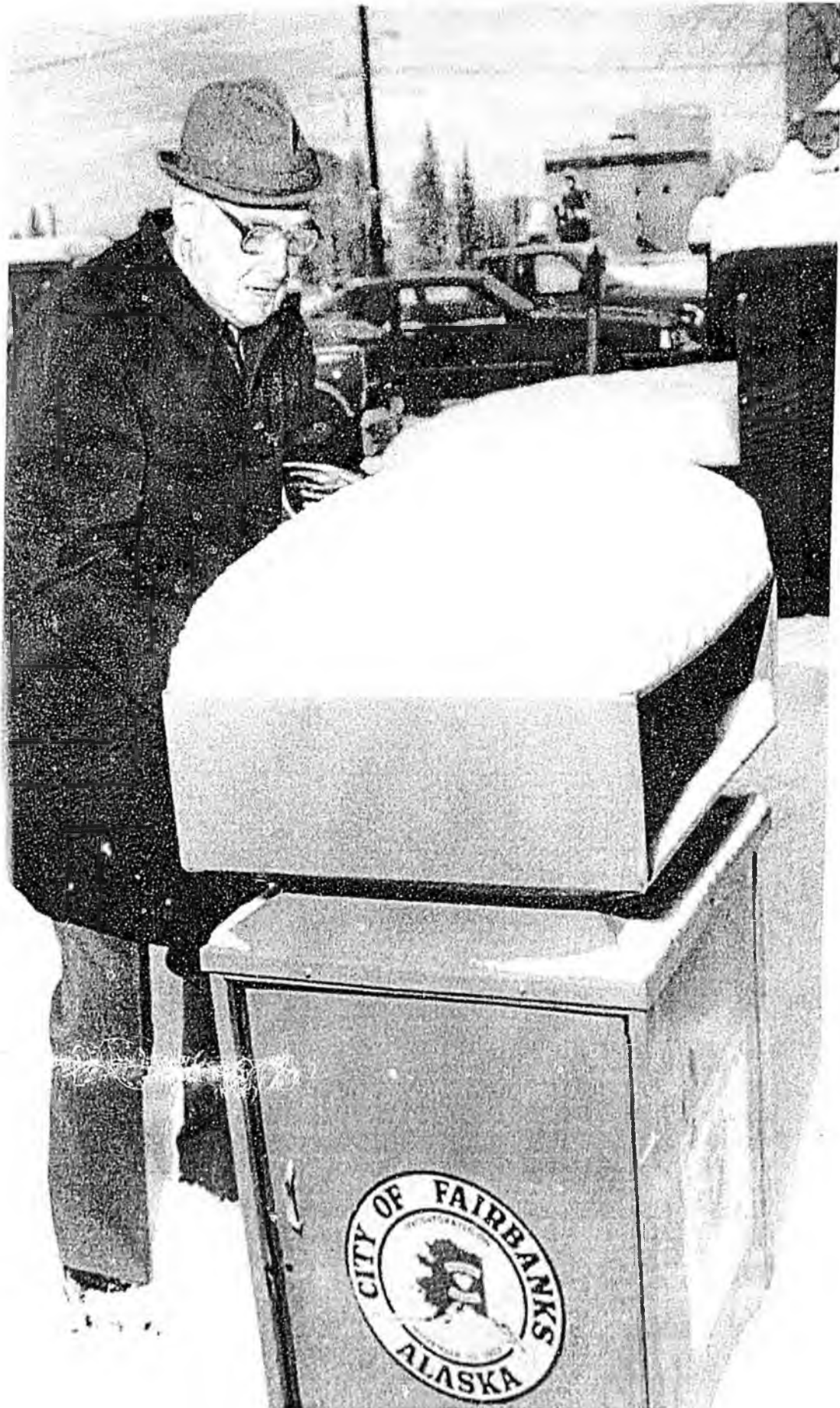


SB

119

Senate Bill 119



William R. Wood
Fairbanks International Airport

GARY WILKEN

SENATOR
Districts 29 & 30
West Fairbanks

Senate Standing Committees

Member: Finance
Member: Health, Education, &
Social Services (HESS)
Member: Legislative Budget & Audit
Member: State Affairs



During Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Tel: (907) 451-5501 (in Fbks area)
Tel: (907) 465-3709 (outside Fbks)
Fax: (907) 465-4714
Website: www.garywilken.com
E-Mail: Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us

Interim:
1851 Fox Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Tel: (907) 451-5501
Fax: (907) 451-0438

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 119 William R. Wood Fairbanks International Airport

Senate Bill 119 will name the Fairbanks International Airport in honor of a true visionary and leader for Alaska, Dr. William Ransom Wood.

