

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-004

Approving the Honorary Placement of a Bench at Mays Park in honor of Mr. William P.H. Fincher

WHEREAS, Mr. William P.H Fincher was a long time Columbia resident and a valued contributor to the City’s business community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William P.H Fincher was a dedicated community supporter who both loved and supported Mays Park.

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2025, the Administrative Policy Committee endorsed the placement of an honorary bench in recognition of Mr. Fincher’s contributions; and, NOW THEREFORE,

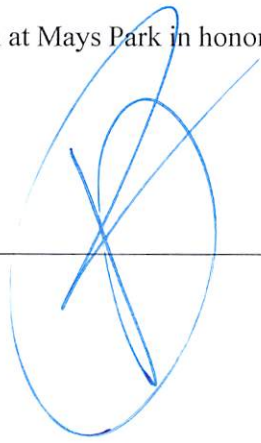
BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 6th day of January 2026, that the Mayor and City Council hereby approve the honorary placement of a bench at Mays Park in honor of Mr. William P.H. Fincher.

Requested by:

Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr.

Approved by:


Cherona B. Milson
City Manager




Mayor

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 01/06/2026
Final Reading: 01/06/2026



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING APPLICATION

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.
SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to ceremony.

Is the designation: Honorary Street Naming (*Topper will be posted above standard City of Columbia street signs.*)
 Facility Naming (*A marker or plaque will be posted inside and outside of facility.*)
 Room Naming (*A marker or plaque will be posted outside of room.*)
 Site Naming

Checklist: Application
 Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
 3 Letter(s) of Support
1) One letter expressing Community support
2) One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
3) One letter expressing Councilmembers' support

Melita F. DaSilva
Applicant Signature*

Melita F. DaSilva
Print Name

803-319-4901
Phone Number

litadasilva6@gmail.com
E-mail Address

830 Hampton Hill Rd 29209
Mailing Address

3-17-25
Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

MAN Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters.

MAN Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to ceremony.

MAN Signage wording and resolution must be finalized 30 days prior to ceremony.

MAN Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING APPLICATION

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Bill Fincher (William P.H. Fincher)

2. Name of street, facility, room or site of proposed designation: *Please list the intersecting streets and block numbers for honorary street namings. No more than two signs are permitted per honorary street naming designation.*

Park bench, Moyns Park
Trenholm Rd at Belhine Rd, Columbia

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community (no more than one page):

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony if approved:

TBD

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Brown

At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Bailey

FOR STAFF USE:

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Parks and Recreation: Approved Rejected

Support Services: Approved Rejected

Public Safety: Approved Rejected

City Council Approval Date: _____

William Preston Houseal Fincher

July 22, 1938 – August 14, 2021

Columbia, South Carolina – William Preston Houseal Fincher, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather and friend, passed peacefully to eternal life on August 14, 2021 at home with his family at his side. A lifelong Columbian, Bill was born on July 22, 1938 and was the second son of Ruth Sumner Houseal Fincher and Hubert Thomas Fincher.

He spent his early years living with his family in Ballentine on the shores of Lake Murray where he shared many wonderful (and mischievous) adventures with his older brother Tom, and in the Eau Claire, Heathwood and Shandon neighborhoods of Columbia, where he formed many enduring and cherished lifelong friendships. He was a graduate of Dreher High School (facilitated by a formative year at the Carlisle Military School in Bamberg, SC) where he was a member of The Dark Horseman Club, and was a proud alumnus of the University of South Carolina, where he studied Business Administration and was one of the few married members of the Kappa Alpha Order. Bill married his high school sweetheart, Carole Ann Crolley, in the summer of his sophomore year in college and they were married for 17 years.

Bill worked all his life, starting as a pre-teenager filling grocery orders in the neighborhood market at Trenholm and Beltline, delivering The State and the Columbia Record newspapers and selling home address signs in Shandon and Heathwood made from license plate materials by the prisoners at CCI. He began his long business career while at USC, working part time at the Claude Creason Company and at Lane, Taylor and Wolfe. Throughout his life, Bill credited Mr. Creason and the gentlemen at Lane, Taylor and Wolfe with teaching him valuable lessons in insurance and real estate. After positions with Aetna and Pennsylvania Lumbermen's Mutual, he opened his own insurance firm, The Fincher Agency in the 1960's and spent the rest of his career in insurance and real estate before retiring in 2018.

A devoted family man and sincere friend to many, Bill never met a stranger and was the life of any party. He always had a funny story to share, a favorite recipe to cook and a shoulder to lean on. He loved dogs (most especially his trusty canine companion, Fred) and people, Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island, any decent grocery store (and in his later years, a good estate sale) and the Carolina Gamecocks, all in equal measure. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother James Edward Fincher and his beloved son, William Preston Houseal Fincher, Jr. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Rebecca Caskey Fincher, daughters Melita Fincher DaSilva (Robert) and Lauren Ann Fincher, grandchildren William Middleton IV, Sumner Elizabeth Arbuckle and Thomas Preston Rives Middleton, stepdaughter Paige Cook Alexander (Chris), step-grandchildren Gracyn Rebekah Alexander, Christian John Joseph Alexander, Robert Hale DaSilva ("Sully") and William Brooks DaSilva ("Kackie"), great-grandson Henry Hale DaSilva, his brother Hubert Thomas Fincher,

Jr. (Clare) and sister Melita Fincher deTreville, nieces Susan Fincher Zais (Mitchell) and Sheryl Fincher, brother-in-law Daniel Joseph Caskey (Teresa) and nephew William Daniel Caskey.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street in Columbia. Burial following the service will be private. Visitation with the family will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18 at the home of Lita and Robbie DaSilva, 830 Hampton Hill Road in Columbia.

