
PROPOSED NAME FOR FACILITY

In accordance with DISD Administrative Regulations for naming of District facilities, the Board has invited written nominations and the following provisions will govern the naming or renaming of school facilities. Nominations can be submitted at any time.

Please note facilities will generally be named for deceased persons who have made a significant contribution to society as may be deemed appropriate by the board, streets or geographic areas within the district, or historical sites.

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1. Existing Building and/or location proposed for naming or renaming

I propose that the an appropriate Denton ISD School
(Designation of building and/or location)
TBA
(Address)

2. Proposed Name

be named for: Pat Cheek (Patricia Ann Cheek Elementary School, Patricia Ann Cheek Middle School, e

3. I am proposing the aforementioned name for the following reasons:

Please select all that apply:

- Deceased DISD staff member Historical Name
 Geographic Name Other

4. Comprehensive biological report (with work history if DISD employee) or INFORMATIONAL REPORT if historic or geographic name:

(Attach extra sheets if needed.)

Please see the attached narrative

5. Reasons for Nomination

I believe the facility should be named for this (person) (place) (historical event) because:

Please see the attached narrative

6. Name(s) of person(s) or supporting group(s) responsible for nomination:

Diana Cheek Dunklau
Dawn Cheek Pryor
Bill Cheek, Jr.
Joel Cheek

7. Your contact information

Bill Cheek

(Printed Name)

February 1, 2021

(Date)

billy.cheek@jagoepublic.com

(Address)

940-391-7567

(Telephone number)

Pat Cheek

Patricia Ann Cheek was intent on coming to Denton, Texas in the fall of 1957 to attend Texas Woman's University (TWU). With opposition from her parents and no support, she worked a summer job to save money, along with being blessed with a gift of tuition money from a family friend. She soon met Bill Cheek, who was attending North Texas State University (now UNT) and they married in the spring of 1958. While raising two young children, Pat continued her education at NTSU and obtained her degree in spring 1965 because she wanted to be a teacher.

Pat taught for two years at Denton Junior High (now Calhoun Middle School) and then took off to have another baby. She worked as a substitute teacher in Denton ISD for 14 years while she and Bill raised their children, Diana Cheek Dunklau, Dawn Cheek Pryor, Bill Cheek Jr., and Joel Cheek in Denton public schools.

Mrs. Cheek taught at Denton Junior High, Strickland Junior High (now Strickland Middle School), Denton High School, Congress Junior High (now Calhoun) and once at the elementary level. Pat said that after that one experience at elementary school she knew her calling was to be a middle school teacher. Her students over the years, many who still stay in touch, would claim Mrs. Cheek as their favorite teacher.

Not only did Pat teach as often as she was able, but for over ten years she volunteered as a tutor to students in special education classes at Strickland Middle School and mentored at-risk female students at Calhoun middle school. For many years, she served on the PTA at Newton Rayzor Elementary, where all four of her children attended. Mrs. Cheek eventually became a full-time middle school teacher in the Northwest Independent School District where she remained until retirement. It was then that she became part of the DentonISD Grandparents in Schools.

Pat has been active in the Denton community for equally as long. Over the years, she has taught Sunday School for every age group at Trinity United Presbyterian Church where she is a charter member since 1959. She served on the session (the governing body of the church), sang in the choir for 35 years, served on the hospitality committee preparing meals for numerous occasions, and served on numerous other committees as she was asked.

It was through Mrs. Cheek's association with Trinity Presbyterian that she and other women in the church formed the Denton Christian Interracial Fellowship, a group of black and white women, who sought to ease the integration of black students into Denton public schools. Their philosophy was embraced by the community and this small band of women made history. Their efforts are recorded not only in the UNT library, but in the US Library of Congress.

Additionally, through her church, Pat assisted in the formation of Denton Christian Preschool, a social service agency that predated Operation Head Start, but offered many of the same essential services, preparing disadvantaged children to succeed in school. She has served many terms on their board of directors and has volunteered in multiple fundraisers to continue the cause.

In addition to understanding that education is the path to personal success, Mrs. Cheek also believed that community activism was the path to societal success. She was involved in local politics in the 70s when she ran for Denton city council. Though she did not win the seat, she continued to contribute as a

citizen. Through the years Pat worked on others' city council campaigns and helped to register Denton county voters through the League of Women Voters. She has served the City of Denton through her membership on the Traffic Safety committee and Parks and Recreation board of directors. Her committee efforts helped bring into existence North Lakes Park, Denia Park Center, and the Denton Senior Center for the enjoyment of all citizens.

Her activism extended to the national stage when in 1988 she served as a Gore delegate at the National Democratic convention in Atlanta. Her children remember their mother being involved with many local, state, and national causes supporting women's rights, and education. Bill Cheek Jr. recalls marching along side his mother in the 70s to support the ERA. Diana remembers not only Pat's regular attendance at National Organization for Women (NOW) meetings but Texas Governor Ann Richards appointing Pat Cheek to an education focused committee. Dawn remembers that Pat joined Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) at a time when it was not a popular decision because she believed that all children were children of God. All of her children and grandchildren agree that if a local issue involves helping women and children, you could be certain that Pat Cheek would respond to a call for help.

Pat Cheek has supported Denton County Friends of the Family since its inception, served on their first board of directors and is currently serving, once again, on their board. Having served on the Salvation Army board for many years, this organization is still graced by Pat's dedication every Wednesday as she sacks groceries for families in need. Pat has also served on the boards of Giving Hope, Opening Doors Immigration, and Habitat for Humanity. Her energy and dedication to making Denton a better place for all is obvious to those who have had the gift of knowing her.

Pat Cheek has been an example of the humanitarian heart that beats just under the radar in Denton. She believes that education is a way to improve the lives of others and has dedicated most of her life to making it available to all. Pat was an activist for equality long before social media but managed to make history in her efforts to help others. Any Denton citizen who has sought to fight for the rights of others has met Pat Cheek along the way. She is a powerhouse in a peaceful pursuit of change. There is no one more deserving of being recognized as an icon of serving others by Denton ISD.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Cheek Dunklau

Dawn Cheek Pryor

Bill Cheek, Jr.

Joel Cheek