

8691

**Frank Council
Memorial
Bench**

July 26, 1998

As president of The Old Third Ward, Frank Council led the neighborhood with gentleness, good will and a passion for our history and homes. He cared deeply for a sense of balance, wholeness and mutual respect. Without his leadership, organization and willingness to fight, we surely would have stumbled.

Within hours of Franks' death his friends and neighbors wished to create a living reminder of his generosity and leadership. A granite bench in the neighborhood he loved, surrounded by flowers from our gardens is now our reminder. This quiet corner near the river is now a resting place for those who walk the OTW. With plants for every season, the neighbors now are caretakers of a space which may become a neighborhood park. Symbolic of our battle to save the neighborhood, what was once ground hardened by gravel and clay is now softened.

The inscription "Expect Goodness and Truth" is taken from notes Frank wrote shortly before he died. The sentence continues: "Expect goodness and truth in others". These words were chosen because they crystallized the external and internal struggle we experienced. While attending governmental meeting after governmental meeting, optimism would fade. Neighbors who had lived most of their lives in their homes feared the power of officials and felt this power as evil.

Instead of allowing such fears to overwhelm us, we kept returning time after time to the belief that, despite honest differences of opinion and risking being called naive, we could continue to act only if we trusted that goodness and truth were to be found.

Our hope is that these words will continue to be an inspiration to all those who pass by here.