



# City of Marysville

1111 Delaware Avenue • P.O. Box 389 • Marysville, MI 48040 • (810) 364-6613

## City Council Chambers Renamed “Joseph S. Johns Council Chambers”

**Contact: Randall S. Fernandez**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Asst. City Manager/Dir. of Community Development**

**Phone: (810) 455-1312**

**E-mail: [rfernandez@cityofmarysvillemi.com](mailto:rfernandez@cityofmarysvillemi.com)**

**February 26, 2013** – History was in the making at last night’s City Council meeting as the Marysville City Council Chambers were renamed the Joseph S. Johns Council Chambers. More than 100 family members, friends and past and present city employees jammed the chambers and overflowed into the hallways to be on hand for the ceremony.

Longtime City Council member Joseph Johns, after whom the chambers are named, turned 90 years old on February 23 and has served on the council almost continuously since 1951. The City’s council and administration thought it was fitting to honor a man who is so devoted in serving the community by renaming the council chambers after him.

“Naming the City Council chambers is our way of expressing our gratitude and undying respect for his service,” said Mayor Gary Orr. “The number of people present at this meeting speak to the character of a man like this.”

Orr said he was happy that family and friends were able to savor this moment while he is still with us.

Johns, who is currently the Mayor Pro Tem, was emotionally moved as the chamber’s new name was unveiled. “I’d like to say something, but I can’t,” said Johns. The renaming ceremony was a closely guarded secret and a complete surprise for Johns who thought he was only going to enjoy a piece of birthday cake during the meeting.

Born above what is now the Lynwood Bar - it was a grocery store operated by Johns’ father in 1923, Johns is nearly a lifelong resident of Marysville and resided in other parts of the country for a few years for work purposes. In addition to serving on the council since 1951, he was also mayor from 1958 – 1963 and again from 1977 – 1983. He has served as Mayor Pro Tem since 1985.

Joe has been married to wife Mary Lou for 62 years. They have three children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

###