

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
COMMISSION MEETING
PARK NAMING PRESENTATION



Presented by:
Community Recreation

Tuesday, March 12, 2024



**BETSY ADAMS
AND THE CORAL GABLES GARDEN CLUB PARK
2018**

It is impossible to tell the story of George Merrick and the creation of the City of Coral Gables without acknowledging the influence of the Coral Gables Garden Club. City founder George Merrick recognized the importance of civic and cultural institutions in great cities. The Coral Gables Garden Club was founded in 1925 by Eunice Peacock Merrick, wife of the City's founder George Merrick, and five other women, including Althea Merrick, George Merrick's mother.

This park is dedicated to a past president of the Garden Club: long-time Coral Gables resident Betsy Adams. When she was president of the Garden Club, Betsy Adams conceived the "Adopt an Entrance Project" which through the years planned, constructed and funded three new entrances in the City: at Coral Way and Red Road, Miracle Mile and Douglas Road and Ponce de Leon Blvd. and S.W. 8th Street. In addition, the Garden Club donated the George Merrick statue in front of City Hall and one of his mother, Althea Merrick, located at the Coral Gables Merrick House, at 907 Coral Way. These monuments continue George Merrick's vision of Coral Gables and are testaments to the tireless exertions and passionate commitment of Betsy Adams and the Coral Gables Garden Club.

"The Coral Gables Garden Club - Creating Tomorrow's History Today"

2018 City Commission

Raúl Valdés-Faull, Mayor
Frank J. Quesada, Vice Mayor
Patricia Keon, Commissioner
Vince Lago, Commissioner
Michael Mena, Commissioner

2015 City Commission

Jim Cason, Mayor
Frank J. Quesada, Vice Mayor
Patricia Keon, Commissioner
Vince Lago, Commissioner
Jeannett Slesnick, Commissioner

2010 City Commission

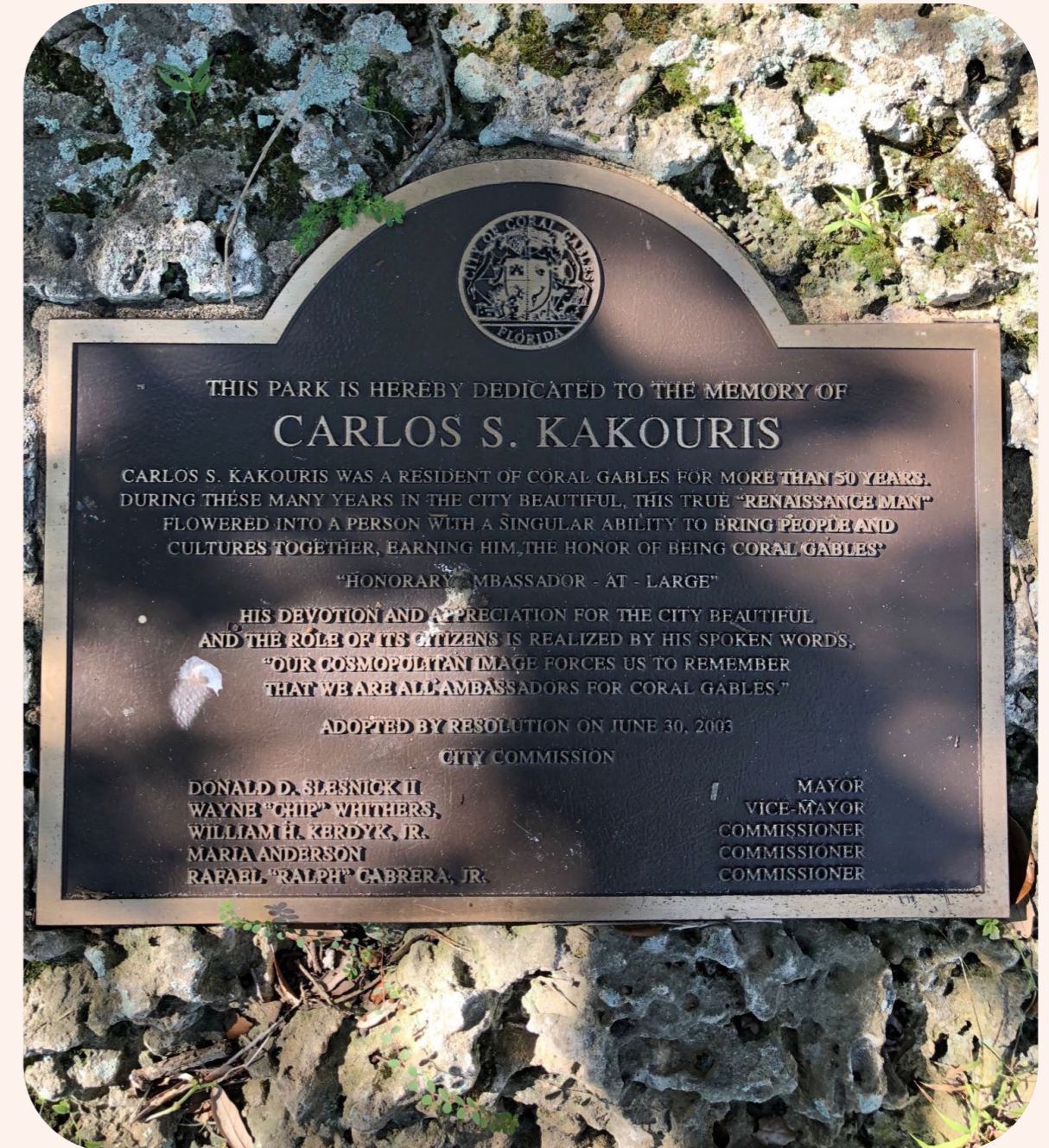
Don J. Slesnick, Mayor
William H. Kerdyk, Jr., Vice Mayor
Maria Anderson, Commissioner
Rafael Cabrera, Jr., Commissioner
Wayne E. Withers, Commissioner

