

Ermalee Hickel
1905 Loussac Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

April 6, 2011

Representative Craig Johnson
State Capital Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Craig,

I read about your bill, HB 115, which honors my late husband by concurrently naming Minnesota Boulevard it be the Walter J. Hickel Expressway. Wally would be honored.

Wally drove this road practically every day; from the time it was a pioneer road out of downtown. It connects Alaskans with many places he helped build – beginning near the Hotel Captain Cook that he started in 1964, passing Alaska's first modern shopping center, The Northern Lights Center, built in 1959, and going by the Turnagain, Spenard, and Campbell Lake neighborhoods he helped develop from the early 1950's forward. It also passes the trails stemming from Westchester Lagoon, which he walked frequently or strapped on shoeshoes.

I write not to seek any aggrandizement for Wally or our family, but simply to say we are touched. Wally always thought of Alaska as pioneering country, and trails that became roads, and roads that became highways symbolize the progress he stood for. As Governor and Secretary of Interior, he also stood for keeping our roads scenic, and this road has beautiful views, parks and open spaces Alaskans treasure.

Sincerely,

Ermalee Hickel

Ermalee Hickel



Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell
STATE OF ALASKA

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Craig Johnson
Alaska State House
State Capitol, Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Johnson,

As one who had the privilege of working with the late Governor Wally Hickel in business, politics, government and civic life since 1974, I was very happy to learn about your HB 115. It is a fine idea to concurrently name Minnesota Boulevard as the Walter J. Hickel Expressway in honor of the late Governor.

I can think of no better road to bear Wally Hickel's name. Governor Hickel always relished the beautiful views along that route, particularly frequenting what is now the Coastal Trail to walk or snowshoe. This road runs through much of the Anchorage life and infrastructure that Wally helped build: from the neighborhoods along Campbell Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain that he worked to develop from the 1950's on, to the Northern Lights Center of 1959 (the first modern shopping center in Alaska), and the downtown Hotel Captain Cook that he started in 1964.

This christening is a fitting tribute to the man who believed roads could be beautiful and enhance the environment. It reflects the progress we have made from the early days of rutted trails to the sophisticated transportation systems of today, while protecting the beauty of the surrounding land and views.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation. Please let me know how I can support this honor an extraordinary leader and of one of Alaska's great pioneers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mead Treadwell".

Mead Treadwell
Lieutenant Governor

**Resolution of the
Alaska Republican Party**

State Central Committee

**By Kirk Wickersham
District 25**

Whereas Walter J. Hickel was elected Governor of Alaska twice, served with distinction as U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and led and inspired the development of the State of Alaska and the Circumpolar Arctic Region throughout his long and distinguished career,

Resolved that the Alaska Republican Party supports the renaming of (1) Minnesota Drive from 15th Ave. to O'Malley Rd. and (2) O'Malley Rd from Minnesota Dr. to the Old Seward Highway, all within the Municipality of Anchorage, to the **Walter J. Hickel Expressway**.

Adopted this 28th Day of August, 2010.

Chairman

Secretary

The Secretary will transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of Alaska, the Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives and the President of the Alaska Senate.

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*** HONORING ***
*** GOVERNOR WALTER J. HICKEL ***

The Nineteenth Alaska Legislature honors and thanks Governor Walter J. Hickel for his leadership, vision, statesmanship, and service.

Over the past half century, Governor Hickel has shown that one person with a vision and purpose can make a difference. As a private citizen, businessman, governor, leader, and visionary, Governor Hickel has inspired Alaskans to excel.

In his capacity as Alaska's governor from December 1990 to December 1994, Governor Hickel provided leadership and direction to:

Settle the Exxon Valdez oil spill civil and criminal litigation;

Assert Alaska's state's rights through a series of landmark lawsuits challenging the federal government;

Settle the 16-year-old Mental Health Lands Trust dispute by reconstituting the trust with lands and cash;

Pursue and settle back oil tax and royalty cases totaling nearly \$4 billion with Alaska's largest taxpayers;

Select the final 23 million acres of the 104 million acres of state land promised in the Statehood Act;

Establish the community development quota program to get a share of the rich Bering Sea fisheries to the residents of Western Alaska; and

Provide \$100 million in rural sanitation projects.

For these, and many other initiatives beneficial to Alaskans, we thank Governor Hickel.

After choosing not to run again and leaving office in December, Governor Hickel has gone on to another arena of public service as secretary-general of the Northern Forum. In that capacity, he will continue to represent the interest of Alaska in the Arctic world.

The Nineteenth Alaska Legislature recognizes Walter J. Hickel as a man of vision and wishes he and his wife Ermalee continued success.

March 9, 1995

Senators Leman, Phillips, Pearce, Salo, Taylor, Torgerson, Green, Halford, Miller, Sharp, Rieger, Frank; Representatives Martin, Phillips, Austerman, Brice, Brown, Bunde, B. Davis, G. Davis, Foster, Grussendorf, Hanley, Ivan, James, Kohring, Kott, Kubina, Mackie, MacLean, Masek, Mulder, Navarre, Nicholia, Ogan, Parnell, Porter, Rokeberg, Sanders, Therriault, Toohey, Vezey, Williams, Willis

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