

HOUSE BILL 357: INSOOK BAIK BRIDGE

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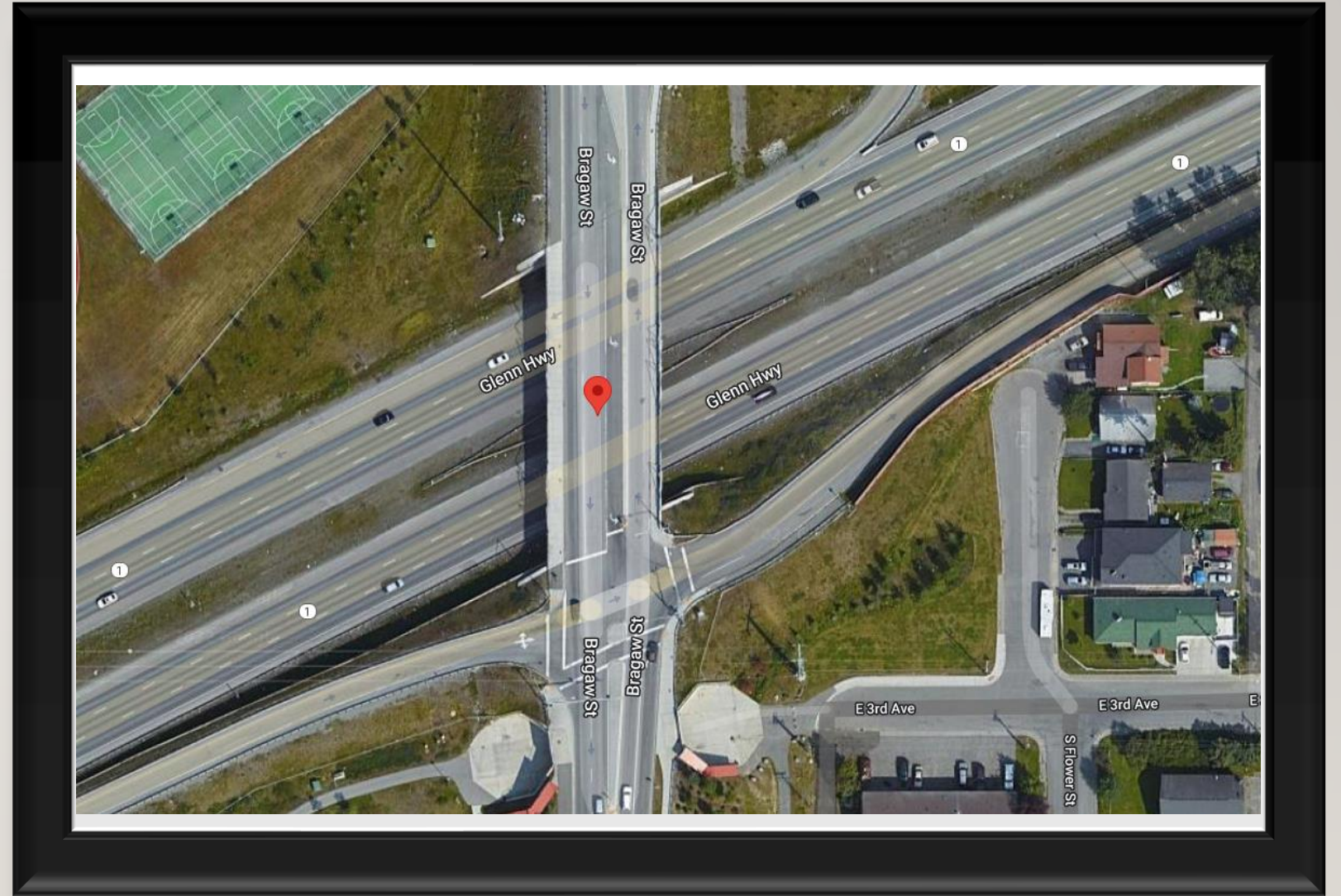
STAFF TO REPRESENTATIVE TARR
HOUSE DISTRICT 19

3/15/22

BACKGROUND

- Last year, we were made aware of an unnamed bridge in our district after the passage of HB 27 (Irene Webber Bridge).
- Bragaw St. Overcrossing over the Glenn Highway in Mountain View.

