History recipient.



Drafted/Recommended By:
Department Leader

Barbara Holly

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager

Bernadette Spitz

From: Beverly Abell [babell@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Cc: Brandon Montgomery
Subject: RE: Half Mile of History

Martin says ok. Go for it!

Here's an idea: What if we created a web page with the full history of each of the Half Mile of History inductees? That way if people want to know more, the information is easily accessed. I could provide a link on the Heart of Tyler website as well.

Beverly Abell
Executive Director
Heart of Tyler Main Street Program
PO Box 158 / Tyler, TX / 75710
903-593-6905

From: Bernadette Spitz [mailto:bspitz@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 8:56 AM
To: babell@tylertexas.com
Cc: Brandon Montgomery
Subject: Half Mile of History

Beverly:

Were you able to speak with Martin Heines concerning the proposed language for the Pollard Stone for Half Mile of History? Thanks, Bernadette

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

Bernadette Spitz

From: Martin Heines, MAI [martin@heinesrealestate.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2008 1:30 PM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: half mile of history stone plaque language

Give me some time to run by my mother and uncle.

Thank you very much,
mjh

From: Bernadette Spitz [mailto:bspitz@tylertexas.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2008 10:10 AM
To: Martin Heines, MAI
Cc: Barbara Holly
Subject: half mile of history stone plaque language

Martin:

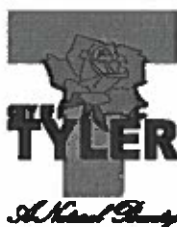
I wanted to run this by you and see if you have any comments or suggestions concerning the language that will be put on the stone plaque before we order the stone plaque.

SENATOR TOMAS GLOVER POLLARD
1895-1962

Senator Pollard served Texas as a Representative for three years and then as Senator for ten years, supporting legislation for oil and gas and the creation of Texas Tech University.

Thanks very much, Bernadette

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



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Senator Tomas Glover Pollard

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input 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 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: Martin Heines

Address: 116 W. Erwin

City: Tyler State: TX Zip: 75702

Daytime telephone: 903-593-2367 Email: martin@heinesrealestate.com

Relationship to nominated individual:

Grandson

Nominated Individual's year of death: 1962

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

Tomas Glover Pollard

When one thinks about citizens in Tyler that greatly affected the local community, many names come to mind; one of which is Tomas Glover Pollard. Tomas Glover Pollard was born in Martins Mill on May 9, 1895 to Mr. and Mrs. William Benjamin Pollard. This man from the Piney Woods grew up to do extraordinary things for his country, his state, and his local community. Mr. Pollard significantly contributed to the community in many ways, such as the areas of education, government, law, and oil and gas. He was dearly devoted to his family, his country, his state, and especially devoted to the city of Tyler.

Pollard's devotion to education began early, as he graduated from Athens High School in 1915. He then traveled to Austin to attend the University of Texas in 1915-1917, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1920 after a stint in the U.S. Aviation section of the army. He continued his education in law at the university and received his LL. B. degree in 1922. During his time at the university, Pollard was the Business Manager for the Longhorn Magazine from 1919-1921, and then served as the business manager of the Texas Student Publications, Inc. from 1921-1923. As Pollard pursued his career, education was still close to his heart. During his tenure as Senator, he passed the Pollard Rural School Aid Bill on January 27, 1929, which appropriated \$5,000,000 each year for education in rural communities. Pollard also noted that the area of West Texas was in need of a college, so he helped to sponsor a bill that created a college for that part of the state: Texas Technological College. During the years of 1935-1941, Pollard served on the Board of Regents for Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas. On November 10, 1953, the Pollard family deeded a 10-acre tract of land in Southeast Tyler to the Tyler public schools for future school needs. Years later, Tyler Independent School District named Mr. and Mrs. Tomas G. Pollard among their '120 Heroes' for their contributions to local public education.

Among several others, Pollard's passions involved politics and government. While he was a student at the University of Texas in 1917, he entered the Aviation Section of the United States Army. After serving his country, he was honorably discharged on January 10, 1919 as First Lieutenant Military Reserve Aviator. Pollard returned to school that same year, and he was elected to the House of Representatives in Van Zandt County, being the youngest Representative at that point to go to the Legislature from that district. In 1920, Pollard was re-elected to the House of Representatives. Pollard's fervor for politics and government grew from there, as he continued his education as well as his campaign for Senate. In 1922, Tomas G. Pollard was elected as Senator of the Seventh Senatorial District without opposition, and he served on the Senate for 10 years.

