

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 349*

**Approved July 23, 2024**

WHEREAS, John M. Murphy, an esteemed member of the Providence community, passed away peacefully on June 13, 2024, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, John M. Murphy leaves an indelible legacy and a lasting commitment to the Fox Point community. Born and raised in Fox Point, John's life was a testament to his dedication to the neighborhood he loved so dearly. He was a true champion for his constituents, always striving to address their needs and improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, John was born on June 19, 1938, in the Fox Point section of Providence to Jeremiah and Catherine (Healy) Murphy, both of whom emigrated from Ireland; and

WHEREAS, John graduated from Hope High School in 1956 and attended Bryant College before serving his country honorably in Korea from 1958 to 1960 as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning from military service, John entered the consumer loans industry, gaining invaluable experience across the country before returning to Providence in 1965; and

WHEREAS, John was elected to the Providence City Council in 1967, representing the constituents of Ward One from Wickenden Street to Wayland Square for four terms until 1975, during which he demonstrated a deep commitment to Ward 1 residents and the community; and

WHEREAS, In response to the financial challenges faced by his constituents, John resurrected the inactive state charter of Home Loan Investment Bank, transforming it into a federally chartered institution that originated home equity mortgages across 48 states and revolutionized the home loan industry; and

WHEREAS, John served as CEO of Beara Capital, Northern National Life Insurance Company, and the Home Credit Corporation of Rhode Island, earning recognition as the finance industry's Entrepreneur of the Year by INC. Magazine in 1991 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, John was a generous philanthropist, donating millions to various institutions including the Rhode Island Foundation, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, and many more; and

WHEREAS, John's contributions extended to education, financing the San Miguel School in Providence, the Louverture Cleary School in Haiti, establishing an educational alliance for Southeast Asians, and creating the Major Jeremiah Murphy Scholarship Fund for children of Providence Police officers; and

WHEREAS, John was recognized with honorary doctoral degrees from both the University of Rhode Island and Providence College for his significant contributions to the community and education; and

WHEREAS, John's legacy includes the creation of the Murphy-Healy Irish Lecture Series at Providence College, a testament to his love and respect for his parents and Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, John's life was marked by his unwavering support for his family, his dedication to public service, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his generous heart; and

WHEREAS, John is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Grace Sousa Murphy, his four sons John "Jay" M. Murphy Jr., Kevin B. Murphy, Brian J. Murphy, and Daniel A. Murphy, and his cherished grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, John was a mentor to many, including the current Ward 1 Councilman John Goncalves, and his impact on the community will be felt for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, To honor his legacy and lasting impact on the community, it is fitting to name one of the baseball fields in Gano Park as Councilman John Murphy Memorial Field.


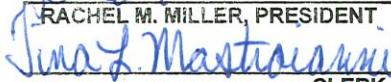
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life and legacy of John M. Murphy and expresses its deepest condolences to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby names one of the baseball fields in Gano Park as Councilman John Murphy Memorial Field in recognition of his dedicated service to the community and his lasting contributions to the City of Providence; and

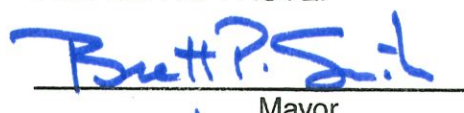
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Murphy family as a token of the Council's esteem and respect and to the Parks Department so they can take the appropriate steps in renaming one of the Gano Park baseball fields in his honor.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 18 2024  
READ AND PASSED

  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor  
Date: 7/23/24