

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 434

*Approved August 1, 2011*

WHEREAS, Bruce Sundlun was born in Providence on January 19, 1920 to Jewish immigrants from Lithuania; and

WHEREAS, He attended Providence public schools, graduating from Classical High School in 1938; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, he volunteered for the United States Army Air Forces, flying B-17 bombers during World War II; and

WHEREAS, After his plane was shot down over Nazi-occupied Belgium, Sundlun avoided capture and joined the Maquis, a rural guerrilla arm of the French resistance; and

WHEREAS, He earned the rank of Captain, a Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and was named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor during his service; and

WHEREAS, After the war, he returned to the U.S. to complete his undergraduate education at Williams College and, in 1949, earned a law degree from Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, He was a successful businessman, managing law firms in Providence and Washington, D.C., serving as the president of Executive Jet Aviation, CEO of The Outlet Company, and was a founding member of The Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT); and

WHEREAS, In 1979, he was awarded the Prime Minister's Medal by the State of Israel for his important role in helping to form the Israeli Air Force; and

WHEREAS, He was involved with and held leadership positions with numerous community and philanthropic organizations, including serving as the president of Temple Beth-El in Providence; and

WHEREAS, A true believer in public service, Sundlun was a member of Providence School Board, was director of the National Security Education Board, served on the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy, was an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, and was selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, he was elected Governor of Rhode Island with 74% of the vote, the largest majority in the state's history, and was re-elected in 1992; and

WHEREAS, During his four years in office, Governor Sundlun was instrumental in helping Rhode Island recover from major banking and financial crises; and

WHEREAS, He helped make our state a greater tourist destination through the establishment of the Rhode Island Convention Center, the Rhode Island Airport Corporation, the Quonset Air Museum, and the expansion of T.F. Green Airport; and

WHEREAS, All Rhode Islanders owe Governor Sundlun a debt of gratitude for his service to the state and his dedication to the greater good; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bruce Sundlun passed away on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby honor the life and legacy of Governor Bruce Sundlun.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence extends its deepest condolences to the entire Sundlun family.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**JUL 29 2011**

**READ AND PASSED**

*W. Sun*

**PRES.**

*Q. M. Stee*

**CLERK**

**APPROVED**

*Angel Torres*

**MAYOR 8/1/11**