

WALTER G. HURD FIELD REDEDICATION

**Exerts from remarks written and spoken by Selectman,
Robert B. Walsh at the October 1986 field rededication.**

Wally Hurd was the youngest of eight boys, who with their father, Herbert, Sr., became known as the Hurd Family Nine. In the early 1930's (the depression years) the Hurd's with their friends literally "cut out" a baseball diamond in the pasture of the "Wiggin - Bolles" Farm. The field, known as Reservoir Field, became their home field, and many a Sunday afternoon you could see this field packed with hundreds upon hundreds of "fans" rooting for their favorite town team. Rarely were the fans disappointed at the results of the game.

Wally Hurd was acknowledged to be the best player. He was sought after by professional teams, but World War II interfered with the hopes and dreams and career pursuits. Wally was among the young men chosen to serve their country in the military along with six of the eight Hurd brothers. Wally's induction into the Army was unusual in that before he was accepted, he had to undergo corrective surgery at Symmes Hospital, which he eagerly volunteered to have done. In April 1943 Walter Hurd became attached to Co. F, 15th Infantry Regiment, Third Division. He saw action in Africa, Italy, and Southern France. As a result of wounds sustained on September 9, 1944, he was awarded the Purple Heart and a Presidential Citation. He returned to active duty on October 3rd and was promoted to Staff Sergeant for "meritorious achievement." Twenty-eight days later on October 31, 1944, he was killed instantly when he was struck by a shell during an attack on a strongly fortified enemy position in Southern France.

I met with the stone cutter who worked on this memorable stone and plaque. He asked me who was Wally Hurd? Just an ordinary guy, from an ordinary family, who lived in an ordinary town, but whose life and death were sufficiently extraordinary that he should be remembered and honored as we are doing today. We salute Walter G. Hurd - ballplayer - soldier and hero.



ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

Walter G. Hurd Field Reconstruction & Rededication Reopening Ceremony

**Thursday, May 25, 2023 – 5:30 pm
AYBSL Game – 6:00 pm**



Sponsored by:

**Sandy Pooler, Town Manger
Joseph Connelly, Recreation Director
Arlington Recreation Commission:**

**Phil Lasker, Chair
Scott Walker, Vice Chair
Leslie Mayer
Jennifer Rothenberg
Shirley Caniff**



Wiggins - Bolles Farm



Hurd Field

Program

- Welcome comments: Select Board Vice Chair John Hurd
- Project comments: Leslie Mayer, Park Commission’s CPA Representative
- Project comments: Jen Rothenberg, Park Commission
- Rededication: John Hurd, Select Board
- Ribbon cutting: Town Officials and Participants
- Game first pitch: 5th Generation Hurd Family Members
- AAA baseball game: Dodgers vs. Giants

About the Project

The Park and Recreation Commission received CPA funding in FY22 & FY23 to renovate Hurd Field. The Town contracted with Stantec for the design services and then hired Quirk Construction as the general contractor. The final project plan was a result of input received at multiple public meetings and detailed permitting process with the Arlington Conservation Commission. The project started in the late summer of 2022 and we are pleased to officially open the facility in the spring of 2023. The Hurd Field Renovation included the following:

- Grading and drainage improvements
- Irrigation
- New backstop and fencing
- New dugout area and benches
- Brand new state of art lighting system
- Premium infield mix and sod
- Perimeter walking path
- Storage sheds
- Batting cages
- Welcome plaza and dedication area with flag pole
- Parking lot security lighting and new striping
- Conservation plantings, improvements, and upgrades
- Picnic tables, benches, and other site amenities