

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

March 19, 2009

8:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bob Herron, Co-Chair
Representative Cathy Engstrom Munoz, Co-Chair
Representative John Harris
Representative Wes Keller
Representative Sharon Cissna

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Berta Gardner

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 29

"An Act naming the Capitol Annex the Thomas B. Stewart
Legislative Office Building."

- MOVED SB 29 OUT OF COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW: SOUTHEAST ALASKA INERTIE

- REMOVED FROM AGENDA

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 29

SHORT TITLE: NAMING THOMAS B. STEWART LEG. OFFICE BLDG

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) ELTON

01/21/09	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/09
01/21/09	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/09	(S)	STA
02/26/09	(S)	STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
02/26/09	(S)	Moved SB 29 Out of Committee
02/26/09	(S)	MINUTE(STA)
02/27/09	(S)	STA RPT 4DP
02/27/09	(S)	DP: MENARD, KOOKESH, PASKVAN, MEYER
03/02/09	(S)	TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/02/09	(S)	VERSION: SB 29
03/09/09	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS

03/09/09 (H) CRA, STA
03/19/09 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

KRISTEN BRESSETTE, Staff
Senator Kim Elton
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented SB 29 on behalf of the sponsor,
Senator Elton.

CALEB STEWART
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as the son of Judge Stewart during
hearing of SB 29.

KATIE HURLEY
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Expressed hope that SB 29 would move
forward.

ACTION NARRATIVE

8:03:38 AM

CO-CHAIR CATHY ENGSTROM MUNOZ called the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Representatives Munoz, Herron, Keller, and Harris were present at the call to order. Representative Cissna arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SB 29-NAMING THOMAS B. STEWART LEG. OFFICE BLDG

8:03:52 AM

CO-CHAIR MUNOZ announced that the only order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 29, "An Act naming the Capitol Annex the Thomas B. Stewart Legislative Office Building."

8:04:24 AM

KRISTEN BRESSETTE, Staff, Senator Kim Elton, Alaska State Legislature, related the following:

SB 29 would name the Capitol Annex the Thomas B. Stewart Legislative Office Building in honor of Judge Thomas B. Stewart and his countless contributions to the State of Alaska. The Capitol Annex was formerly known as the Scottish Rite Temple and is currently under renovation with an estimated completion date of the renovation of Capitol Annex is August 31, 2009.

Tom Stewart was an exemplary Alaskan and extremely honorable. He was a decorated war veteran, serving in World War II as a US Army Captain of the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops in the Italian Alps for which he earned bronze and silver stars. He served as an assistant attorney general, served in the territorial House of Representatives. He was a driving force behind the Alaska Constitutional Convention. Tom travelled around the country on his own dime to research and collect information on other states' constitutions prior to the convention. Tom was the secretary of the convention, which was ultimately key to statehood. Tom served as a senator in the first session of the Alaska Legislature and served as a Superior Court judge. He served in all three branches of government.

Tom was known and respected for his character, wisdom, and leadership. As we celebrate Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood this year, it's an appropriate time to honor Tom Stewart.

MS. BRESSETTE noted that [the committee packet should include] letters of support from former Governors Hickel and Cooper. Governor Palin has also expressed support for SB 29.

[8:06:19 AM](#)

CALEB STEWART, speaking as the son of Judge Stewart, thanked the committee for hearing SB 29. He mentioned his appreciation for Co-Chair Munoz signing on as a cross sponsor of SB 29. Although this is exciting, there isn't unanimity in the family as one individual wants trails to be named after Judge Stewart and believes SB 29 may interfere with that effort. Mr. Stewart expressed hope that naming the Scottish Rite Temple after his father might help those younger citizens to stop and ponder the history of Judge Stewart.

[8:07:59 AM](#)

KATIE HURLEY, expressed hope that SB 29 would move forward. She then mentioned that Tom was the chair of the legislative committee in 1955 and saw to it that the convention was held in Fairbanks. The aforementioned was the key to the penning of Alaska's very successful constitution, she opined. She noted that she was the Secretary of the Senate in 1955.

[8:10:40 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR MUNOZ recalled that Judge Stewart was a good friend of her father-in-law both of which where adventurous outdoorsmen. She further recalled that Judge Stewart offered beautiful remarks at her wedding.

MR. HURLEY related that Judge Stewart graduated from Juneau Douglas High School where he was a great debater and editor of the Totem in 1936.

CO-CHAIR MUNOZ characterized Judge Stewart as a great man, dedicated father, dedicated husband, and dedicated neighbor.

[8:12:15 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS moved to report SB 29 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

[8:13:22 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m.