

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 787

Approved December 6, 1994

WHEREAS, Harry Kizirian was born in Providence on July 13, 1925, a son of Toras and Horopig Kizirian who came to the United States from Govdoon, Armenia in the early 1920's, and

WHEREAS, Harry was educated in the Providence School System, and

WHEREAS, While attending Mount Pleasant High School, Harry manifested the qualities of leadership which have been his personal trademark ever since, and

WHEREAS, While at Mount Pleasant High School, he participated in track and wrestling and was elected Captain of the Football Team, and while attending High School, Harry joined the Post Office as a part-time worker and upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and began to show his leadership right away, and

WHEREAS, While on tour in Okinawa and heading a Marine Fire Team, Harry encountered a platoon pinned down by Japanese Machine Gun Fire, and

WHEREAS, Harry, without concern for his safety, charged the enemy under heavy fire and knocked out the machine gun nest, and

WHEREAS, In the engagement of this heroic act, Harry sustained shell fragment wounds to his body, and

WHEREAS, After a brief stay in the hospital, Harry again exposed himself to heavy gun fire and again suffered wounds to the body, but continued to dismantle the enemy, and

WHEREAS, 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 and United States Senator, John O. Pastore, and

WHEREAS, In 1947, Harry joined the happy world of marital bliss and married Hazel Serabian of New York and they had five children, two sons, Thomas and Richard and three daughters, Joanne, Janice and Shahay, and

WHEREAS, Earlier in the year, Harry returned to the Post Office where he was appointed as a substitute Clerk and a short time later, he was named foreman and the first of several promotions, culminating his appointment as Postmaster of the City of Providence where he brought the Post Office in a New Era by coordinating the needs of the Post Office into the automation generation, and

WHEREAS, Harry's conduct is consistent with his lifelong devotion to his fellow man and has continued to have an active role in all community affairs, and

WHEREAS, On October 28, 1994, the Bucci Atwood Marine Corps League Post will honor Harry Kizirian at the Turnkey Main Post Office with a First Day Cancellation of Harry Kizirian Station, that the US Postal Service is placing a permanent tribute to Mr. Kizirian in the space in front of the Turnkey Post Office as the Harry Kizirian Plaza, and the City Council deems this to be an appropriate recognition of his great contribution to the Postal Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Council President James A. Petrosinelli and the Members of the City Council hereby proclaim October 28, 1994 as Harry Kizirian Day.

IN CITY COUNCIL
DEC 1 1994
READ AND PASSED
James A. Petrosinelli
PRES.
Michael R. Clement
CLERK

APPROVED
DEC - 6 1994
Vincent A. Cianci
MAYOR

W. CLAY COOPER
CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL

Oct. 6, 1984

FIRST READING

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
& PLANNING

Michael R. Grant CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT
RENEWAL & PLANNING

Approves Passage of
The Within Resolution

Richard A. Davis *As Amended*
Chairman
11/28/84 Clerk

*Council President Petermanille, Councilmen Clarke, De Luca, Della, Councilwoman Di Biase,
Dargatzis, Councilman Dorton, plus Agbozi, Lombardi, Mascini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Pollard,
Councilwoman Sullivan and Young*



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

October 24, 1994

Ms. Josephine DiRuzzo
Chairwoman
Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence RI 02903-1789

Dear Ms. DiRuzzo:

Thank you for asking the Postal Service to express an opinion regarding plans to salute Harry Kizirian. We believe a symbolic designation of part of Corliss Street, renaming it Harry Kizirian Way, would be a most appropriate expression of honor to Harry.

A permanent change has the potential of disrupting service and confusing directions. In addition, there are a number of separate issues surrounding your plans to rename a part of Corliss Street, that we feel obligated to bring to your attention:

- * Each business on Corliss Street will be put to significant expense in making changes to letterheads, billing forms, business cards, and related material currently in use.
- * Public records giving description to the location of property will require modification.
- * Notification of the change to all correspondents/customers.
- * Postal Service system-wide notification of street name change.

Some of these changes would require 12 to 18 months effort to coordinate and change corporate and personal records, throughout the country.

In our opinion it is also appropriate to consider the possible impact upon survivors of George Henry Corliss, inventor of a steam engine that had local and world-wide beneficial impacts on industry, and for whom the street is currently dedicated.