Dr. Bill Wood arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1960 with his wife Dorothy Jane, son Mark and daughter Karen, to serve as the fourth president of our University of Alaska. After thirteen years of leading the University and shaping it into a world class institution, he retired from University service and, with his family, decided to remain in Fairbanks.

Though he retired from the University, he never stopped serving his community. Dr. Wood was committed to making the place where he lived a better place than when he found it. He fulfilled that belief everyday of his 94 years. Even on his final days, he was offering words of wisdom and urging national, state, and local leaders to begin or to finish community projects.

Over the years, Dr. Wood was a leader to many, including being the Mayor of Fairbanks, Chair of Fairbanks Area Community Hospital Foundation, founder of Festival Fairbanks, founder of Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation, and 1985 Alaskan of the Year. He was very active in Rotary International, serving as his club's President, District 5010 Governor, and receiving Rotary's highest honor - the Service Above Self Award.

Dr. Wood's message was that we, as Fairbanksans, live in a special place in this world. With the naming of the Fairbanks International Airport after Dr. Wood, fellow Alaskans, and our visitors, will be reminded not only of his contributions to our past, but his vision of our future.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Gary Wilken

Alaskan Life of William R. Wood

- ✓ University of Alaska President – 1960-1973
- ✓ Mayor of Fairbanks – 1978-1980
- ✓ Founder of Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation
- ✓ First Chairman of the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation – 1967
- ✓ Airport Community Council Charter Member
- ✓ Co-Founder Alaska Science and Technology Foundation
- ✓ Founder of Festival Fairbanks whose mission is to support community projects.
- ✓ Festival Fairbanks Executive Director (a non-monetary position) from its inception in 1981 – 2001.
- ✓ Visionary & Creator of Golden Heart Plaza - 1984
- ✓ Opinion columnist for Fairbanks Daily News-Miner – 1981-2001
- ✓ 1985 Alaskan of the Year
- ✓ Rotary District 5010 (Yukon, Alaska, Eastern Russia) Governor – 1985-1986
- ✓ Rotary Service Above Self International Award - 2000
- ✓ Established Wood Nanook Varsity Talent Search and Grant Endowment with the University of Alaska Fairbanks – 1998
- ✓ Published a trilogy of poetry – *Not From Stone* (1983), *Legacy of Dreams* (1993), and *Nanook* (2000)

By: Karen Parr
Bonnie Williams
Dave Veazey
Garry Hutchison
Eileen Cummings
Rick Solie
Introduced: 03/22/01
Adopted: 03/22/01

RESOLUTION NO. 2001 - 014

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENAMING THE FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO "WILLIAM R. WOOD FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

WHEREAS, William Ransom Wood was a distinguished member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Community who was a true visionary from the time he arrived in Fairbanks in 1960 to serve as the fourth President of the University of Alaska, 1960 - 1973, and after retirement continued as President Emeritus. He was credited with turning a single campus school into a major university, expanding from College Hill in Fairbanks to communities across Alaska, including Juneau and Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. Wood never truly retired from anything, as a private citizen he immersed himself in community issues. He served as Mayor of the City of Fairbanks from 1978 to 1980, president of the Fairbanks Industrial Development Corp., president of Fairbanks Rotary Club and district governor for Rotary International. He was the first president of the Fairbanks Hospital Foundation and helped found Festival Fairbanks, a community organization dedicated to making Fairbanks a better place to live, work, visit, and raise a family. He was selected and honored as Alaskan of the Year in 1985 and received the highest award presented in International Rotary, the 2001 Service Above Self award; and

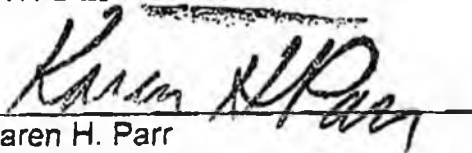
WHEREAS, Dr. Wood was a published poet and a regular columnist in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. His wisdom, compassion, and love for all people could be seen in his writing. This compassion and concern for people earned him a deep respect by the Fairbanks Community. His energy and enthusiasm for Fairbanks should be an example to its citizens to continue in his footsteps and strive for a prosperous, healthy, and safe Interior of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, as a strong supporter of Alaska aviation, Dr. Wood also served as a long term member of the Fairbanks International Airport Community Council. It is only fitting that a special tribute be made to this visionary who dedicated his life to community service and making this place he chose to call home "a little better than when he found it".