During his career as Senator, Pollard served his country, state, and community well. Senator Pollard and his new wife, Edna Martin Pollard, moved to Tyler in 1922 and began to recognize the needs of their local community. Pollard noted that in those years, Tyler had no local state bank, only national banks. On April 8, 1924, Pollard obtained a charter and helped to open Tyler's first state bank, Tyler Guarantee Bank (also known as the Tyler Bank and Trust Company). He served as Vice President, Director, and Attorney for the Tyler State Bank and Trust Company for several years as well as being the Vice President, Director, and Attorney for the East Texas Building, Loan & Savings Association of Tyler. He also noted that transportation in Tyler was often difficult because only 5 miles of the 130 miles of road in the area were paved. Senator Pollard passed a bill that allowed additional funding for the roads as well as reducing the amount of weight that was carried on these roads so they could last longer. From 1928 to 1932,

Pollard served as the youngest Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate at 33 years old. His political career continued to be successful, as he was elected President Pro Tempore of the 40th Legislature of the Texas Senate on May 9, 1927. Today, Senator Pollard is the 5th youngest President Pro Tempore in history, being only 31 years old at the time.

Pollard also made several contributions in the area of law. Though most of his career was spent in politics, he continued to practice law in his spare time. He began his law career in Tyler as a collection attorney, and then went on to represent the Tyler Bank and Trust Company as well as Mass-Tex Oil and Gas Company in Dallas in 1945. He also was a member of Pollard and Lawrence law firm, which was a Civil Law Practice representing oil men and other independent classes of business. He served as the vice-chairman of the Legislative Council Committee for the State Bar of Texas during 1949 through 1951, and on April 24, 1950, he was elected Chairman of the advisory board of the Southwestern Legal Foundation.

Among his many lasting contributions to the state and community is his involvement with the Oil and Gas industry. This was an area that hit home to many Tyler citizens and citizens of East Texas as oil became popular. In an effort to enable small businesses in this industry to work efficiently and competitively with the larger oil companies, Senator Pollard authored the Oil and Gas Pipeline Bill as well as the Gas and Market Demand Conservation Statutes in 1931 and 1932. These bills aided the small oil and gas companies that were struggling to survive against the larger companies in the Northeast. Although many years have passed since these bills were created, the people of East Texas are still reaping the benefits today.

After Senator Pollard and his wife moved to Tyler, they began to settle in their new community as a family. In 1929, the Pollards bought an 18-acre farm in the city, which eventually expanded to several hundred acres of beautiful land and well-known gardens. This magnificent estate was the home to Mr. and Mrs. Pollard and their three children: Tomas Jr., Mary, and Jack. The estate, currently called Ravenwood and owned by the Ellis family, was designated a Tyler Historic Landmark in 1998 and then accepted into the Smithsonian Institution of American Gardens in 1999. Pollard maintained his interest in the land of Tyler by developing Pollard Home, Pollard Hills, and Pollard School subdivisions beginning after World War II. He was also involved in Verbena Hills and Donnybrook Heights subdivisions. The Pollard Estate continued the expansion of Senator Pollard's land with the development of Briarwood Addition. These subdivisions basically follow the path of Pollard Avenue from Troup Highway to Loop 323.

The Pollard family continued to give back to the community, donating a partial gift to the Methodist Church in the early 1950's to create Pollard United Methodist Church. After the death of Senator Tomas Glover Pollard on October 19, 1962, the Pollard family continued to carry on his tradition of generosity by giving a partial gift in March of 1970 to the city of Tyler to create Pollard Park for the citizens of Tyler to enjoy.

Among Senator Tomas G. Pollard's many areas of involvement, he was a member of the Rotary from 1929-1960 with perfect attendance, was active in the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, and an American Rose Society member. He is remembered well by his family members, friends, and by members of the community. In a statement by Carl Wallace in the Tyler Courier-Times after Senator Pollard's death, it is said that he succeeded in all of his endeavors "all the while maintaining the broad and intimate associations through which his life took on the quality of good neighbor and warm-hearted friend. It is likely that for that quality most people will remember him, and it is certainly one of the best ways in which to be remembered." It is for this reason, among the many mentioned above, that Senator Tomas G. Pollard should be recognized for his lasting contributions and enduring impact on the community, county, region, and the state of Texas.



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