

September 9, 2019

Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

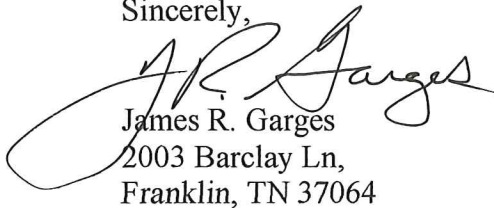
Dear Board of County Commissioners,

I would like to support the application for naming the pickleball courts at Hucks Road Park for John Stevens. I remember John stopping into the office and enthusiastically introducing us to the "new" sport of pickleball. While the game started in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington and was popular in California and Florida it was definitely new to us. After John's meeting we began to look for tennis courts that could be shared for pickleball. John and Peter Cook worked closely together over several years to find places to play. I remember John calling several times and gently encouraging us to keep at it or suggesting courts that could be converted. I think he visited every court in the entire system!

As time went on we developed several places to play and then the planning for Hucks Road Park began. Lee Jones and his planning team did a wonderful job on design of the park and John was ecstatic that the county's first true pickleball courts would be included. I've seen pictures of the new park and the courts and know John was smiling down at the opening.

John was the perfect citizen advocate who simply wanted others to enjoy the sport as much as he and his friends did. Naming the courts for John would be a wonderful way to recognize his efforts and remind others of the value of citizen advocacy.

Sincerely,



James R. Garges
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