TESTIMONY

REGULAR AGENDA

CHANGE NAME OF MEMORIAL COLISEUM

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print) ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE Email Bill MAAKER \$995 SIELUTTY RCI, HAPPYVALLEY, UR97088 AVA 12243 SW King Arthur St. King Eity, Or-97224 Corbin B. Willis Jr. No-LedrUSN Ret George H. Bickford Sr. 10701 S.E. Huy 212 7-8 Clacka Masch bickpoteleport.com Roberta LARRY KIOR NE 9+h St ronpcarrecomeast.net WANTER WA 98664 Relles Eric LaWinters 2852 SE ISIST AUE ERICWINTERS 160 VAHOOCOM FRIC'S RECOVERY CHR 4415 SE STARK, ST DAKOTALEE748 HOTMAIL. COM IMITEACH SAM ACLAM REUSSER MON 12476 St Swelow FAX 503659-8680 18034 SE Tibbetts 97236 ano 503.761.6894 Date <u>01-05-11</u> Page of



VICTOR ATIYEH GOVERNOR 1878-1887



INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT & TRADE

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: GIL FREY FROM: VICTOR ATIYEH DATE: JANUARY 4, 2011 RECEIVER'S FAX NUMBER: 503-659-3421 REPLY TO FAX: 503-224-3209 Number of pages: 1 (including this cover page)

Dear Gil,

Sorry I cannot be with you supporting the further definition or our Memorial Coliseum by adding the word "Veterans" at the beginning. Unfortunately too many do not comprehend that is what the Memorial Coliseum really means and in our time we just naturally took that for granted.

I will be at the Capitol in Salem during your scheduled time so I would appreciate it if you would see that my support goes on the record.

Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely

Victor Atiyeh

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Submitted by Gil Frey 01/05/2011

36839

The Veteran's Memorial Coliseum Speech of January 5, 2011 -- Gil Frey - (503) 659-8680

May I say "thank you" to the Honorable Mayor Sam Adams, Commissioners Dan Saltzman, Randy Leonard, Nick Fish, and Amanda Fritz.

Because I have worked hard for the preservation of the Memorial Coliseum, this event for me today is a time to be thankful and to celebrate what has already been accomplished.

My name is Gil Frey and I am a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Germany in 1955 and 1956.

Today I represent many citizens, taxpayers, voters, servicemen and women, and veterans from Oregon who are still living.

My subject is "The Veteran's Memorial Coliseum" and "The Gold Star Mothers".

36839

The arena was originally named "Memorial Coliseum"-dedicated to veterans. Veteran means a serviceman or woman who died while serving their country and never returned home.

In Portland during 1945 to 1955, the city recognized the need for a sports arena and convention center. There were several public votes; the most noted was for the Delta Dome. – The bond issue failed 3 or 4 times. Along the way, Gold Star Mothers became a factor in this process.

What is a Gold Star Mother? She is a mother whose son or daughter died while serving in the military. These mothers placed a small flag in the window of their homes with a gold star representing their loss.

A Blue Star Mother had the same flag, but with blue stars representing sons or daughters still serving.

My mother was a Blue Star Mother with six stars on a flag displayed on our front window. This represented five sons and one son-in-law.

The Gold Star Mothers of Portland had an Honor Wall in the City Park Blocks; however it was made of wood and was deteriorating. It needed to be replaced.

The Gold Star Mothers were recruited to support a new bond issue of \$8,000,000 on the basis that they would be presented with new Honor Walls and built with a quality to survive our weather.

History credited the "Gold Star Mothers" for the successful passage of the bond issue.

The City Council and/or the Gold Star Mothers made the decision for the Honor Walls and the fountain to be located at the ground level. Considering the weight of the walls, it appears that they were not meant to be relocated. It is likely that this location was chosen so that it was away from foot traffic. This seems appropriate for families who were mourning the permanent loss of sons or daughters.

Almost for sure, the Gold Star Mothers from WWII are now deceased; however it would be a fine gesture to remember them and their sacrifice with a plaque in their honor.

Because of them, we have the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum and the land.

There are many ideas that need discussion, attention, and action, but the Gold Star Mothers and our WWII servicemen and women got the job done.

We need the same kind of dedication and team spirit to move ahead.

Thank you.

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31 December 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

c/o Mrs. Trudy Reusser and Mr. Gil Frey

Reference: VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Central Oregon Veterans groups unanimously support and heartily endorse efforts to insure that Portland Memorial Coliseum bears the name: VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEM.

Intent of the Gold Star Mothers was to insure that this structure would honor Oregon veterans in perpetuity. Gold Star Mothers also wished to have the structure available for a full range of community activities.

In addition to organizations of which I am a life member, the name, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, is endorsed by Robert D. Maxwell, Oregon's only resident recipient of the Medal of Honor and Mr. Allan R. Tobiason, President of the Bend Heroes Foundation.

We wish to have our voices added to those patriots among you who have worked so tirelessly and effectively to insure that "VETERANS" is a permanent name for this facility.

Faithfully,

Lee Flegel Life Member: American Legion, DAV, Korean War Veterans Association, VFW; Emeritus Trustee Oregon Military Museum Foundation Subject: Just to clear up confusion From: Trudy Reusser <ktreusser@comcast.net> Date: Tue, 07 Dec 2010 10:52:08 -0800 To: Tony Stacy <stacyranch@gmail.com>, Harley Wedel <HarleyW729@netzero.net>

Hi Tony,

I know that you are dedicated to having the entire issue about the Memorial Coliseum settled. Well I would like to help in a small way. I have have done a lot of technical writing and teaching during my career, including to many for whom English is a second language.

I found that unless there is a common vocabulary and common definitions, there is always confusion.

Since .there has been much confusion about the coliseum, I want to share with you what I have found.

The plaque is worded clearly

"This Memorial Coliseum is dedicated to the advancement of Cultural Opportunities of the community <u>and to the memory of our Veterans</u> who made the Supreme sacrifice to preserve for us the Inalienable Rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. And to live in the Hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."

The walls with the names of those who <u>made the supreme sacrifice are</u>, in many memorials, called "Honor Walls".

In my testimony to the SAC and to the City Council, I have tried to clarify these terms.

If we call the Coliseum the "Memorial Coliseum", then by rules of logic, the whole coliseum is a memorial. And that is consistent with the way it is dedicated. Then, we need a different, appropriate word for that portion that is set aside for the part that explicitly <u>honors</u> our war heroes. That term is available and commonly used: "<u>Honor Walls</u>"

What do you think?

That would also help in the future, if we can get more Honor Walls for additional names of war heroes that could be placed throughout the Memorial Coliseum, soon to be the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. That should also satisfy those who want the Honor Walls to be more visible. If such walls are placed throughout, then they would certainly be more visible,.

Well, that's my two cents worth.

Best regards. Trudy

copy: Harley

