

Arlington Public Memorials Committee
C/O Arlington Board of Selectmen
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington Massachusetts 02476-4908

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June 1, 2015

Mr. Kevin Greeley
Chairman
Arlington Board of Selectmen
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476-4908

Dear Chairman Greeley:

This is to inform you and the members of your board that the Arlington Public Memorials Committee met on Friday May 29, 2015 to review the request for memorializing James Robillard .

After reviewing the request the Committee acknowledged that Mr. Robillard served the Youth of Arlington for over fifty years. During that time Mr. Robillard ensured that any child who wanted to play baseball had a chance to have that experience, whether in Little League or Babe Ruth baseball.

As a lifelong Arlington resident, Robillard as he was known to many wanted to give back to the town he loved. In supporting Arlington youth baseball, Mr. Robillard gave generously of his own time and savings. He became a Town Meeting Member where he advocated on behalf of proper funding for parks and recreation and over time served on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

In 2014 Babe Ruth Baseball inducted Jim into the Eastern Massachusetts Babe Ruth Hall of Fame. Mr. Robillard was humble in accepting the tribute and said it has been an honor to serve the community.

Therefore, please be advised that the request submitted by the Arlington Babe Ruth Board of Directors dated January 20, 2015 meets the criteria for being memorialized by The Town of Arlington and was unanimously voted to name the baseball field at Summer Street as the James Robillard field.

James Robillard Baseball Field

If you require any further information or assistance I can be reached at (781) 643-4485.

Sincerely,

Alexander J. Salipante

Alexander J. Salipante
Chairman

January 20, 2015

To: Arlington Board of Selectman
Public Memorial Committee

From: Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball

Re: Field Renaming Consideration

Over 50 years ago, Jim Robillard started helping the youth of Arlington by ensuring that any child who wanted to play baseball had a chance to have that experience, whether in Little League or Babe Ruth baseball.

"Robes", as he is known to many, has seen thousands of players go through the Babe Ruth program. While he recognized many players were higher skilled and were high school or eventually college bound, he did not forget those children who saw baseball as a recreational activity. Many years back, he proposed an expansion to the existing program to allow any player to play at his/her level. That expanded program remains today.

As a lifelong Arlington resident, Robes wanted to give back to the town he loved. Over the years, thousands of dollars came out of his own pocket to help the program, while driving his broken down car to get to the games and town meetings.

In the mid 80's, baseball was booming and held its position as America's sport. Robes saw a need to have more baseball games played and he was instrumental in getting the lights installed at the Summer Street baseball field.

Seeing children graduating from our base program and still wanting to play, Robes worked to develop Arlington teams that played in a more elite program for the older players.

His love of the town went beyond the fields. Robes has been an active town meeting member for many years. Also, wanting to ensure that his beloved baseball fields were presented in budgets, he was elected to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Often people who do so much are honored posthumously and that is a shame.

In 2014 Babe Ruth Baseball inducted Jim into the Eastern Massachusetts Babe Ruth Hall of Fame. The ceremony was attended by not only friends but players who had played for him many years ago. As with Robes, he was humble in accepting this tribute and said it has been his honor to serve the community.

While age is taking its toll and he may walk to his games with a cane, he is still one of the first at the field to greet the kids and talk baseball.

Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball is respectfully requesting the Board of Selectmen's consideration of naming the baseball field at Summer Street "Robes Field" or "Jim Robillard Field", while he is still alive to appreciate the honor and to thank him for all the years he has given to all the children of Arlington.

Thank you for your consideration

Babe Ruth Board of Directors

Tom Ahern / 339-927-3689
Brian Malo / 781-985-6575
Al Ticehurst / 781-281-2154