



SPONSOR: Sen. Bunting & Sen. DeLuca & Rep. Atkins & Rep. Gilligan
Sens. Blevins, Bonini, Booth, Bushweller, Cloutier, Connor, Ennis, Hall-Long, Henry, Katz, Lawson, Marshall, McBride, McDowell, Simpson, Sokola, Sorenson & Venables;
Reps. Bennett, Heffernan, Hocker, Hudson, Keeley, Kenton, Mitchell, Outten, Peterman, B. Short, D. Short, Willis, Wilson & Schwartzkopf

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 249

AN ACT TO RENAME THE MAIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN HONOR OF FORMER DELAWARE STATE REPRESENTATIVE, STATE SENATOR AND SECRETARY OF FINANCE RICHARD S. CORDREY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 WHEREAS, the Honorable Richard S. Cordrey of Millsboro, Sussex County, served as a member of the Delaware
2 State House of Representatives from 1970 to 1972, and as a member of the Delaware State Senate from 1972 to 1996; and
3 WHEREAS, Senator Cordrey served as Senate Majority Leader from 1974 to 1976, and as President Pro Tempore
4 of the Senate from 1976 to 1996, becoming the longest-serving President Pro Tempore in Delaware history and one of the
5 longest-serving in the nation; and
6 WHEREAS, as a member of the Senate, he served as chair of the Senate Banking and Ethics Committees and as
7 co-chair of the Legislative Council, among other committee assignments; and
8 WHEREAS, among the many accomplishments for which Senator Cordrey is remembered are his important
9 contributions to Delaware government's fiscal stability and financial management, in the form of two amendments to the
10 Delaware State Constitution, a process completed in 1980, establishing a spending cap of 98 per cent of anticipated general
11 fund revenues and the establishment of a budget reserve account, known as a "Rainy Day Fund," which could only be used
12 for unanticipated deficits and other unexpected emergencies; and
13 WHEREAS, for posterity it should be noted that Senator Cordrey was ably assisted in conceiving of these
14 measures by his fellow "Millsboro-ite," close friend and mentor, former U. S. Senator John J. Williams (1904-1988), who
15 retired from a long and distinguished career in the U. S. Senate the same month Senator Cordrey began his duties as a
16 Delaware State Senator, and that, as has so often been the case in Delaware history, Senator Cordrey, a lifelong Democrat,
17 and Senator Williams, a lifelong Republican, put aside party differences in the interests of the state they both loved so well;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in the early 1980's, Senator Cordrey worked closely with Governor Pierre S. du Pont, IV, even
20 though, again, they were of opposite political parties, to bring about enactment of the state's landmark "Financial Center
21 Development Act," which has served to make Delaware a national banking center and has brought thousands of high-
22 quality jobs to the state; and

23 WHEREAS, some years after his retirement from the Senate in 1996, he was named Delaware's Secretary of
24 Finance by then-Governor Ruth Ann Minner, in which position he again served the state ably and well; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Cordrey, younger of the two sons of John and Rachel Cordrey, was born and raised in the
26 Sussex County town of Millsboro, where he still lives, and where he has, from his boyhood, been active in hands-on
27 farming; and

28 WHEREAS, after graduating from Millsboro High School and Goldey-Beacom College, where he met and fell in
29 love with an attractive young lady from Vineland, New Jersey, named Mary Jane Bowen, with whom he was subsequently
30 joined in Holy Matrimony on the 5th Day of December, 1953, and with whom he was later blessed by the birth of two sons,
31 Rick and Steve; and

32 WHEREAS, after completing his military service in the U. S. Army, Senator Cordrey returned to Millsboro with
33 his wife, where they have made their home and raised their family; and

34 WHEREAS, for more than half a century, Senator Cordrey has owned and operated R. S. C. Farms, a successful
35 farming and agribusiness enterprise in Millsboro and surrounding areas of Sussex County; and

36 WHEREAS, throughout his years in the Delaware General Assembly, Senator Cordrey was one of the few active
37 farmers among the membership and was a strong and eloquent voice on behalf of Delaware's farmers and our state's
38 tradition of family farming; and

39 WHEREAS, because of Senator Cordrey's exemplary service to the State of Delaware over many years in a
40 number of important capacities, and because of his lifelong involvement in, and dedication to, Delaware farming, it is
41 singularly appropriate that the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Main Administration Building south of Dover be
42 named in honor of this distinguished Delaware farmer;

43 NOW, THEREFORE:

44 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

45 Section 1. The Delaware Department of Agriculture Main Administration Building at 2320 South DuPont
46 Highway, Dover, Delaware, is hereby renamed the "Richard S. Cordrey Building."

SYNOPSIS

This Act has the effect of renaming the Delaware Department of Agriculture Main Administration Building at 2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware as the "Richard S. Cordrey Building" in honor of the Honorable Richard S. Cordrey of Millsboro, former Delaware State Representative, State Senator, and Secretary of Finance. This gesture is made because of his exemplary service to the State of Delaware in numerous challenging capacities and because of his lifelong dedication to farming and to Delaware's agricultural traditions.

Author: Sen. Bunting