The Postal Service is pleased to offer a counter proposal which it believes would be a fitting, permanent tribute to Harry Kizirian. We would be agreeable to having the space immediately in front of the Post Office dedicated as The Harry Kizirian Plaza. The

space currently is the site of the American flag, and a small granite marker memorializing all those who served in the military branches.

Please give active consideration to our concerns and recommendations. Your expression of concurrence is hoped for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William F. Mason". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

William F. Mason
Postmaster
Providence RI 02904-9998



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

December 1, 1994

Ms. Josephine DiRuzzo
Chairwoman
Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903-1789

Dear Ms. DiRuzzo:

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to address your recent Committee meeting, on the proposal to rename Corliss Street.

Your considerate understanding of the position put forth in favor of companies doing business at Corliss Street locations, and the sentiments of the Kizirian family about the Postal Service's creation of a **HARRY KIZIRIAN PLAZA** were all taken into consideration by your actions. Those actions were, I believe, in the best interests of all concerned and speak well for the foresight shown by Committee's decision to amend Council's resolution proposing the street name change.

Final plans for the type of marker we will use to designate the site are going forward today. Please be assured they will be appropriately dignified and suited to the purpose we want to achieve in paying tribute to Harry Kizirian for his many contributions to his country, his community, and the Postal service.

It is my intention to keep you informed of the progress we make in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

William F. Mason
Postmaster
24 Corliss Street
Providence, RI 02904-9998

ALFRED F. BERTONCINI
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH F. ERRICO
ASS'T. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
MAYOR

JOHN J. PARTINGTON
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety, Fire Department
"Building Pride In Providence"

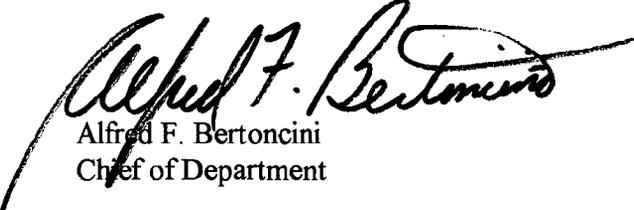
October 14, 1994

Councilwoman Josephine DiRuzzo, Chairwoman
Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning
Providence City Council
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903-3215

Dear Ms. DiRuzzo:

The renaming of Corliss Street to "Harry Kizirian Way" will pose no operational hazards for the Providence Fire Department.

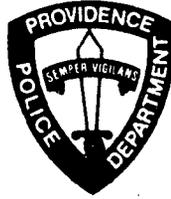
Very truly yours,


Alfred F. Bertoncini
Chief of Department

AFB:lra

JOHN J. PARTINGTON
COMMISSIONER
COLONEL BERNARD E. GANNON
CHIEF OF POLICE

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
MAYOR



Department of Public Safety, Police Department
"Building Pride In Providence"

October 18, 1994

The Honorable Josephine DiRuzzo
Chairwoman
Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal
and Planning
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Councilwoman DiRuzzo:

I am in receipt of your memorandum regarding the renaming of Corliss Street to "Harry Kizirian Way".

I have reviewed the information you sent me and have no objection to this request.

If I can be of further assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Bernard E. Gannon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

BERNARD E. GANNON
Colonel
Chief of Police

BEG:lmi

October 24, 1994

Joseph Chasse

Commandant

Mr. James P. Petrosinelli, President

Providence City Council

City Hall

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Petrosinelli,

We are writing to request that the City of Providence rename West River and Corliss Streets in honor of former U.S. Marine and Providence Postmaster Mr. Harry Kizirian.

Mr. Kizirian's exploits as a U.S. Marine in the South Pacific theater during World War II are well-documented and a matter of historic record. A long-time resident of Providence, Mr. Kizirian generously supported (and continues to support) numerous community and veteran's organizations during his 25+ year tenure as the Postmaster of Providence. The image of Harry Kizirian is indelibly stamped into the minds of many Providence citizens when they think of the Providence Post Office and its Corliss and West River Streets location. The Kizirian family's roots are deeply entwined in the Charles and Corliss Streets area.

For these reasons, we request that the streets now known as Corliss and West River be renamed in honor of Mr. Harry Kizirian. We thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to direct any questions you might have to me at telephone# 732-6417.

Sincerely,

Joseph Chasse

Joseph Chasse, Commandant

Bucci-Atwood Detachment - Marine Corps League

P.O. Box 9263

Providence, RI 02940-9263