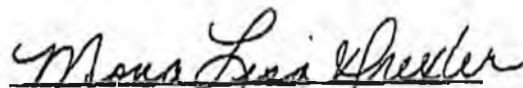
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough strongly supports Senator Gary Wilken and Representative Jim Whittaker's bills to rename the Fairbanks International Airport to the "William R. Wood Fairbanks International Airport".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Governor Tony Knowles, Senator Gary Wilken, Representative Jim Whitaker and all members of the state legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22nd OF MARCH 2001.


Karen H. Parr
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Williams, Foote, Cummings, Hutchison, Solie, Veazey, Parr
Noes: Sattley, Beck

Daily News - Miner

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"
Established in 1903

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Publisher Emeritus

MARILYN F. ROMANO
Publisher

ELLI JOSTIAN
Managing Editor

BRIAN O'DONOGHUE
Editorial Page Editor

'Just a little better'

It was a thunder that moved the heart.

U.S. Army howitzers boomed in military salute to Dr. William Ransom Wood at the community memorial to the man at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center on Saturday afternoon.

The thunder was felt, more than heard, inside the university gym.

It was an unseen salute that in many ways mirrored the life of the man. Dr. Wood worked countless hours invisible to most in this community, though his efforts continue to touch our lives and, indeed, move our hearts.

He lived from 1907 to 2001 and this community had the pleasure of his company from 1960 to just a week ago today. For 20 years, he wrote a column for this very page.

In a 1983 News-Miner article, Dr. Wood was quoted as saying he would want to be remembered "as an individual who left the place a little better than he found it."

Add to that philosophy his penchant for progressive ideas and you have a remarkable man of vision. He forwarded so many ideas that sometimes those around him—people one would suppose had younger and fresher minds—had a hard time keeping up.

Predictably, such a man could not accomplish so much with everyone liking every idea. He was criticized for his support of Project Chariot, a government plan born in the late 1950s in search of "peaceful use of the atom." This idea would have used an atomic blast to create a port off Alaska's northwest coast. The thought sounds ludicrous in this new millennium, but in its day it was an example of the vision exercised by progressive thinkers.

Some still exercise their powers of hindsight to criticize. Thank God that Dr. Wood exercised his considerable powers of forethought to touch this earth far beyond the scope of his mortality.

How many thousands will enjoy Golden Heart Park for years to come, walk across the yet-to-be-built Centennial Bridge or hear the chimes of the Rotary clock tower without having known the man responsible for these landmarks?

Indeed, his vision lives beyond the physical monuments. We can't overlook a dynamic family that continues to call Fairbanks home. We also can't name a community leader who has not been influenced in some way by experience with Dr. Wood or his wife, Dorothy Jane, who preceded her husband in death just last year.

They lived their lives as shining examples and mentors to many.

In his 13 years at the university, he stood upon a solid foundation laid by his predecessors and was the engineer who created much of the institution we enjoy today.

His community service mirrored his university career in many ways. He came along to build and to keep us looking forward. What is even more remarkable about his community work is the inestimable hours spent day after day, year upon year, for no recompense but to satisfy his want to make things "a little better."

For decades to come, Fairbanks will see the mark of Dr. Wood, the Midwest farm boy, the sailor, the scholar, the husband, the father, the teacher, the university president, the mayor, the statesman, the grandpa who chose to make Fairbanks his home.

If on some serene afternoon by chance you are down by the Chena River and you hear the sweet chimes of the clock tower, let the moment carry your vision forward and imagine what you might do to honor the memory of a man who left this place much better than he found it.

Dr. Wood and UAF: For the record

By JOHN WHITEHEAD

A few weeks ago I returned to Fairbanks for the memorial service of my friend William R. Wood. As I followed the coverage of Wood's death in the News-Miner I came across Dan O'Neill's March 1 critical assessment of Wood's career. The tasteless timing of this article as friends and family gathered for Wood's funeral seemed shocking to me—both on the part of the columnist and of the News-Miner. While some people agreed with me, I found in conversation that others thought the timing of the article actually substantiated the charges. Why else, they said, would the paper run the article if the facts were not true, particularly as O'Neill claimed that his statements were "matters of record." Is this the case? Was Dr. Wood the man O'Neill claims he was?

