

It would be difficult at best to do perfect justice to the families and individuals who made up those families that we seek to honor. The first difficulty would be to be able to have enough streets, buildings, areas etc., to do so if we attempted to name individuals. Secondly even with the number of families who deserve this recognition, it would not serve to honor them sufficiently. However, due to all of these historic families' contribution to our combined history in Key West, both individually and collectively, it is right that we make this step.

Through Inverse Condemnation, the United States Government took over much of the property once owned by these families who made up Key West's most Cultural anchor. To that point, and during their time, the Allens, Butlers, Careys and others formed the Original Key West Junkanoo Band, were some of the earliest music instructors, entertainers, educators and even served our country as some of the first of their kind in the US Military forces, in the Montford Point Marines... then came back to serve our community in so many additional capacities to those already mentioned! Many of our most talented athletes and athletic mentors have come from these families.

The Welters family, again some of Key West's finest musicians and winners of state band championships for the city of Key West. The Welters Cornet band is well documented and had in its membership several of these family members, including Mr. Roosevelt Sands Sr., who is known for his own philanthropy, but not as much for his having played in that Welters Cornet band. His own accomplishments extend to and beyond his having been a member of the Key West Coconuts Negro League Baseball team, and caught the eye at one point of Mr. Branch Rickey, who developed the farm system drafted Roberto Clemente, the first Hispanic MLB superstar and initiated the end of baseball's color line, with his drafting of Jackie Robinson.

The Welters brothers also had a sister who is equally historic, Mrs. Ellen Sanchez, educator, musician (and known to a lesser extent), playwright.

Mr. Charles Major Sr. was one of this city's most active and long standing members of the NAACP. He was President during some of the city and country's most tumultuous periods. He fought to bring about the single member districts with his son, Charles Jr., Willie Ward, Roy Grant and others. He once ran for the first District VI seat, losing to his son, Emery Major. Who was then the first District VI Commissioner elected until SMD voting. He worked with Mr. Sands on the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America... the longest mentorship program for boys and young men in the black community of the period in Key West.

The Weech family has contributed, some with their lives and never saw the recognition or the honor and gratitude they deserve from their community or country. The current American Legion Hall undergoing restoration, serves as tribute to some of them. Mrs. Mary Weech is but one member of this historic family whose legacy still resonates today due to her midwifery, along with Ms. M. Gibson, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Ida Sands, Mrs. Alice Wallace, Wilhelmina Morrero and Mrs. Louise Robinson. Ms. Mary's husband, Mr. Edwar "Tucker" Weech, was one of the most well-known saxophone players in Key West, playing with Mr. Coffee Butler, Robert Butler, Buddy Chavez, Howard Nickerson, Bobby Lowe, Marvin Boza and others!

We could go on, and never tell as much as would be necessary to give a full understanding or appreciation. We could never include as many of the individuals in each family to make it complete, as was stated in the introduction of the original resolution that lead to this one. But, as stated in the beginning of this narrative, there is no way to do justice, at least not enough to perfectly honor these families, as they have so many people on each family tree, who have made and continue to this day to make contributions to our history, culture and reason we love our city. It is fitting and right to do this in their honor that this part of our combined history not be forgotten, as we continue to seek the rest of the pieces to the puzzle and share with the world that no piece of land anywhere has contributed as much to cultural awareness and history as this 2X4 mile island known as Key West, Florida.