MAP OF BRIDGE





Bragaw St

STREET VIEW

PROCESS

- We wanted a neighbor-led process to determine the name of this currently unnamed bridge.
- Collaborated with Community Councils in HD 19 (Mountain View, Russian Jack, Airport Heights) for months to gather suggestions for potential names for the Bragaw St. Bridge.
- Created survey for constituents to weigh in on the name of this bridge and suggest additional names.

POTENTIAL NAMES

- Names received for consideration:
 - Cal Williams – civil rights activist and historian
 - Elsa Sargento – educator and co-founder of Bridge Builders
 - Daniel George – staff to Rep. Don Young and MVCC member
 - Clare Swan – Alaska Native subsistence rights activist and 2009 AFN Elder of the Year
 - Mother Lawrence – local philanthropist and recipient of President’s Service Award
 - Insook Baik – owner of Mt.View Shell Station, Thanksgiving Meal Drive
 - Dave Barney* – Boys and Girls Club manager, social worker, youth coach
 - John Kito – Principal of Tyson Elementary School

* Declined Consideration

RESPONSES

- Support coalesced most around Insook Baik, owner of the Mt.View Shell station and organizer of an annual Thanksgiving meal drive.
- Received tremendous support from the Korean community in Anchorage.

INSOOK BAIK 백인숙

- 35-year resident of Anchorage, originally from South Korea, where she lived through the Korean War.
- Ms. Baik has organized a large-scale Thanksgiving meal drive every year for over a decade serving Mt.View.
 - Distributes hundreds of meals every year – served nearly 1000 meals in 2021.
- Active member of her church community and the Korean-American community in Anchorage
- Won a Presidential Service Award in 2018 at the Bridge Builders Gala.

ADN COVERAGE

This Anchorage gas station owner didn't want anyone to go hungry on Thanksgiving Day

By Tegan Hanlon

Updated: December 2, 2017

Published: November 23, 2017



Insook Baik, the owner of the Shell gas station on Mountain View Drive, ladles gravy on mashed potatoes on Thanksgiving Day. She has provided free meals at the gas station's convenient store for about eight years. (Tegan Hanlon/ADN)

Insook Baik knows what it's like to go to bed hungry.

She grew up in South Korea during the Korean War, she said, and her family didn't always have enough to eat.

Mountain View gas station hands out hundreds of free Thanksgiving meals to community members

By Tess Williams

Updated: November 25, 2021

Published: November 25, 2021

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Mt. View Shell Station owner Insook Baik confirms how many free Thanksgiving Day dinners a person needs on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021. (Bill Roth / ADN)



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Hundreds of signatures in support of HB 357.
- Change.org petition collected 213 signatures as of 3/14, as well as hand signatures collected across Anchorage.
- Letter of support from KACA (Korean American Community of Anchorage)

The screenshot shows a mobile view of a Change.org petition page. At the top, the title is "Naming Mountain View Bridge 'Insook Baik' 백인". Below the title, there is a progress bar indicating that 213 people have signed, with a goal of 500. A red button labeled "Take the next step!" is visible. The main content of the page is a letter dated March 4, 2022, addressed to Representative Geran Tarr. The letter expresses gratitude for introducing HB 357 to name a bridge in Mountain View after Insook Baik, a long-time business owner who has contributed to the community through thick and thin, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter highlights her selfless actions, such as organizing a free Thanksgiving meal drive and serving food to neighbors in need. It also mentions the support of the Korean American Community of Anchorage (KACA) and the Anchorage, Inc. (KACA) alone gave out far more than a quarter million in annual scholarships in the past 20 years to ASD graduates without discrimination. The letter concludes by stating that HB 357 is a very deserving opportunity for Insook Baik, a Korean American, to be recognized as a member of the Mountain View neighborhood as well as the Korean American community. The letter is signed by Salley Kim, who started the petition to David Song.

QUOTES

- Baik said she wants to give back, and she wants to feed people. She said she cares about the neighborhood.
- "She's fallen in love with the community here. It's one of the few places where people will give their last dollar to each other," said Baik's son, Peter... "I think that pulls at her heartstrings."
- "One man a couple years ago, he said, 'I was hungry, I moved here with no job, no car, no apartment, but you gave me food,' " she said. The man returned several years later and told her he was employed and had a place to live, according to Baik. He gave her money to help pay for more supplies for the next year.

THANK YOU

- This is a great opportunity to recognize an Alaskan for her years of generosity to her community!
- Insook Baik's story is a great example of the American Dream, and her kindness embodies the best of Anchorage.
- Please support HB 357!