



City of Cambridge

10.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 16, 1996

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of **Garrett Birkhoff** on November 22, 1996; and

WHEREAS: Garrett was a graduate of Harvard College and an expert on algebra and fluid mechanics who later taught at Harvard from 1933 until his retirement in 1981; and

WHEREAS: Garrett did mathematical analysis of the explosion of bazooka charges and plotted the entry into water of air-launched missiles during World War II; and

WHEREAS: Garrett was a Guggenheim Fellow and the author of several books on Algebra and Equations; and

WHEREAS: Garrett's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of his surviving friends and family, his wife Ruth, a former member of the Cambridge Water Board; his son John and his daughters Ruth and Nancy Asher; and

WHEREAS: Garrett will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **Garrett Birkhoff** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

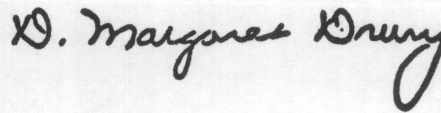
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Birkhoff family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 16, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councilman Sullivan
/A11

to
replace
#10

Fluid mechanics
Algebra and ~~Flatt~~

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

Garrett Birkhoff on November 22, 1996;
~~and~~ at the age of eighty-five years; and

WHEREAS: Garrett was a graduate of Harvard College, and an expert on
taught at Harvard from 1933 until his retirement in
1989; and

WHEREAS: Garrett did mathematical analysis of the explosion of bazooka
charges and plotted the entry into water of air-launched
missiles during World War II; and

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RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed
copy of this resolution to the BIRKHOFF family on behalf of
the entire City Council.

Obituaries

Garrett Birkhoff, 85; expert on algebra, teacher at Harvard

By Tom Long
GLOBE STAFF

Garrett Birkhoff, a second-generation mathematician and member of the faculty at Harvard University, died Friday in his home in Water Mill, N.Y. He was 85.

An expert on algebra and fluid mechanics, Mr. Birkhoff was the son of the late George D. Birkhoff, who was also a mathematician and member of the Harvard faculty.

A native of Princeton, N.J., he graduated from Harvard College in 1932 and taught at the university from 1933 until his retirement in 1981.

"For 10 years after graduation my research efforts were largely devoted to an infant branch of algebra, which I christened the 'lattice theory,'" he wrote in the 25th annual report of his class at Harvard. "This highly abstract theory of structure and relative magnitude has achieved some stature, being listed in 'Mathematical Review,' as one of the five main branches of algebra."

During World War II, he did mathematical analysis of the explosion of bazooka charges and plotted phenomena associated with entry into water of air-launched missiles. This led to his study of fluid dynamics, his primary area of research after the war.

A Guggenheim Fellow, he was the author of several books including "Survey of Modern Algebra," "Jets, Wakes and Cavities," and "Ordinary Differential Equations."

"Having enjoyed 50 years of challenging opportunities and varied experience in a country richly endowed with natural and human resources," he wrote in the 50th annual report of his class at Harvard, "I keep wondering what the next half century will bring. Realizing that this will depend on younger people I plan to spend the next decade trying to write up the ideas and knowledge that I have acquired, in ways that will be accessible, stimulating, and useful to creative scientists of the next generation."

At the time of his death, he was

compiling a history of mathematics at Harvard.

He leaves his wife, Ruth C. (Collins); a son, John of Englewood, N.J.; two daughters, Ruth of Carlisle, and Nancy Asher of Water Mill, N.Y.; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Cambridge in the spring.



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MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of **Ernie Burkoff**, husband of Ruth Burkoff, who was a member of the Water Board.

11/27/96

Obituaries

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By Tom Long
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MAS

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(10.)

Ruth Bruckhoff's

Phil husband

she ~~was~~ ^{was on} water Bd
~~worked for the~~
Parker



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ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of **Ernie Burkoff**, husband of Ruth Burkoff, who was a member of the Water Board.

ORDERED

Entire membership R-1247
Consent Order #10

Councillor Sullivan and entire membership re: Resolution on the death of Ernie Burkoff, husband of Ruth Burkoff, former member of the Water Board.

In City Council December 16, 1996

ORDER ADOPTED