

CITY OF TEMPE FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

Submission For: The John Gannon Literacy Center at Tempe Public Library

1. Current City facility name and street address:

Tempe Public Library,
Separate area within the Youth Library, Lower Level
3500 S. Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282

2. Requesting entity and contact information:

The John Gannon Memorial Fund

1. Robert Lashua:

- JohnGannonMemorialFund@cox.net
- 602-678-4800

2. William Kalm

- wdkalm@gmail.com
- 602-538-1790

3. Proposed Facility Name:

The John Gannon Literacy Center

4. Written summary explanation of the individual's contribution and relationship to guidelines

For more than 30 years, John Gannon, through every position he held at Tempe Public Library he focused his talents on improving youth literacy and the literary, social and emotional needs of the Tempe Community. *The John Gannon Literacy Center* will honor his legacy as an advocate for the importance of the public library and encourage patrons and staff to continue and to expand the many beneficial programs in which he participated. (see Appendix A).

John began his Library career in 1984 and from the beginning was committed to using his talents to improve and sustain literacy throughout the Tempe community. Among his contributions were conducting baby and family story times, cataloguing the Storytime collection, and managing the Library's Homebound Service in which he delivered materials on his own time to ensure the needs of those unable to come to the Library were met. On days off, he often volunteered as a literacy advocate, teaching individuals – from teens to seniors – how to read or improve their reading skills.

Prior to his work in the Youth Library, he worked in the Study/Computer Access Center in early days of computer and Internet technology, teaching library patrons how to navigate the Web. He also aided individuals of all ages with their research papers, helped job-seeking patrons with their resumes, assisted in the periodicals workgroup, provided telephone information service, and assisted patrons with locating and using microfiche in addition to providing support in the Library copy center.

As a Bookmobile driver, John served schools, parks, shopping centers, neighborhoods and nursing homes throughout the city. He assisted in planning Summer Reading programs and served as emcee for children's summer shows. For more than a decade, John transformed into the city's official Santa Claus delivering gifts from the city's annual employee Christmas drive to underserved children at several Tempe schools. Additionally, "Santa John" appeared live on Tempe 11 taking telephone calls from Tempe children and visited nursing homes and care facilities in Tempe.

John was passionate about recognizing volunteers and ensuring quality working conditions for employees. He coordinated the annual Library volunteer luncheon, creating yearly themes and ensuring recognition of each volunteer. He served as a representative to the Tempe Employee Council (now UAEA) and was a founding member of the city's Gay Straight Alliance.

To date, the John Gannon Memorial Fund has raised nearly \$30,000 for the creation of this special literacy area within the Youth Library. Upon receiving approval to name the space for John Gannon, the managers of the fund will continue to raise funds into the future to ensure the literacy center will be a lasting, ongoing memorial. The funds will be used to reconfigure a space that is currently underutilized through the use of glass wall construction and then completely furnish the space for use by families. The Memorial Funds will also be used to purchase the materials and supplies necessary to produce the family literacy programs once the space is completed.

Proof of Consent to the proposed facility name by the individual for whom the City facility is to be named or, in the case of a deceased individual, proof of consent of a family or legal representative:

Proof of Consent is hereby provided by the signatories of this request, Robert Lashua, Mr. Gannon's life partner, legal representative, and executor of Mr. Gannon's Estate, and William Kalm, the Memorial Fund manager.

This City of Tempe Facility Naming Request is hereby respectfully submitted by representatives of the John Gannon Memorial Fund:

Mr. Robert Lashua	Date	Mr. William Kalm	Date
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