

COMMENTARY

Murphy’s restaurant one more way to witness innate goodness

BY KEN SUGIURA
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ATLANTA

The first time that Chuck Douglas met Dale Murphy, he was skeptical.

The man was way too nice.

“I told my wife, ‘Nobody can be this wonderful,’ “ Douglas told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution earlier this summer. “So when we had the opportunity to do the business, I was like, ‘I need to be around him a little bit more.’ “

Douglas ultimately received the confirmation he needed. The food-service business owner and the Braves legend went into business together, opening Murph’s at the Cobb Galleria in 2017. With the restaurant within walking distance of Truist Park, it was a staple for many Braves fans.

However, as the mall undergoes renovations, Murph’s closes its doors Tuesday.

Murphy, now 69, and Douglas partnered in the restaurant business for eight years - certainly long enough for someone’s wonderfulness to show cracks, but evidently not long enough for Murphy’s.



HYOSUB SHIN TNS

Former Atlanta Braves star Dale Murphy throws out the first pitch before Game 2 of the National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, at Truist Park in Atlanta.

“I’ve been around a lot of athletes,” Douglas said in a back office of the restaurant during a break. “He’s the most genuine, loving person you’ll ever meet.”

Stories of Murphy’s goodness have been widespread in Atlanta since his days as a superstar center fielder for the Braves, the bulk of an MLB career that spanned 1976-93. He won back-to-back National League MVP awards, made

seven All-Star appearances and won five Gold Gloves, four Silver Sluggers and the Roberto Clemente Award for his character and contributions to the community.

As a business partner who saw Murphy in a much different setting than most, Douglas had his own memories.

“He’ll come in here and try to run some food, wash dishes,” he said. “He’s that kind of person.”

Douglas recalled an instance when Murphy was bringing food out to customers and then wasn’t to be found. It turned out he had taken a seat at the table he had just served and was chatting with the guests, fans of his.

Earlier this summer, a youth baseball team visited the restaurant, Douglas said. He gave the young athletes more of his time than was planned, gathering them in a circle and

talking with them about baseball, life and how to be a better person.

Douglas recalled a time when he and Murphy had some sort of disagreement. Douglas called Murphy’s wife, Nancy, to share his concern that he had damaged the relationship.

She told him not to worry, Douglas said, telling him, “He’s never been mad at anybody in his life.”

I visited the restaurant in June, when it was hosting a program for students that the MLB players union supports, STEM League. The extent of Murphy’s involvement was offering the space for the competition, serving lunch and sharing a message with the children.

When he showed up, he could have gone about it a number of ways. But he spoke with organizers to learn about the STEM program. He asked children at one table if he could join them, then observed, asked questions and seemed genuinely interested in the game they were playing.

He pulled out his camera to take pictures. (Unrelated, but the students were part of Horizons Atlanta, a summer learning program that does heroic work for children from underserved communities.)

He spoke with other guests at the restaurant, taking photos and signing autographs. In conversations, he sought to make connections with them.

There were two other former ballplayers at the event, neither of them

anywhere close to his stature. I’m not even sure he knew who they were before that day.

But when they were called up to join Murphy in front of the children, he greeted them like old friends.

When he spoke to the students, he encouraged them to develop their brainpower and to be good teammates. As many probably knew little or nothing about him, he might have used the opportunity to casually bring up the many highlights of his career.

He did not. Rather, to illustrate the importance of being a good teammate, Murphy spoke of his experiences when he struck out and made errors.

“I wouldn’t feel too good about myself,” he said. “And you know what made me feel better and gave me more confidence the next time out there? (It) was a teammate that would come up to me and say, ‘Murph, it’s OK. Hang in there. Don’t get discouraged. We’re here for you.’ “

If you’re skeptical like Douglas once was, yes, Murphy had a personal interest in being a gracious host. But this was not someone turning on the charm. Watching him interact was mesmerizing. What certainly seemed like innate humility and thoughtfulness shined through him.

“I’ve never met anybody like him,” said Douglas, his business partner. “He is truly one of a kind.”

He served up a pretty good burger, too.

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INVITATION FOR BID

1. Sealed Bids will be received for **LHA Central Office Conference Room Upgrades** in Lexington, Kentucky. Bids will be received in triplicate at the Central Office of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority, 300 West New Circle Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40505, until **10:00 a.m.** local time on **September 9, 2025**.

2. Faxed bids will not be permitted.

3. A **Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at the Office of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority, 300 West New Circle Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40505, at **1:30 p.m.** local time on **August 26, 2025**.

4. A lump sum bid is desired for the project.

5. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, and to waive any informality.

6. Bids may not be withdrawn for 60 days after bid date. Faxed withdrawals will not be permitted.

7. Bids shall be accompanied by Certified Check or Bid Bond, payable to Owner, in an amount not less than 5% of bid.

8. Successful respondent shall provide an acceptable 100% Performance and Payment Bond within ten days of receipt of a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract.

9. Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

- Builders Exchange of Kentucky, 2300 Meadow Drive, Louisville, KY 40502.
- Construct Connect, 30 Technology Parkway S, Ste. 100, Norcross, GA 30092
- Dodge Data & Analytics, 3315 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71913
- iSqFt, 3825 Edwards Road, Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH 45209, Phone: (800) 364-2059 or Fax: (513) 793-0196
- Allied Construction Industries, 3 Kovach Drive, Cincinnati, OH, Phone: (513) 221-8020, Fax (513) 221-8023

10. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Lynn Imaging, 328 East Vine Street, Lexington, KY, (859) 255-1021. Plans are to be directly purchased by bidders.

Lexington Fayette Urban County Housing Authority
Lexington, Kentucky
By: Michele Lee, Development and Modernization Coordinator
IPL0263619
Aug 17 2025

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INVITATION FOR BID

1. Sealed bids will be received for the **LHA Restroom Renovation - Multiple Sites**, in Lexington, Kentucky, 40505, until **1:30 p.m.** local time, on **September 25, 2025**, at the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority, 300 West New Circle Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40505, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed or electronic bids will not be permitted.

2. Bids must be received in triplicate.

3. Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

- Builders Exchange of Kentucky, 2300 Meadow Drive, Louisville, KY 40502
- Construct Connect, 30 Technology Parkway S, Ste. 100, Norcross, GA 30092
- Dodge Data & Analytics, 3315 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71913
- iSqFt, 3825 Edwards Road, Suite 800, Cincinnati, OH 45209
- Allied Construction Industries, 3 Kovach Drive, Cincinnati, OH
- Lynn Imaging Online Planroom, 328 Old East Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40505

4. Copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at **Lynn Blue Print dba Lynn Imaging, 328 Old East Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky, (859) 255-1021**. Bid documents are to be directly purchased by bidders.

5. **Pre-Bid Meeting:** A Pre-Bid Meeting for General Contractors proposing to submit bids, will be held at **1:00 p.m., local time, on August 27, 2025**, at the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority, 300 West New Circle Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40505. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is recommended for those making a proposal.

6. Bids shall be accompanied by Certified Check or Bid Bond, payable to the Owner, in an amount not less than 5% of Bid.

7. A lump sum bid is desired for the project.

8. The successful bidder shall provide an acceptable 100% Performance and Payment Bond within ten (10) days of receipt of a Notice of Intent to Award Contract.

9. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, and to waive any informality.

10. Bids may not be withdrawn for sixty (60) days after Bid date. Faxed or electronic withdrawals will not be permitted.

Lexington Fayette Urban County Housing Authority Lexington, Kentucky Michele Lee Development and Modernization Coordinator
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