

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.* 153

*Approved* April 9, 2001

RESOLVED, That the Camden Avenue Elementary School be re-named the "Harry Kizirian Elementary School", in honor and recognition of Harry Kizirian, the highly decorated World War Veteran and former Rhode Island Postmaster.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 5 2001  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

APPROVED

APR 9 2001

  
MAYOR

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JAN 4 2001  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

*Michael R. Clement*  
BS

*Councilman Hassett*

THE COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING  
Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Claudia Bottone*  
Clerk  
March 21, 2001

(Provided by U.S. Postmaster-Customer Service)

## **HARRY KIZIRIAN**

*Postmaster*

Harry Kizirian, one of the nation's youngest postmasters, is a man who functions superbly in times of crisis, as his war service and subsequent career activities amply prove.

At 36, he has dealt successfully with more critical situations than most men have twice his age. Battle-tested in Marine combat and an accomplished trouble-shooter for Providence's revolutionary post office establishment, he is a natural for his new job.

Born in Providence on July 13, 1925, Harry is the son of Toros and Horopig Kizirian, who came to the United States from Govdoon, Armenia in the early 1920's. Harry became familiar with adversity at a time when most children are concerned mainly with neighborhood games and the ABC's of the schoolroom. Only 15 years of age when he lost his father, Harry willingly tackled his share of the financial burden by working at odd jobs.

He attended the Chalkstone Avenue, Candace Street and Nathanael Greene schools before entering Mt. Pleasant High School in the year 1941. It was at Mt. Pleasant that Harry Kizirian first manifested the qualities of leadership which have been his personal trademark ever since. While at Mr. Pleasant, he participated in track and wrestling, and was elected captain of the 1943 football team. It was during those high school years that he joined the post office department as a part-time worker. The day after graduation in 1944, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

His two-fisted leadership ability emerged in dramatic fashion during his Marine career when he landed with the first assault wave at Okinawa. Heading a Marine fire team, Harry saw an advancing platoon pinned down by Japanese machine gun fire. The Providence youngster forthwith charged the enemy emplacement, pumping slugs from his automatic rifle as he moved. He drove out the Japanese and, despite painful artillery shell fragment wounds in the shoulders and arms, continued to lead his fire team until relieved.

A month later, recovered from his wounds, he was back in action again. It was during this second stint that he spotted a stretcher party of six Marines pinned down by enemy machine gun fire. Angered, Corporal Kizirian moved into an exposed position and opened fire on the machine gun nest. Bullets slammed into his groin and legs. Disdaining the wounds, he crawled forward between rifle bursts and wiped out the 12 Japanese in the nest.

For these exploits Harry was awarded the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star with a "V", and the Purple Heart with a Gold Star; and upon arriving home in 1946, he was awarded the Rhode Island Cross by former Governor, now United States Senator, John O. Pastore, at the State Capitol in Providence.

Harry paid a price for his heroism. For four years after he was discharged from the Marines in 1946, he shuttled in and out of hospitals for treatment of his war wounds. In 1950, he underwent two major operations, one of which cost him about 95 percent of his stomach.

Shortly after the war, Harry had journeyed to Detroit to visit with the parents of a deceased Marine buddy. It was during that trip that he met Hazel Serabian of Massena, New York. They were married in Providence in September of 1947, and are now the parents of two sons, Thomas and Richard, and three daughters, Joanne, Janice and Shakay.

Earlier that year Harry returned to his post office duties with an appointment as a substitute clerk. In 1954, a short time after his mother passed away, he was named foreman. This was the first of several hard-earned promotions, culminating in his appointment as Postmaster of the City of Providence.

When the new mechanized post office was introduced in Providence, Harry Kizirian plunged into the challenge of mechanization with the same verve, which had earned him honors as an athlete and a Marine. Given the task of coordinating post office needs with contracting requirements, he worked literally on a day and night basis for nearly two years.

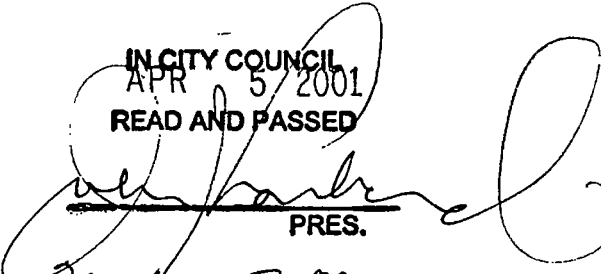

In private life, Harry Kizirian's conduct is consistent with his lifelong devotion to his fellow man. He has assumed an active role in civic and church affairs, and has been a City and State Commandant of the Marine Corps League, as well as an active member of other veteran's organizations. He is always going out of his way to help others, and his many deeds of good citizenship have inspired scores of non-citizens, both long-time residents of Rhode Island and new arrivals, to seek fulfillment of their dream of American citizenship, which he has helped them attain.

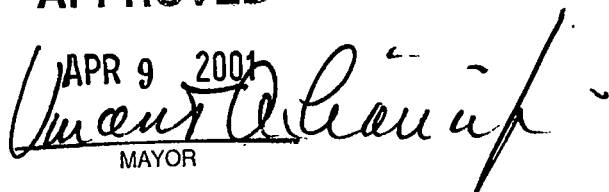
# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 154

*Approved* April 9, 2001

RESOLVED, That the Springfield Street Middle School (School #2) be  
named the "Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School".

IN CITY COUNCIL  
APR 5 2001  
READ AND PASSED  
  
PRES.  
  
CLERK

APPROVED  
APR 9 2001  
  
MAYOR

IN CITY COUNCIL  
DEC 14 2000  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

*Richard K. Alpert*

*Councilman Meglioni*

THE COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING  
Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Claire B. Hurich*  
March 21, 2001  
Clerk