

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Carmen Farina
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Naming of PS 19 Schoolyard

Dear Chancellor Fariña;

I am writing to express my strong support for the naming of the schoolyard at PS 19, 780 Post Ave, Staten Island, NY 10310, in honor of William A. Morris.

Mr. Morris, a war hero, a community stalwart and an iconic figure in the community, ran the Morris Softball League in that schoolyard for more than 17 years starting in the 1970s. An exemplary "community organizer" in the truest sense of the term, he impacted the lives of thousands of young Staten Islanders in an extraordinarily positive way.

So great is my respect for Mr. Morris that I recently made him the recipient of the Albert V. Maniscalco Community Service Award, an honor bestowed upon those who personify civic-mindedness and who exhibit a tireless energy to help community members in need.

It seems to me that naming this schoolyard after Mr. Morris would be a fitting way to memorialize the great work he did there. I hope you agree.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

P.S. Simply put, he's one of the most amazing human beings I have ever met. What a life! What a story!! So worthy!