O'Neill's criticism of Wood, particularly of his role in Project Chariot, is not new. However the March 1 article took this criticism to vaulted heights. He charged that Wood was "mistaken" as a university president, that he was "not a particularly intellectual person," and that he did not understand the concept of "academic freedom" or the "opportunity to pursue any avenue of inquiry in an atmosphere of pure scholarship and freedom from political pressures." The proof is his claim that Wood arranged the firing of two UA scientists who "published work critical of Project Chariot." Hence Wood's repression of academic freedom.

When I first arrived at UAF in 1978 the story of Project Chariot and Wood's firing of two professors was a veritable campus legend. History students of mine even wrote papers on the subject, though usually with no firm conclusion whether the legend was actually true. In the mid-1980s I

Guest opinion

was delighted to learn that Dan O'Neill, whom I had met through oral history work, was conducting a massive investigation of the issue. At his request I even assisted in interviewing Wood for the project. When O'Neill's book "The Firecracker Boys" appeared, I read it with interest. I hoped it would finally settle the issues behind the legend. The book was exhaustive in its research and most of my current knowledge on the subject comes directly from it. Much to my surprise the facts presented by O'Neill did not seem to support his charges against Wood and the alleged "firing."

What were the issues in the Chariot affair? In 1959 the United States Atomic Energy Commission commissioned contract research with the University of Alaska for biological studies on the levels of radiation that might result from a proposed nuclear blast off the coast of Northwest Alaska. Two young scientists, Leslie Viereck and William Pruitt, were hired with funds from this contract to conduct some of the studies. After submitting their studies to the AEC they, along with other UA scientists, were stunned when the AEC announced that the blast would be safe and should go forward. They thought their studies supported the opposite conclusion and challenged the AEC's report. During the midst of the controversy in 1960 William R. Wood became president of the university.

As the controversy between the scientists and the AEC progressed, Viereck concluded he could no longer work on the AEC contract and resigned. There was no other employment for him at the university outside of the con-

tract. Pruitt did not resign but joined forces with other scientists to publish a forceful reply to the AEC in the News Bulletin of the Alaska Conservation Society.

Brina Kessel, the head of UA's biology department and director of the contract with the AEC, found some of Pruitt's use of scientific data in the reply unethical and decided to issue him a terminal contract on the AEC project.

Viereck's decision to resign was Viereck's. Kessel's decision to terminate Pruitt was Kessel's. How were they fired by William R. Wood? O'Neill asserts that Brina Kessel sought advice from Wood on the controversy. Wood suggested that if the scientists hired to work on the contract no longer wanted to do such contract research, then possibly they should not be rehired. To him that was the nature of contract research. The choice of remaining on the contract was left to the scientists. There is no evidence that Wood forced Viereck to resign or forced Kessel to terminate Pruitt. Nonetheless, it is clear that O'Neill and others believe that Wood forced the firing of these men. This, however, is a matter of opinion, not of record.

As the years of Wood's presidency progressed from his initial imbroglio with Chariot to his retirement in 1973, he clearly gained a reputation as a man who was "running the show." At times his style seemed paternalistic to both students and faculty, some would even say autocratic. He was a man of strongly held opinions. This was hardly a hidden aspect of Wood's record. Nonetheless, it was during his presidency that faculty tenure, the keystone of academic freedom, was established. Faculty governance through the Fairbanks Assembly was also created. O'Neill refers readers to Terence Cole's history of the University of Alaska for more examples of "fir-

ings" in the Wood years. I too gave his advice, but found no charge by Cole that Wood himself ordered these terminations. Anyone who has sat on departmental or university committee knows that non-tenured faculty can be terminated for any number of reasons ranging from professional to budgetary considerations. Cole does cite examples of strongly held Wood opinions as on the trans-Alaska pipeline. He also notes that not all faculty agreed with Wood on many issues. But the overall portrait Cole leaves with the reader is laudatory. Wood served as UA president during a tumultuous time in American history, and in Cole's words "left behind a statewide institution that had grown so rapidly in thirteen years that the campus would have hardly been recognized by the class of 1960." He was the builder of the modern University of Alaska in both its cement and human aspects.

