

RESOLUTION NO. R-19-121

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RENAMING FIELD 1 AT LAKEWOOD RANCH PARK THE “MATTHEW RYAN POWERS MEMORIAL FIELD”; AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Matthew Ryan Powers was born January 19th, 2003, at Fort Riley, Kansas, to Daniel R. and Rebecca A. Powers; and

WHEREAS, Matthew was the oldest child of a dual-military family. He became accustomed to frequent and sometimes sudden relocations, different countries, new schools, new friends, a father who was always at work or deployed to combat zones for years at a time, and helping his mother care for his younger brother and sister. Throughout this chaotic period of his life, baseball was one of the few constants that he could always rely upon; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Ryan Powers first began playing organized baseball in 2006, at age 3, while his family was stationed at Hohenfels, Germany and immediately fell in love with it. He continued playing baseball at every duty station his parents were assigned – Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Junction City, Kansas; Apollo Beach, Florida; and Lakewood Ranch, Florida. He carried his love of baseball with him for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Matthew was active in the Lakewood Ranch Little League program for seven seasons between 2014 and 2017 and regularly volunteered to work in the league snack bar from 2016 to 2018. He participated in baseball camps at Lakewood Ranch High School in 2014 and with the Bradenton Marauders in 2015; and

WHEREAS, after his father was injured in Afghanistan in 2013, and no longer able to play baseball with him, Matthew would spend time with his younger brother, helping him learn the game and sharing his love of the game; and

WHEREAS, Matthew made his mark on the game and his teams through his positive attitude, sportsmanship, and determination. On the field, Matthew always had a smile on his face, truly enjoyed playing the game, was never critical of any of his teammates, was always first to congratulate a teammate for a good play or hit, and was always hustling on or off the field; and

WHEREAS, Matthew was a role model on and off the field through his sportsmanship and never give up attitude; he always encouraged others and served as a positive influence amongst his teammates and peers. He was a fun loving, funny, hardworking, thoughtful, respectful, and caring young man who would go out of his way to help others; and

WHEREAS, Matthew dedicated himself to hard work in the game of baseball and in life; and

WHEREAS, Matthew helped his younger brother develop his baseball skills, helped during team practices, and was always eager to volunteer to work in the league's concession stand; and

WHEREAS, some of the best days of his life were spent on Field 1 at Lakewood Ranch Park; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Ryan Powers was killed alongside his friend Chase Alan Coyner on their way to the Lakewood Ranch High School Homecoming Dance on September 15th, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. Field 1 at Lakewood Ranch Park is hereby renamed the "Matthew Ryan Powers Memorial Field."
2. County staff is hereby authorized and directed to work on placement of suitable signage to memorialize this renaming.
3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 10th day of September 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: _____
Deputy Clerk