



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LIBRARY BOARD DEDICATES THE JAMES J. HARKINS PLAZA AT THE SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Ruskin, FL – The Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library Board members will dedicate the James J. Harkins Plaza on Friday, November 16 at 10 am at the SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way.

James Joseph Bartholomew Harkins IV was born on September 5, 1935. An Irish historian and author, Mr. Harkins retired to Sun City Center in 1994, where he became a Community Association Director. A well-known community activist, his notable achievements include founding the SouthShore Roundtable, serving on the Hillsborough County Historic Resources Review Board and the Hillsborough County Library Board.

As the Florida State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Mr. Harkins lectured on Irish history at the University of South Florida and local colleges. He originated the Florida Catholic Heritage Trail project to document the history of the Catholic contribution to the cultural development of Florida, in partnership with the Florida Department of Historical Preservation. As a trustee for the Tampa Bay History Center, he was a principal initiator in establishing the SouthShore Regional Library. He was subsequently appointed by the Florida Senate as a member of the Department of Elderly Affairs Advisory Council.

This program is hosted by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library. For more information about this and other **FREE** programs @ your library®, please call (813) 273-3652 or visit hcplc.org.

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