2138 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
Phone: 414-313-0445
Fax: 262-814-7157

[redacted]

Fax

To:	Debra Fowler	**From:**	Kevin Bilello
Fax:	(414) 286-3456	**Date:**	March 1, 2004
Phone:	(414) 286-3219	**Pages:**	5 including cover sheet
Re:	Modrzejewski Playground Proposal	**CC:**	

☐ **Urgent** ☑ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☑ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

•Comments:

Hello Debbie. Here are additional letters of recommendation supporting the proposal. Please add them to the official documents for File Number 031511.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Bilello

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
UWMILWAUKEE

College of Letters and Science
Department of History

Holton Hall
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI
53201-0413 U.S.A.
414 229-4361 *phone*

February 24, 2004

To Whom it May Concern:

The Polish Studies Committee of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is pleased to endorse the proposal to rename Cleveland Playground in Milwaukee for Col. Robert J. Modrzejewski. A native of the city's historically Polish-American south side neighborhood, Col. Modrzejewski won distinction as the first citizen of Wisconsin to receive the Medal of Honor for service in the Vietnam War. It would be a worthy tribute to his heroism, and a fitting expression of the pride and gratitude of his hometown, to memorialize the distinguished service Col. Modrzejewski rendered to his country in this fashion. We commend Mr. Kevin Bilello for his efforts on behalf of this initiative, and express our hopes for its realization.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Neal Pease
Associate Professor of History
Chair, Polish Studies Committee

The Wisconsin State Division of the Polish American Congress

5017 North Hollywood Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217 414-332-6289

Annual Lectures on Poland

Federation Life Insurance of America

Friends of Polish Fest

New Life Chorus

Pol Am Golf Charities

Polish Army Veterans Association

Polish National Alliance Council 8

PNA Lodge 534

PNA Lodge 2159

PNA Lodge 3073

Polish Roman Catholic Union in Wisconsin

Polish Studies

Polish Veterans of World War II Association

Polish Women's Alliance of America

Polish Western Association

Polonia Sport Club

Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County

St. Stan's Society

February 25, 2004

Mr. Kevin Bilello
2136 North 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

Dear Mr. Bilello:

At the general quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress on February 21, our delegates unanimously endorsed a resolution to support the naming of Milwaukee's Cleveland Avenue park playground in honor of Major Robert C. Modrzejewski.

Major Modrzejewski is a native of Milwaukee who served with great valor and distinction in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. His dedicated and patriotic service deserves our lasting respect and praise. We therefore strongly support the naming of the playground in his honor.

We thank you and your colleagues for bringing this matter to our attention and wish you every success in your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Donald E. Pienkos

Donald E. Pienkos
President

cc: Members of the Board of Directors

Together We are Strong! *W Jednosci Sila!* The PAC - Founded in 1944

BETA SYSTEMS Mar 1 '04 11:48 P.03

ALLIED VERERANS COUNCIL OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

ORGANIZED 1934 INCORPORATED 1966

February 27, 2004

Milwaukee Citizen Advisory Board
C/O Mr. Kevin J. Bilello
2136 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Dear Sir:

The Allied Veterans Council of Milwaukee County is comprised of 22 Veterans organizations.

At our meeting held on February 26, 2004, discussion was held on renaming the Cleveland Playground to the Modrzejewski Playground.

By a unanimous motion I was directed to write to you with our full support and request that this change be made.

If you have any questions you may contact me at:
Leonard C. Brody, Secretary
Allied Veterans Council of Milwaukee County
7933 W. Denver Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53223
Or call me at:
(414) 353-2092

Yours truly
Leonard C. Brody
Leonard C. Brody, Secretary

AMVETS * ARMY & NAVY UNION * CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS * CHINA BURMA INDIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION * DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS * FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION * JEWISH WAR VETERANS * MARINE CORPS LEAGUE * MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART * MILWAUKEE NCO COUNCIL * NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK VETERANS *NAVY CLUB OF THE U.S.A. * POLISH VETERANS ASSOCIATION * U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS * VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS * WAC VETERANS ASSOCIAN * WAVES NATIONAL BRANCH 39 * PARALIZED VETERANS OF AMERICA * WISNONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER # 1 * VUETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 324 * UNITED SPANISH WAR VETE3RANS * VETERANS OF WORLD WAR ONE AND TWO (RETREADS) * VETERANS OF WORLD WAR ONE *