Matters of opinion are just that. Bill Wood had many strong opinions. But the evidence that he turned those opinions to actions against others are conjectural at best. If matters of opinion are repeated regularly in the press and other venues, they will become matters of record if they are not examined and challenged.

For any reader who may still wonder about the character of this man mourned by so many, though still attacked by some, I would suggest that they read the books cited by O'Neill, his own "Firecracker Boys" or Terence Cole's excellent "The Cornerstone on College Hill." Sort through the evidence and form your own opinion, both about the man and about the community that mourned him. This is what William R. Wood and any other well-cast president of a university would want you to do.

John Whitehead, professor emeritus of history from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, now resides in Athens, Ga.

3-20-01

Rose Elsner
389 Hagelbarger
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

April 12, 2001

Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Senate Bill No. 119

NAMING THE FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fairbanks International Airport is the main connector for aviation related travel for all the people of the interior and the North Slope as well. As an international stop over, FIA serves the world as well.

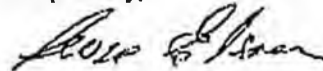
The people of the Fairbanks North Star Borough as well as the people of the interior and northern villages can take pride in FIA.

FIA is located outside the boundaries of the City of Fairbanks. The city residents and businesses are only a fraction of the overall residents and businesses that this International facility serves.

Please DO NOT change the name of the second busiest international airport in Alaska.

The fiscal note that accompanied Senate Bill 119 showed zero cost to change the name. The fiscal note cannot represent the true cost of changing the name. With no disrespect intended, the legislature does have all the information.

Respectfully,



Rose Elsner

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
☆ ☆
☆ ☆
Auxiliary ☆ ☆ *Number 8*
PIONEERS OF ALASKA

*P.O. Box 70656
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-0656*

April 3, 2001

House Rules Committee, MS 3100
Rep. Pete Kott, Chairman
Room 204, Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ref: Opposition to SB 119

Dear Rep. Kott and Members of the House Rules Committee:

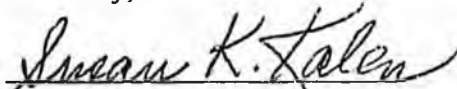
At our regular meeting of April 2, 2001, the members of Pioneers of Alaska, Auxiliary #8, voted unanimously to OPPOSE renaming the Fairbanks International Airport after William R. Wood, and further, to keep the name of the Fairbanks International Airport unchanged.

We feel that William Wood had little to do with the development of the airport, nor with aviation in Interior Alaska. Wood Center on the campus of the University of Alaska, of which he was president, is named after him. That is appropriate. Renaming the Fairbanks International Airport after him is not appropriate.

The Alaska Legislature is moving too rapidly on this issue, without enough time for input from the citizens of Fairbanks. We of Auxiliary #8, Pioneers of Alaska, with a membership of over 900 women, strongly oppose SB 119, and ask you to hold it until more public input is heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Kalen, Secretary
Auxiliary No. 8, Pioneers of Alaska

Copy: Interior Delegation

APR 17 REC'D

JAMES E. MOODY, P.E.

FAIRBANKS: (907) 456-8000

BOX 1092, 99707

~~FAIRBANKS: (907) 456-8000~~~~4000 UNIVERSITY DRIVE~~

April 17, 2001

The Honorable Pete Kott
 Chairman, Rules Committee
 Alaska State House of Representatives
 Juneau, Alaska

Re: SB119; HB 151
 Renaming Fairbanks International Airport

Dear Chairman Kott:

As a retired career Airport Engineer with over 30 years service to Alaska in the Department of Aviation and its successors (Division of Aviation, Department of Public Works, and DOT&PF), and a pilot since 1939, I encourage you to seek some other means of honoring Dr. Wood rather than renaming Fairbanks International.

It was our policy to name public airports and related facilities (seaplane bases, etc.) after the community they served for clarity and to avoid confusion. You no doubt are aware that airport initials are used extensively for such things as baggage tags, Morse code identifiers on radio aids for navigation, weather reports, flight plans, and so on. Personal names applied to State fields generally resulted from sudden emotional outpourings of sentiment; fields are seldom known by those names. Thus the 'honor' becomes meaningless or hollow.

In a few instances, public fields carry personal names to identify specific facilities when more than one serve the same community -- like Chicago-O'Hare and Chicago-Midway. Private fields -- usually smaller, non-commercial, general aviation airports -- are more likely to have personal names like the O'Malley Strip and Bradley Sky Ranch.