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Peter Iglesias, Assistant City Manager
Miriam S. Ramos, City Attorney
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk
Eduardo Santamaria, Public Works Director
Fred Couceyro, Community Recreation Director

PARK NAMING PROCESS

INTENT OF POLICY:

- To establish a set of standard procedures and guidelines for naming/renaming city parks, open spaces, or public facilities.
- The Coral Gables City Commission shall have final approval of all names by resolution.



PARK NAMING PROCESS

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES:

Parks, open spaces or facilities can be named for an individual or group who has made a significant contribution towards the city or the property in question. The contribution will be defined as one or more of the following:

- Park site or facility is donated.
- Donation in the amount equal to the fair value of the land.
- Donation in the amount of 50% of cost for the park development project as determined by the city.

PARK NAMING PROCESS

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES:

Parks, open spaces or facilities can be named for an individual or group that has provided significant service to the community or city. The service must be defined by one or more of the following:

- Sustained, continued public service over 25 years.
- Projects or programs that contributed positively to the City.
- An accomplishment, achievement or honor that brings national or international prominence to the city.

PARK NAMING PROCESS

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES:

Individuals considered for park naming must be at least 70 years of age or been deceased at least 18 months, unless the naming of an individual is part of an agreement containing a qualified financial contribution.



PARK NAMING PROCESS

NAMING PROCEDURES:

- Park naming nomination submission to include information on nominating group, proposed location, proposed name, information and testimonials on nominee, and letter of approval from nominee or next of kin.
- Committee review to include department director, deputy or designee as well as directors from the following departments if applicable: Landscape Services, Planning, Historical Resources.
- Board review and recommendation to include the following boards if applicable: Parks Advisory Board, Landscape Beautification Board, and Historic Advisory Board.