BETA SYSTEMS Mar 1 '04 11:49 P.04

Duty - Honor - Country

In Service to America

February 23, 2004

Milwaukee Citizen Advisory Board
C/O Mr. Kevin J. Bilello
2136 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Subject: Renaming of Cleveland Playground to Modrzejewski Playground

To whom it may concern:

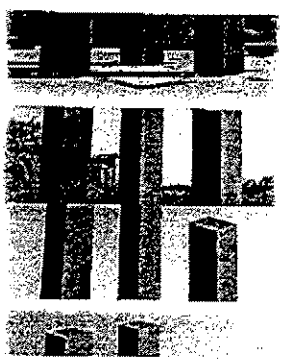
We, the Vietnam Veterans of America – Milwaukee Chapter 324, wish to pledge our full support, for your consideration and hopeful resolution in favor of the renaming of Cleveland Playground to Modrzejewski Playground.

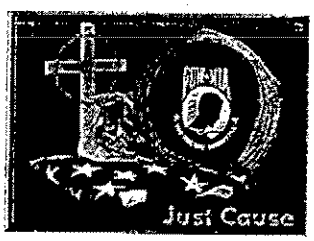
It will not only be a fitting tribute to our 1st Wisconsinite and Milwaukeean Vietnam Veteran, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Robert Joseph Modrzejewski, but will most certainly serve as a reminder to all, the sacrifices made by Robert and all our Veterans who have and continue to serve and protect our freedoms. It would be a symbol to all who visit this Playground that our American ideals must continue to be protected and are worth the sacrifices that Robert and so many others have given.

Again, we, the Vietnam Veterans of America – Milwaukee Chapter 324, appreciate your consideration for the reaming to Modrzejewski Playground. We are looking forward to the successful completion of this most honorable project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Campbell
President, Milwaukee Chapter 324
Vietnam Veterans of America
2228 N. 115th St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Tele: (414) 607-0527
E-mail: vva324jfc@aol.com





Never forget our POW/MIA's

Vietnam Veterans of America Founding Principal
"Never again shall one generation of Veterans abandon another"

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)
WEB SITE: http://dva.state.wi.us
E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us
FAX: (608) 267-0403

February 13, 2004

Mr. Kevin Bilello
2136 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

Dear Mr. Bilello,

I write in support of your efforts to dedicate the Cleveland Playground in honor of Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, Robert Joseph Modrzejewski. It is very appropriate and meaningful to rename the Cleveland Playground in Mr. Modrzejewski's name. As indicated in the supportive documents, this playground played an early role in Mr. Modrzejewski's early childhood and formation. With the Cleveland Playground bordered by other Polish-born military war heroes, to dedicate this playground to Wisconsin's first Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient is completely fitting.

As the Reference Archivist for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center, I document for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs the memorials and monuments dedicated to Wisconsin veterans throughout the State of Wisconsin, our nation and throughout the world. Consequently, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has documented over 680 memorials dedicated in honor of our Wisconsin veterans' sacrifices and military service. I receive numerous reference requests annually from the public and from students of history as to why a certain memorial exists or in the event that one needs to be proposed and dedicated to honor a Wisconsin veteran or a group of veterans.

With this in mind, it is important that the Cleveland Playground bears the name of Wisconsin's first Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient, Robert Joseph Modrzejewski. The proposed Modrzejewski Playground would stand as a great honor for the sacrifice and military service of one that used to play there and grew up in that area. Moreover, the next generation of children and the public who utilizes that playground will learn of that sacrifice and history of one of their own.

I firmly support your efforts to rename the Cleveland Playground in honor of Robert Joseph Modrzejewski, the first Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient from Wisconsin. Please let me know the outcome of this proposal. I would very much like to include this dedicated playground in the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Catalog and permanent files. I wish you all the best in your endeavor.

