

10/22/19

To Board of Alders:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my father Coach William Thompson who passed away on June 29, 2014. He was the head coach of the New Haven Age Group Track Club after James Barber, the founder retired. My father was involved with the track club for over 38 years and has coached thousands of children. He was a mentor to the athletes and was the heart and soul of the track club. My dad was respected by the athletes, parents and coaches from Connecticut and other states.

My father was a humble man and a true humanitarian who served as a mentor to so many athletes. He instilled in the athletes the importance of academics, respect and hard work. He was genuinely concerned about the athletes and kept in touch with the children when they went to high school and college.

He spent countless hours over the years at Bowen Field and Edgewood Park volunteering his time as a coach for the New Haven Age Group Track Club. My family was honored to have a bench, plaque and tree at Bowen Field dedicated to my father. On numerous weekends, Coach Thompson could be seen sitting on the bench at Chapel and Ella Grasso Boulevard coaching his athletes.

The New Haven Age Group Track Club has been an important fixture for our city over the years. It would be a great tribute to have the corner of Chapel and Boulevard named Coach Thompson Way because he was a role model, father figure and mentor to so many people throughout the city. The track club meant the world to him and the club would be honored if the Alders approve our request to have this corner renamed after my father.

My dad did so much for others throughout his life and this would be a great way to show our thanks for all his unselfish works. He always shied away from the limelight but many would agree with my family and the track club that it's his time to shine. I hope the corner of Chapel and Boulevard can be renamed Coach Thompson Way so his legacy can live on. This would be a perfect and lasting tribute to this great man that I call Dad.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Taft