

ORDINANCE #65671
Board Bill No. 237

An ordinance concerning the Jack Buck Bronze Statue (THE STATUE) and granite base currently situated on a parcel of land in city block 6466, and sited in the northwest corner of the parcel, also known as tract 4, civic center subdivision; and facing stadium plaza and city block 6465. (THE STATUE); finding that an overriding public need or interest is served by:

1. establishing the Jack Buck Statue as a new City Landmark; and
2. adopting Landmark Design Standards; and
3. facilitating the use of THE STATUE as a preeminent attraction to honor the memory of Jack Buck and his contribution to the life and culture of the City of St. Louis; and
4. maintaining the Statue to facilitate tourism and economic development while ensuring that the historic features of THE STATUE are properly maintained, containing definitions and an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, to St. Louis sports fans, Jack Buck will always remain "the voice of the Cardinals". In the 48 years he spent in St. Louis, he became more than a sports announcer, he became a part of the family.

WHEREAS, his importance to St. Louis was recognized on August 30, 1998 when a bust of a broadcasting Jack Buck was unveiled in front of Busch Stadium, and

WHEREAS, the bronze portrait bust, created by sculptor Harry Weber, is set on a pink granite pedestal and located directly to the right of the entrance to the office and ticket windows of Busch Stadium.

WHEREAS, John Francis Buck was born August 21, 1924 in Holyoke, Massachusetts, the son of Kathleen and Earle Buck, and

WHEREAS, in September 1946, Jack Buck enrolled at Ohio State University, and it was there, at the campus radio station, that he began his broadcasting career. His first professional radio job was doing a sports show on WCOL in Columbus, Ohio, and

WHEREAS, when asked how he got his first big break, Jack Buck replied that it resulted from his broadcasting a Cardinals-Giants game from the Polo Grounds in New York that was telecast back to St. Louis. The broadcast ended up being an audition for a job as the color man opposite Harry Caray. Jack Buck was hired in 1954, a job he continued to fill until Caray departed for Chicago in 1970. Upon Caray's departure, Mr. Buck took over the play-by-play and continued in this role until last season, except for a one-year hiatus in 1976 when he hosted NBC's grandstand, and

WHEREAS, during his broadcasting career, Jack Buck called a number of different sports. In addition to his time with the Cardinals, he has broadcast Monday Night Football and the Super Bowl on CBS radio network and NFL football on CBS television. For many years he was the anchor of the World Series broadcasts for CBS radio, and for five years, announced the National League Playoffs for the network, and

WHEREAS, he was also a longtime sports director for KMOX radio in St. Louis, and

WHEREAS, Jack Buck was the recipient of eleven Hall of Fame memberships including the Ford C. Frick award from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York for his contributions to baseball; the Pete Rozelle Award from the Pro Football Hall of Fame; and memberships in the National Radio Hall of Fame and the American Sportscaster's Association Hall of Fame, and

WHEREAS, he also received many other awards and honors, including the University of Missouri Journalism award for his outstanding achievements in broadcasting and citizenship, and

WHEREAS, Jack Buck was an St. Louis icon. His self-deprecating wit and enthusiasm endeared him to the people of St. Louis, as did his community involvement, and

WHEREAS, he served as master of ceremonies for numerous sports and charity events, and was the honorary campaign chairman for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Gateway Chapter, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Buck was also a vocal spokesman on Parkinson’s Disease, a disease which he was diagnosed, and

WHEREAS, Jack Buck died June 18, 2002, at the age of 77, hours after watching his son Joe announce a 7-2 Cardinal victory over the Anaheim Angels, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 24.12.020 (Rev. Code St. Louis 1999) the Preservation Board has duly recommended approval of the Landmark Petition as provided herein; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Board take appropriate action respecting THE STATUE to ensure it is preserved in perpetuity;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. The City of St. Louis designates the bronze bust and granite pedestal of Jack Buck as a City Landmark;

SECTION TWO: The following Landmark Design Standards and Preservation Plan for THE STATUE are hereby adopted:

1. Bust shall not be altered or augmented in any manner, unless such plans have been approved by the St. Louis Preservation Board.
2. Bust shall remain in association with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and their current facility, or any future replacement facility.
3. Bust shall remain located at ground level in a prominent exterior location, and in full public view.
4. Any required restoration or preservation of the bust shall be done in accordance with accepted practices of art restoration.
5. The pedestal or base of the bust is not included in this landmark designation.

SECTION THREE: LANDMARK PLAN

1. Current use is public art.
2. No restoration, additions or alterations are required or intended.
3. No demolition is proposed.
4. Recommended amendment (if any) to the existing zoning classification(s): NONE.

SECTION FOUR Emergency clause.

This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the mayor.

Approved: November 7, 2002