Sincerely,

Carrie Bohman
Reference Archivist
Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center

BETA SYSTEMS Feb 26 '04 11:16 P.02

MILWAUKEE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

February 10, 2004

Mr. Kevin J. Bilello
2136 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Dear Mr. Bilello:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2003 regarding your efforts to have Cleveland Park renamed Modrzejewski Park in honor of Robert J. Modrzejewski, the first Wisconsin citizen to win the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

In light of the close association which Colonel Modrzejewski had with Cleveland Park as a boy, and in light of his distinguished record of military service to his country, I share your feeling that renaming this recreational facility in his honor would be a fitting tribute from the community where he was raised.

I would also like to commend you, Mr. Bilello, for taking the time and the trouble to pursue the proposed name change in the thorough and professional manner which you have. Your efforts, and those of Colonel Modrzejewski, should certainly be rewarded!

Sincerely,

Robert T. Teske

Robert T. Teske
Executive Director

910 N. Old World 3rd St. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203 (414) 273-8288

Collins-Meyer VFW Post 2903
2900 W. Lincoln Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-672-2903

Mr. Kevin J. Bilello
2136 N. 62nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

February 9, 2004

Dear Mr. Bilello:

On behalf of the Collins-Meyer VFW Post 2903 and Ladies Auxiliary membership, we wish to go on record *as fully supporting your efforts* to have the City of Milwaukee's Citizen Advisory Committee rename Cleveland Playground, located at 1020 W. Cleveland Avenue, to Modrzejewski Playground, effective July 3, 2004.

US Marine Col. Robert J. Modrzejewski, as one of the Milwaukee area's only Congressional of Honor Medal recipients, is highly deserving of this honor, and his name rightfully belongs along side the other Polish heritage war heroes whose names grace the vicinity's other facilities, such as Casmir Pulaski Park and Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park.

By an official motion by Post membership at its January 15, 2004 meeting, Collins-Meyer VFW Post 2903 unanimously voted to support your important mission to rename Cleveland Playground to Modrzejewski Playground to honor this brave Milwaukeean's heroic achievement.

Individual members of our Post have indicated they may contact you to show their support, at the encouragement of the executive board of Collins-Meyer Post, but let this letter stand as our official acknowledgement of Post support.

Sincerely,

Dale L. Peterson

Dale L. Peterson,
Post Commander

Thomas M. Gould

Thomas M. Gould,
Senior Vice Commander

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CASIMIR PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL
Michael Hickey, *Principal*
2500 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215
Area 414: 902-8900
Fax 414: 902-8915

January 7, 2004

To the Citizen Advisory Committee:

In October, 1999, I had the privilege of getting to know Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski, a 1968 recipient of the Medal of Honor for his heroic action in Vietnam. The occasion was Colonel Modrzejewski's return to his alma mater, Pulaski High School, where I was a teacher. He spoke to Pulaski's student body, inspiring them with his message of commitment to family, community, and country.

Colonel Modrzejewski grew up in a working-class family on Milwaukee's south side, just a block away from Cleveland Playground. He excelled in athletics in high school, playing on the football, basketball, and baseball teams at Pulaski. His skills in those sports, however, were developed and nurtured in his childhood neighborhood—at Cleveland Playground.

In his senior year, Colonel Modrzejewski told a writer for the school's newspaper, the Pulaski Cavalier, that his goal in life was to get a nice clean job, one where he could dress up and earn three dollars an hour. Before pursuing that dream, though, he entered the military, went to war, and earned the nation's highest award for bravery. When President Lyndon Johnson presented the Medal of Honor, he said that in Colonel Modrzejewski's face he could see "the certainty of freedom," and in his presence he could feel "the hope and the promise of peace."

Renaming Cleveland Playground in honor of Colonel Modrzejewski would be an appropriate tribute to a genuine American hero who grew up in the neighborhood and played in the park. I wish to lend my encouragement and support to those suggesting the renaming of the playground.

Sincerely,

Robert D Buege

Robert D. Buege