

Proclamation submission for District 3 (Council Member Whitburn)

PROCLAMATION REQUEST

Questions

Please answer the following questions to ensure that our office has all the information needed to fulfill your proclamation request. **Please note that proclamations require Council approval and must be submitted at least two weeks in advance.**

What is the name of the Proclamation? “San Diego Tennis Legends Day at North Park Recreation Center hosted by Greater San Diego City Tennis Council”

What is the date of the proclamation? May 31, 2024

Please provide our office with background information on the person/organization being honored. We are requesting a Proclamation be issued by councilmember Whitburn proclaiming Friday, May 31, 2024 as “San Diego Tennis Legends Day at North Park Recreation Center hosted by Greater San Diego City Tennis Council”.

The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council (GSDCTC) was established as a 501c3 non-profit organization 25 years ago, with the mission of repairing public tennis facilities in San Diego County. To date, the GSDCTC has resurfaced over 300 tennis courts at nearly 70 tennis facilities. The GSDCTC has partnered with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), Southern California Tennis Association, San Diego District Tennis Association (local affiliate of the USTA), the City of San Diego, San Diego Unified School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, City of National City, City of Chula Vista and others generally on a shared cost basis to improve San Diego tennis facilities for the public benefit. In maintaining the legacy of the GSDCTC’s co-founders, Ben Press and Bill Stack, the GSDCTC board and advisory board continue to work entirely pro bono. The GSDCTC’s goal is to provide safe and enjoyable tennis facilities for youth and their families, with the priority being to partner with and financially support court and facility renovations at economically underserved communities. Earlier this year, the GSDCTC was recognized by the USTA as the nation’s top organization for supporting tennis facility renovations. See attached article in the January 2024 edition of Racquet Sports Industry Magazine. Seven past and/or present GSDCTC board and/or advisory board members have been inducted into the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame, which represents 10% of all inductees, with many of them also receiving local, regional and/or national community service awards.

<https://www.sandiegotenniscouncil.com/>

Please provide our office with the proclamation language. See below...

WHEREAS, for their pioneering impact on San Diego tennis, Maureen Connolly, Wilbur Folsom and Ben Press are being honored today in a Plaque Dedication Ceremony at North Park Recreation Center on Friday, May 31, 2024 on the 100th Anniversary of Ben Press' Birth.

WHEREAS, the true genesis of San Diego tennis was begun and nurtured at the three courts at North Park Recreation Center which started in the early 1930's.

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has produced numerous world champion tennis players and countless national champions for over 70 years.

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has hosted national and international tennis events for over 65 years featuring numerous tennis greats, many of whom have been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Wilbur Folsom was the original pioneering tennis coach who singlehandedly made it possible for tens of thousands of youth to learn, enjoy and excel at the game of tennis, including; two of his most acclaimed students from the 1940's and 1930's respectively, Maureen Connolly and Ben Press.

WHEREAS, Maureen Connolly won nine Grand Slam singles titles and from 1952 to 1954 she was the number one ranked tennis player in the world. In 1953, Maureen became the first woman tennis player to win the calendar Grand Slam, all four international singles championships in the same calendar year, and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1968.

WHEREAS, Ben Press, known as "Mr. Tennis San Diego" began playing tennis in the 1930's at the North Park Recreation Center under the tutelage of Wilbur Folsom. Ben, a national tennis champion, was also a legendary coach in San Diego for over 60 years.

WHEREAS, Maureen Connolly, Wilbur Folsom and Ben Press were all inducted into the inaugural class of the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame in 2006, which included two additional world singles champions.

WHEREAS, Ted Williams, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, also developed his legendary hitting skills at the North Park Recreation Center on the field that is now named in his honor. Williams, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1966, had a batting average of .406 during 1941.

WHEREAS, the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council, co-founded by Ben Press and Bill Stack, has provided funding and advisory support to renovate over 300 public tennis courts in San Diego during the past 25 years entirely on a pro bono basis. Roz King has also been a board member since inception.

WHEREAS, board and advisory members of the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council, include Steve Avoyer (SDTHOF), Cara Beltran, Rick Beltran, David Gill, Geoff Griffin (SDTHOF), William J. Kellogg (SDTHOF), Roz King (SDTHOF), Jack McGrory, Brian Teacher (SDTHOF), Bill Walton and Charles Wax. San Diego Tennis Hall of Famers are listed with SDTHOF following their names in parentheses.

WHEREAS, the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council is grateful for the generosity of several significant ongoing funding partners that has enabled us to restore courts at nearly 70 facilities over the past 25 years.

NOW, THEREFORE;

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim **May 31, 2024**, to be "**San Diego Tennis Legends Day at North Park Recreation Center hosted by Greater San Diego City Tennis Council**" in the City of San Diego.