PARK NAMING PROCESS

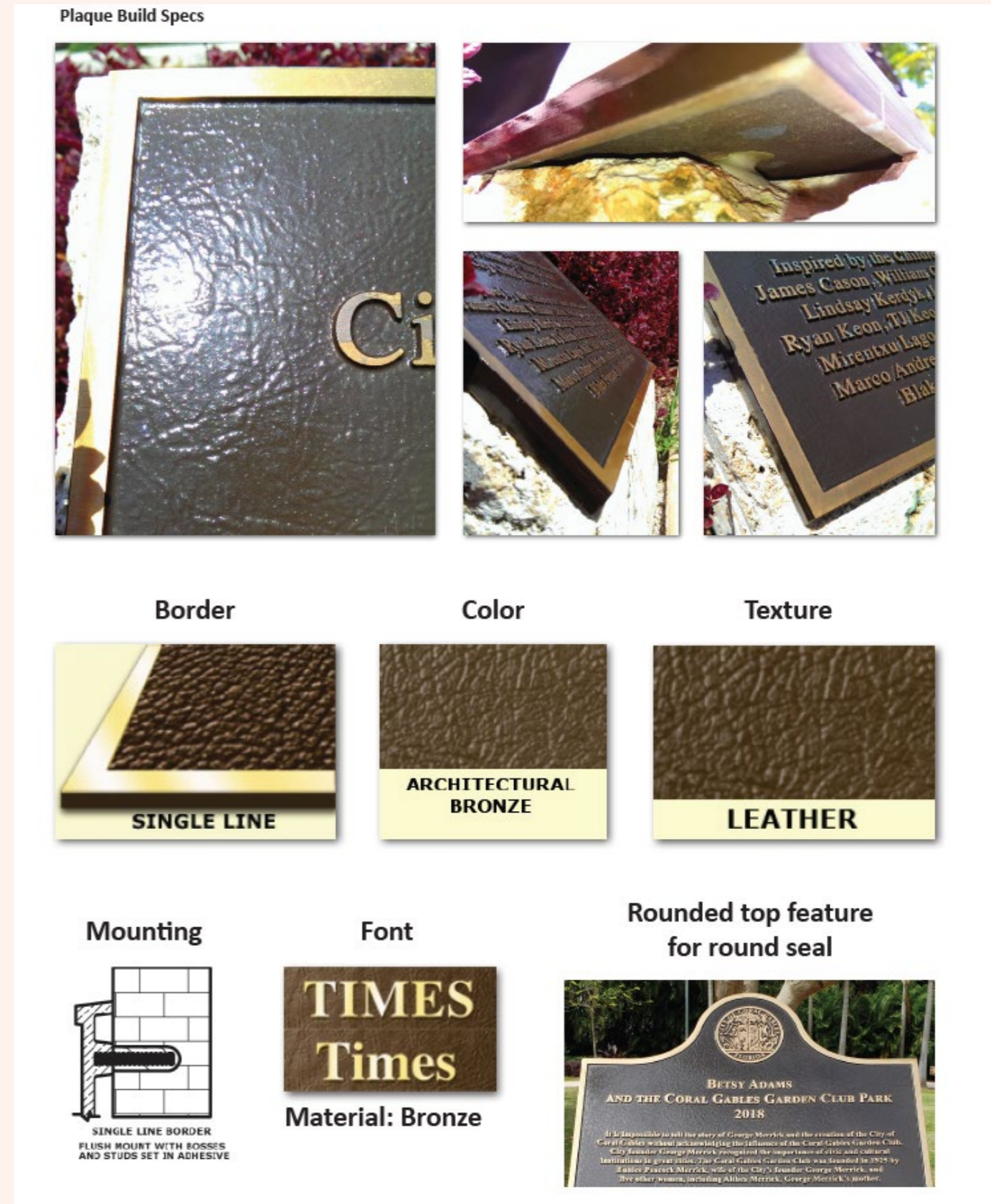
NAMING PROCEDURES:

- Upon completion of Advisory Board review, the nomination will be presented to the City Commission.
- At least one Advisory Board recommendation to approve the naming is required to proceed to City Commission for final approval.
- The City Commission may approve the waiving of any or all conditions or procedures in the naming policy.

PARK NAMING PROCESS

SIGNAGE:

- The city will be responsible for coordinating the public presentation of signage to acknowledge the name/rename designation.
- The City Manager or designee shall have final approval for the selection and location of any signage, including signage text.
- Signage shall comply with the “Zoning Code” of Coral Gables.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

- William A. Cooper Park located at 4920 Washington Drive.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Individual:

- Leona Cooper

Proposed Park & Location:

- William A. Cooper Park located at 4920 Washington Dr.

