

Speaking Out

Mary Miller should be admired, not denounced

from page 4 'i dream a world ...'

I have lived in Lafayette for over 25 years, and in that time, the name 'Miller' has only meant Mary Miller.

I believe there's a lot to be answered for in Boulder County with regards to its history. That said, Lafayette's understanding of its history will not be enhanced by demeaning one of its most admirable figures, a woman who exemplified the values of hard work, entrepreneurship, and benevolence. Mary Miller was never involved with the Klan, but because her grandchildren were, the city feels her name has been sullied forever.

In 1914, when Lafayette's coal miners were on strike due to inhumane working conditions, Mary Miller's bank extended credit to the United Mine Worker's union, so miners would have food to eat, and a place to sleep. That money was never repaid, and Mary Miller's bank was ruined. For over 100 years, the name 'Miller' has stood for someone who rose against injustice, who defended coal miners, many of them Catholic and Latino, at a time when violence against them had led to open warfare in our own back yard.

At a recent City Council meeting, Frank Archuleta, co-author of the petition to change the apartment name, has said his next goal is to remove all mention of Mary Miller from city signage and buildings.

There was a time when the City of Lafayette took pride in its founder. Today, the city thinks so little of Mary Miller that it is willing to part with thousands of dollars to keep a building from being named after her, for something her descendants did, after she died. It is guilt by association of the lowest kind, and I strongly disagree with it. It was irrational, it was immoral, and it was a sad moment for this city.

Nicholas Bernhard

Lafayette

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Renewed faith in people

Thank you to the honest citizen, an employee of FirstBank in the Baseline shopping center, who found my abandoned wallet and gave it to the Boulder police.

I foolishly placed (and subsequently forgot) my wallet on top of my car, drove off and did not attend to the little sound of it dropping off the car roof. I am now in possession of my wallet that is fully intact.

Thank you also to the officer at the property and evidence department (that I had contacted) who, despite the office being closed on Saturday, called me and returned my wallet right away.

I had hoped that honesty would rule the day, and after a week, I was heartened that it was. My faith in people has been restored!

Take heed: Continue to have faith in the goodness of people.

Never put anything on top of your car; put it on the hood if you have to.

Have a copy of your wallet contents at home in a secure place.

Be immediate in freezing or cancelling cards that allow access to cash.

Thank you, good Samaritan! Be well.

Leslie Krug

Lafayette

see Letters, 22

National Public Radio recently asked their listeners to finish these words: "I dream a world ..." I offer this: I dream a world where difference is not dehumanized; Where ignorance and prejudice are replaced by education and enlightenment; Where views different from mine have value; Where old and new ways live in the same neighborhood; Where fear and hate are replaced with faith and hope!

Bill Holmes

Lafayette

I dream a world with no war.

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