



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of November 15, 2008**

**DATE:** November 7, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Dedication of Memorial Plaques at Zachary Taylor Park for Sherwin Landfield and Kathleen Barry

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the dedication of a plaque memorializing Sherwin Landfield and Kathleen Barry, as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

**ISSUES:** In compliance with the County Plaque Policy, the County Board is requested to approve the placement of memorial plaques by the Park and Recreation Commission.

**SUMMARY:** The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that plaques be dedicated to Sherwin Landfield and Kathleen Barry and placed on benches in Zachary Taylor Park. As required by the County's Policy on the Placement of Memorial or Recognition Plaques, the Park and Recreation Commission solicited the comments of the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board ("HALRB"), Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee ("NCAC") and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s). The Park and Recreation Commission considered the comments and letters of support from HALRB, NCAC, Donaldson Run Civic Association and the Arlington County Civic Federation. After a September 23, 2008, presentation at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the approval of both plaques to the County Board. Staff concurs with the Park and Recreation Commission that the proposed Landfield and Barry plaques are consistent with the County Board's adopted Plaque Policy.

**BACKGROUND:** On July 10, 1999, the County Board adopted a revised policy for placement of memorial or recognition plaques (Attachment 1). The policy specifies that plaques must honor an individual whom the requesting organization/individual can demonstrate contributed significantly to the community through participation in community activities or other relevant state or national service. The policy charges the Park and Recreation Commission with making recommendations to the County Board concerning proposed memorial or recognition plaques. As part of the consultation and recommendation process, the Commission must seek comments from the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s).

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: David Miller

Sherwin Landfield was a retired Foreign Service Officer who had served abroad at posts in Latin America and Africa. A resident of Arlington for 37 years, he participated actively in the affairs of the Donaldson Run Civic Association, Arlington Civic Association and was one of the founders of Citizens for Abatement of Aircraft Noise (CAAN). He served as the Virginia member of the CAAN Executive Board. In 1997, Sherwin Landfield was awarded the Arlington County Civic Federation Distinguished Meritorious Service Award. The letter documenting his distinguished service to Arlington and spokesperson for CAAN noted that as of April, 1997, his name has been mentioned in forty-two press reports. Indeed, for many Arlingtonians, the name Sherwin Landfield was synonymous with the battle to persuade authorities at Reagan National Airport to minimize nighttime jet noise, increase runway safety and deal with environmental concerns. Ken Landfield is respectfully requesting the approval of a bench and memorial plaque to honor his father's wish to have a memorial bench in Zachary Taylor Park.

Kathleen Margaret Barry was resident of Arlington for more than 40 years, and raised four children here. She was a loving mother, an engaging teacher, public speaker, a passionate actress, writer, producer, aficionado of the performing arts and an involved citizen of Arlington. For five summers, she co-wrote and directed interactive theatrical productions for children at the Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts. She was program director of the National Theater's Saturday Morning and Monday Night programs. These programs were offered for free to Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia residents, so that everyone from all income levels could be exposed to theater. Reflecting her strong commitment to human rights, Kathleen Margaret Barry produced an annual celebration at the National Theater that honored the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., showcasing acclaimed performers from around the world and sharing Dr. King's ideals with the community. Kathleen Barry traveled widely, but the place that touched her heart most was Zachary Taylor Park. Mr. Robert G. Deason, the Administrator of the Estate of Kathleen M. Berry, and Ms Berry's children are respectfully requesting the approval of a bench and memorial plaque to honor her life and services to Arlington.

**DISCUSSION:** The proposed inscription for the recommended Landfield plaque on a bench in Zachary Taylor Park is as follows:

“In Loving Memory of Sherwin Landfield  
A Loyal and Dedicated Arlingtonian  
Gentle Traveler, Stay and Rest A Spell”

The proposed inscription for the recommended Barry plaque on a bench in Zachary Taylor Park is as follows:

“In Memory of  
Kathleen M. Barry  
September 23, 1940--November 20, 2004  
Who Dearly loved Taylor Park

At the request of both families, Mr. Larry Finch, long-time resident and active member of the Donaldson Run Civic Association agreed to facilitate presentations to HALRB, NCAC, and Donaldson Run Civic Association. In the absence of family members, Mr. Finch is available to speak on behalf of the families, who no longer live in the area.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact to the County. All costs associated with the fabrication of the bench and memorial plaque are the responsibility of the individual requesting the memorial plaques, as stated in the County plaque policy.