Proposed Park Name:

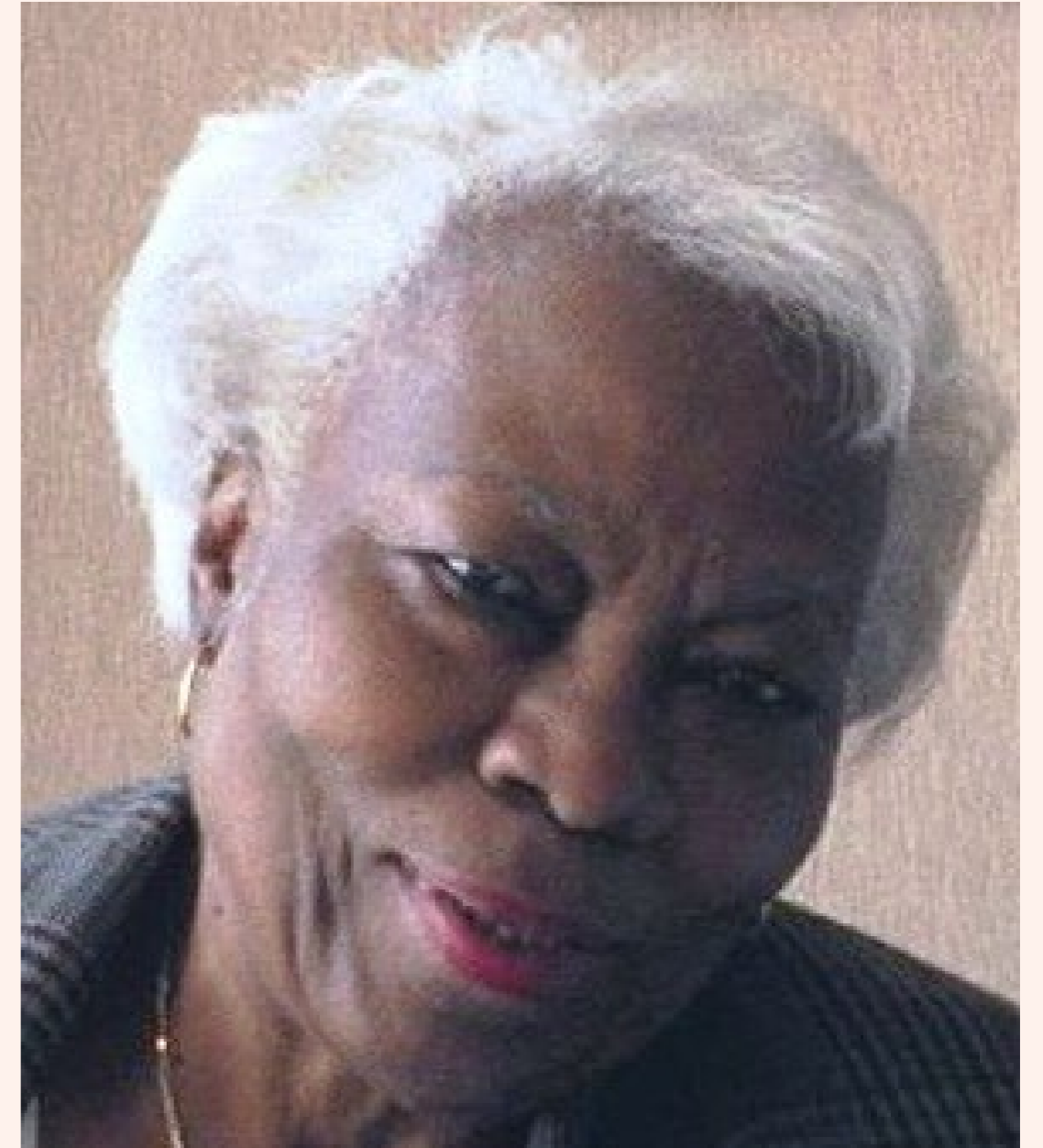
- Update park name to include Leona Cooper to be named “William and Leona Cooper Park”

Requesting Party:

- City Commission unanimously recognized via Resolution No. 2022-275
- Recommended unanimously by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING IN HONOR OF LEONA AND WILLIAM COOPER