The Fincher family wishes to thank MSA Hospice, Comfort Keepers, Lataral Lewis and Aretha Brown for their gentle and loving care. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, The Columbia Humane Society, 121 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209, St. Paul's Lutheran Church or to the charity of one's choice.

"The night unveils new worlds of light; and to know that if I could unwrap fold after fold of God's universe I should only unfold more and more blessings, and see deeper and deeper into the love which is at the heart of it all."



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

October 22, 2025

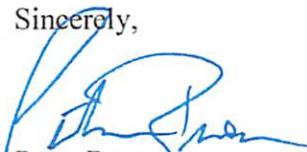
To Whom It May Concern:


The City Council of Columbia is honored to offer its support in recognizing the life and legacy of William Preston Houseal Fincher, a lifelong Columbian whose warmth, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit enriched our community for generations.

Mr. Fincher's journey from his early days in Ballentine and Shandon to his long career in insurance and real estate reflects the values of hard work, friendship, and civic pride. His contributions to Columbia's business landscape, his devotion to family, and his generous nature made him a beloved figure across neighborhoods and generations.

We join his family, friends, and neighbors in celebrating a life well-lived and respectfully support efforts to honor his memory in a way befitting his enduring impact on our city.

Sincerely,


Peter Brown
District IV


Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large Councilman

Belton, Chanique J

From: litadasilva6@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 12:07 PM
To: Belton, Chanique J
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mays Park bench dedication request
Attachments: Scan.pdf; William Preston Houseal Fincher.docx

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments from unknown senders or suspicious emails. Never enter a username or password on a site that you did not knowingly access. For suspicious emails, please report using the "Phish Alert Report" button.

Hi - the application form you sent is attached below, in my original email to Peter Brown last March. It's a PDF scan at the end of my message to him. Please let me know if this is what you need to process our request.

Many thanks,
Lita DaSilva

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lita DaSilva <litadasilva6@gmail.com>
Date: March 19, 2025 at 1:56:17 PM EDT
To: peter.brown@columbiasc.gov, pbrown@colite.com
Subject: Mays Park bench dedication request

Good Afternoon, Peter,

I had the pleasure of hearing you speak yesterday to our Palmetto Garden Club and am so appreciative of your time, both at our meeting and most especially for the time and great effort you devote to our city. My neighbor, Kathleen Finlay, introduced us just before you began your talk. As you may recall, I mentioned needing your help with my family's request to donate or dedicate a park bench in Mays Park in memory of my father.

Like you, Dad grew up in the Park neighborhood, at 4000 Trenholm Road with the park literally in his backyard. Dad (William P. H. Fincher "Bill"), his brothers Tom and Jim, and their baby sister Melita were born and raised in Columbia, which was a very small town in those days. They grew up playing with friends in the park under the watchful eye of Mrs. Mozelle Shipp, who managed the programs in the park clubhouse, and they had endless stories to tell about the fun (and shenanigans) of bygone days in a simpler time:

***Dad and his brothers talked all their friends into voting for my aunt Melita in the annual Mays Park Queen contest, which she won, after which they promptly commandeered her chocolate candy prize.**

***Unhappy with a group they perceived as park interlopers, Dad and his buddies made a giant sign out of a bedsheet covering up the park sign so that it read "OUR" Park instead of Mays Park.**

***As a prank, they hitched a friend's bike to the park flagpole, hoisted it up to the top, and hid it from the unsuspecting friend for several frantic hours.**

The list goes on, but suffice it to say Mays Park was an important part of Dad's childhood and consequently, my own. When he passed away a few years ago, our family knew right away that we wanted to try and dedicate something there in his memory. I contacted Doug Elliott in the City Recreation Dept and have completed a form he sent for Honorary Street/Facility, Room and Site Naming. I've attached the form as well as Dad's obituary from The State Newspaper for your reference.

We deeply appreciate any assistance you're able to provide re: this process, and are of course happy to make any necessary financial contribution to honor Dad in this way. Please contact me by email or phone if you need additional information or with contact information for City of Columbia staff who can help make arrangements.

Many thanks again,

**Lita DaSilva
(Mrs. Robert M.)
830 Hampton Hill Road
Columbia, SC 29209
803.319.4901**

Belton, Chanique J

From: SUSAN ZAIS <susanzais@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:30 PM
To: Belton, Chanique J
Cc: Mick Zais
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Mays Park Bench Dedication Request

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments from unknown senders or suspicious emails. Never enter a username or password on a site that you did not knowingly access. For suspicious emails, please report using the "Phish Alert Report" button.

You don't often get email from susanzais@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Chanique,

We heard that Lita DaSilva would like to have a bench at Mays Park dedicated to her Dad, Bill Fincher. My husband, Mick Zais, and I live in the neighborhood on Tanglewood Road, and we think that's a great idea!

Bill Fincher grew up living in a house thats contiguous to Mays Park and he spent countless hours at the Park. Let's all move forward in getting a park bench dedicated in his honor!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best,

Susan and Mick Zais
1642 Tanglewood Road
Columbia, SC 29204
Cell: 803-924-6320

Sent from my iPhone