

Italy Loves Dolly Parton: Signing Petition to Rename Nashville Airport

Petition to rename Nashville International Airport after Dolly Parton gains momentum, highlighting her cultural influence and the power of reputation.

ROMA, ITALY, August 28, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Just hours after news of Dolly Parton's death broke, a petition calling for Nashville International Airport to be renamed in honor of the legendary American singer-songwriter gained renewed momentum, surpassing 100,000 signatures within just a few hours.

What began as a territorial marketing initiative has suddenly become a powerful expression of public affection for one of America's most recognizable cultural figures and, as one might say, a campaign that had previously "struggled to take off."

For Massimo Lucidi, President of International Reputation at the DC Institute, an Italian national, member of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and a passionate observer of American culture, the extraordinary reaction is deeply rooted in Dolly Parton's unique relationship with the public, both in the United States and abroad.

"My family in Italy has always loved the America of the 1950s and '60s, the stories of the Wild West and the idea of a deeper, more authentic America," Lucidi explains. "It is the America sung about by Dolly Parton, whom I came to know as an icon of country music with something more. She was beautiful, engaging and unmistakably feminine. She had a genuine affection for the world around her, including Italians and Italy, but above all, she represented an extraordinary example of patriotism."

For Lucidi, Parton's appeal goes far beyond music.

"She was a timeless woman, eternally contemporary. Dolly Parton transformed her life into a



work of art. I understand why America has been shaken by the news of her death: her form of soft power is still deeply needed around the world. She combined emotional storytelling, cultural identity and authenticity in the powerful image of a blonde icon with a deep, unmistakable voice.”

Her influence also helps explain why the idea of attaching her name to one of Nashville’s most important gateways has resonated so strongly.

“Renaming the international airport after Dolly Parton would not simply be a tribute to a singer,” Lucidi says. “It would once again be a gift to Nashville and Tennessee, a gift from Parton to her homeland and to the music that made her a global icon.”

He sees the proposal as a particularly compelling example of territorial marketing, in which a destination’s cultural assets, identity and reputation are brought together to strengthen its international profile.

“It would be an excellent example of territorial marketing, where local strengths are enhanced and shared through a systemic approach. Dolly Parton is not simply part of Tennessee’s cultural heritage. She is part of its global identity.”

Azzurra Rinaldi, Vice President of the E-novation Foundation, speaking from New York City, also highlights the broader social and cultural dimension of the discussion.

“We should also remember the therapeutic power of music in our society,” Rinaldi adds, pointing to the role that music and cultural figures can play in creating emotional connections that extend



far beyond entertainment.

The momentum behind the petition illustrates how reputation can become a tangible territorial asset. A person's name can sometimes carry an entire cultural landscape with it: a city, a state, a musical tradition and a shared idea of identity.

For Nashville, a city internationally associated with country music, Dolly Parton represents an unusually powerful combination of cultural heritage, authenticity and global recognition.

Whether or not the airport ultimately bears her name, the extraordinary response to the petition demonstrates the enduring strength of Dolly Parton's legacy and the remarkable ability of cultural reputation to shape how places are perceived around the world.

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