- Leona Cooper was born in Nassau, N.P., Bahamas in 1932 and migrated to south Florida as a teenager. Leona's passing in 2022 was preceded in death by husband William Cooper of 58 years.
- Upon her graduation from Miami's Booker T. Washington High School, she began an over 40-year career in medical technology, retiring in 2002 from the Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center as a Supervisory Microbiologist.
- In the early 1990s, the Coopers formed the Lola B. Walker Homeowners' Association and mobilized community support to save Black Gables.
- A life-long Roman Catholic, she founded in 1986 the St. Martin de Porres Association and in 1999, Cooper was invested as a Lady in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.
- In 1992, Leona was presented with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award from Pope John Paul II.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Toledo & Alava Park located at Toledo Street and Alava Avenue.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Individual:

- Mayor Dorothy Thomson

Proposed Park & Location:

- Toledo & Alava Park located at Toledo Street and Alava Avenue

Proposed Park Name:

- “Mayor Dorothy H. Thomson Park”

Requesting Party:

- City Commission unanimously recognized via Resolution No. 2023-265
- Recommended unanimously by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING IN HONOR OF MAYOR DOROTHY THOMSON

- Dorothy was born at the height of the Great Depression in 1932.
- Dorothy was elected to a two-year seat on the City Commission in 1979, winning a four-year seat after the next election, and, in 1985, was elected the first (and only) female mayor of Coral Gables.
- During the most incendiary meeting she ever conducted, the Commission chamber was packed with angry residents. Because there was so much discord, Dorothy decreed everyone would have the opportunity to be heard, without interruption.
- When no one was left to talk, Dorothy called for discussion, and took a vote of the Commission. The Biltmore would be saved and restored to reflect George Merrick's vision.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

- Sunrise Harbor Park located at 25 E Sunrise Avenue.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Individual:

- Sallye and James Jude

Proposed Park & Location:

- Sunrise Harbor Park located at 25 E Sunrise Avenue

Proposed Park Name:

- “The James and Sallye Jude Park.”

Requesting Party:

- City Commission unanimously recognized via Resolution No. 2023-265
- Recommended unanimously by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING IN HONOR OF SALLYE AND JAMES JUDE

- Sallye Garrigan was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1926 and married James Jude in 1952.
- In the mid-1950s, the Judes returned to Baltimore to live, work and to raise their family. It was while Dr. Jude was doing his residency at Johns Hopkins University that he was part of a team that pioneered the research that led to the development of CPR.
- Dr. Jude's work with CPR received national recognition and brought the Judes and their family to Miami in 1964 where Dr. Jude became Chief of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine and at Jackson Memorial Hospital.
- Sallye became an active and integral part of the community. She was involved with the medical wives' group, her church, and in her children's schools. She is credited with being part of the small group that founded the Dade Reading Foundation – one of the earliest programs in M/D County for learning disabled children.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Tiziano Park located at 7700 Old Cutler Rd.



RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING

Individual:

- Staff Sergeant Carl Philippe Enis

Proposed Park & Location:

- Tiziano Park located at 7700 Old Cutler Rd.

Proposed Park Name:

- “Staff Sergeant Carl Enis Veterans Memorial Park”

Requesting Party:

- Mayor via discussion item 23-6878
- Recommended unanimously by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

RECOMMENDED PARK NAMING IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL PHILIPPE ENIS

- Staff Sergeant Carl Philippe Enis, was born March 31, 1986 in Miami Beach. Carl grew up in Coral Gables and attended Gulliver Preparatory. He received a bachelor's degree of Science in Environmental Studies and a Master of Business Administration from Florida State University.
- Staff Sergeant Enis was a Pararescuemen (PJ's) in the United States Air Force. PJ's are an elite team of Guardian Angel Airmen who serve as highly trained rescue specialists, providing life-saving trauma care and search and rescue.
- On March 15, 2018, at 31 years of age, Staff Sergeant Enis was killed in a helicopter incident on the Syrian Iraq border, along with six other airmen.



1986 - 2018

*For More
Information*

PLEASE EMAIL
PARKSPROJECTS@CORALGABLES.COM

