

March 11, 2019

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

And Emergency Preparedness

Re: SCR 23 and SCR 24

As a former president and long-time member of the Oregon Geographic Names Board I am pleased to support SCR 23 and SCR 24 memorializing my OGNB colleagues for more than 30 years: Tom McAllister and Lew McArthur respectively. Among their many other achievements both worked diligently to ensure that historically appropriate names were retained and added for Oregon's natural features.

Tom McAllister brought his love for Oregon's outdoors and deep knowledge of its natural history to his several decades on OGNB, including his tenure as president. Many times when the board was considering a name proposal, Tom was already familiar with the feature and very likely the people of the area where it was situated. As the board met in various locales around the state, he was in a sense its ambassador, involving local residents in our meetings and memorable field trips. He also shared this knowledge with the broader public, of course, through his newspaper columns and, later, lectures.

Lew McArthur, of course, was a giant as second-generation editor and compiler of the book "Oregon Geographic Names." That book, greatly enlarged from his father's creation, was recognized as one of the best – perhaps even the best – of its kind nationally. As chair of the OGNB interim committee, which reviewed names proposals, he spent untold hours in research and in ensuring historical integrity of those proposals. Utilizing his recognized expertise, he was an effective advocate on Oregon's behalf before the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. He also played a lesser known but important role in monitoring and advising the effort to include longstanding Oregon names in the federal geographic names database.

While they came to OGNB with somewhat different backgrounds, both Lew McArthur and Tom McAllister shared a deep appreciation of the unique aspects of Oregon and desire to maintain and recognize them. Their service on the names board was one of the many ways they advanced that goal.

Respectfully submitted.

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