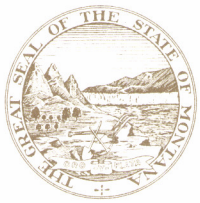
EXHIBIT 1
DATE 03/21/2013
SB 258

ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MONTANA

Tim Fox
Attorney General



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Testimony of Attorney General Tim Fox on SB 258
House State Administration Committee
March 21, 2013

Good morning Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee. My name is Tim Fox, and I am the current temporary occupant of the Attorney General's office in the Justice Building on Sanders Street. That office has been the home of some very dedicated public servants, and some of those individuals are here today. I anticipate that everyone in this room wishes to honor an incomparable public servant and a one-of-a-kind Montanan, Joe Mazurek, by naming the Justice Building after Joe, and by establishing a privately-funded memorial at the Justice Building in Joe's honor. Those are the purposes of SB 258, and that's why I proposed this legislation and directed my office to draft a bill, find a sponsor, and get it done. I want to thank Senate Majority Leader Wittich, Representative Hollenbaugh, and the two dozen other Democrat and Republican co-sponsors, for carrying this bill for me.

I wish that those of us here today had the time to recount all the stories of Joe's accomplishments, his love for his family and friends, his love for Montana, its people, and its great natural places, his affection for his legislative colleagues, his dedication to justice and the rule of law, and his love for the amazing public servants he worked with for almost all of his adult life. A few of those stories will be related here today, but frankly there's so much good to say about Joe Mazurek that we won't have the time to say it all.

Thankfully, Joe's good works, good humor, and good life live on in so many ways – through his wife Patty, his three boys, Tom, Jeff, and Dan, and through his grandchildren – through his colleagues who learned from him and were inspired by him – through the great work that he did as a Montana Senator, military officer, private attorney, and Attorney General – and through the lives of so many people that he touched for the better in one way or another.

Some of Joe's accomplishments are recounted in the preamble of Senate Bill 258. I helped draft that brief list, and in the interest of saving reams of paper I listed only a few of his accomplishments. If you'd like to read more, I invite you to search the history of the legislative sessions in which Joe served, and the records of the Montana Department of Justice. I suggest that you bring a sack lunch and several hundred volunteers, because you'll find plenty about Joe and his work.

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But as much as there may be in the history books to show Joe's good work, it's Joe's caring and loving relationships with people that escape a description worthy of Joe. To really appreciate just how unique and extraordinary Joe Mazurek was, you'd have to speak with those who knew him. What I know was that Joe was a man of solid character who cared about the little guy. He was a family man who kept his priorities straight and who lived his devout faith. Joe worked hard at every job he held, and then found time to serve his community, his state, and his nation through volunteerism.

For Joe, public service was about doing the right things for the right reasons, and it was never about feathering his nest or lining his political pockets. Joe Mazurek was in a special and small category of politicians - he was a statesman. Merriam-Webster defines statesman as "one versed in the principles or art of government; a wise, skillful, and respected political leader." Merriam-Webster would do well to publish its next dictionary with a picture of Joe next to the definition of statesman.

Some might wish we could do more to honor Joe than just name a building after him or install a fountain. But if there's one thing I know about Joe, it was that he was humble. He'd probably be embarrassed at the thought of having his name on the Justice Building.

Some people defy description because of the depth of their being, their never-ceasing selfless love for others, their vision, and their character. Joe was one of those people. He deserves a monument, but somehow a monument would be inappropriate because it focuses too much on Joe, and not enough on others. That the words "Joseph P. Mazurek" and "Justice" would appear on the same wall seems appropriate, because to me the words are synonymous. I humbly ask that you vote "yes" on SB 258, so that I, and others who follow me, will think of Joe each day they enter the Justice Building to serve Montanans. I pray that every occupant of the Justice Building, including me, follows Joe's exemplary example.

Madam Chairwoman, with your permission I'd like to place into the record a letter from former Attorney General and former Governor Marc Racicot, and a letter from the Executive Director of the National Association of Attorneys General, both supporting Senate Bill 258.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will remain in the room in case any of you have questions about the bill.