It would be more significant to erect a monument to Dr. Wood at the airport, and the cost would likely be no more than the cost of changing signs, letterhead, and public notices, etc., associated with a name change. (Personally I feel a more appropriate monument location would be at Golden Heart Plaza -- Wood's personal triumph in the City. Another possibility -- with or without a monument -- would be naming the new road access to the University after him.)

Please note that in no way should my opposition to the airport renaming serve to tarnish Wood's reputation; it is a technical and practical matter.

Respectfully,

James E. Moody
 James E. Moody, P.E.

cc: Committee members Kohring, McGuire,
 Morgan, Porter, Berkowitz, and Joule.

Subject: Dr. Wood Memorial

Date: Thu, 01 Mar 2001 17:44:26 -0900

From: "Glen M. Wilcox" <akbear@akpub.com>

To: akbear@akpub.com

I would like to urge you not to change the name of the Fairbanks International Airport to honor Dr. Wood by naming it after him. I have just returned from one of our local service clubs and it was the general agreement that it would be contrary even to Dr. Wood's own wishes, recently expressed by himself when it was suggested that the name of Airport Road be changed to his name. It is enough that one of the principal buildings at the University is named for him and that he has been able to enjoy that for years. It is not out of the lack of caring for or about him, but any action to name the airport for him would be inappropriate, especially when he had no particular connection to aviation even though he served on a committee related to the airport at one time. He needs to be honored as an educator not as one connected to aviation. Thank you.
Glen . . .

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Glen M. Wilcox akbear@akpub.com
www.akpub.com Fax: (907) 456-2500
1714 Marika Road Cellular: (907)388-2500
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

ROSE ELSNER
389 Hagelbarger
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

907-457-7891
Fax: 907-455-7891

April 19, 2001

The Honorable Pete Kott,
House Rules Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Fax: 907-465-2819

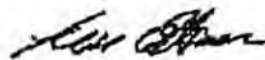
Dear Representative Kott:

Please do not change the name of the Fairbanks International Airport. The name should stay as everyone in the state recognizes it, i.e., the second largest international airport in the state and the hub serving all of interior and northern Alaska. FIA is very important to a diversified population and as an international stopover, serves the world as well. The name represents the geographic location of the general area and FIA is located outside the boundaries of the City of Fairbanks. This is not a city owned facility, it is A STATE OWNED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. It is more appropriately associated with all aviation of the interior and northern part of Alaska, i.e., the vast majority of half the state.

In the Apr. 18, 2001 edition of the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, you were reported to be considering another hearing on the proposal in early May. I feel that your committee should kill the proposal that suggested the name change since the legislators who suggested the name change were not representing the vast majority of users and residents of the interior and northern Alaska.

I realize that you are a lawmaker representing Eagle River, but my request is to you on a broader scale. As an important lawmaker holding the interest of the entire state in your hands, please do not take action that would change the name - Fairbanks International Airport.

Sincerely,



Rose Elsner

Rose Elsner
389 Hugelbarger
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

April 12, 2001

EDITOR
FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MINER
200 North Cushman
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Re: Senate Bill No. 119

NAMING THE FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fairbanks International Airport is the main connector for aviation related travel for all the people of the interior and the North Slope as well. As an international stop over, FIA serves the world as well.

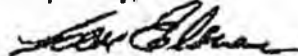
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FIA is located outside the boundaries of the City of Fairbanks. The city residents and businesses are only a fraction of the overall residents and businesses that this international facility serves.

The Alaska Legislature should not change the name of the second busiest international airport in Alaska.

The fiscal note that accompanied Senate Bill 119 showed zero cost to change the name. The fiscal note cannot represent the true cost of changing the name. With no disrespect intended, the legislators involved do not have all the information.

Respectfully,



Rose Elsner

Subject: Pioneers of Alaska, Auxiliary #8 Opposition to SB 119

Date: Tue, 03 Apr 2001 10:33:56 -0800

From: "Susan K. Kalen" <skkalen@eagle.ptialaska.net>

To: Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us

CC: Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Vic_Kohring@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Jeanette_James@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Joe_Hayes@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_John_Davies@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us, Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us,
Senator_Pete_Kelley@legis.state.ak.us, Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us

TO: Rep. Kott and Members of the House Rules Committee:
FROM: Pioneers of Alaska, Auxiliary No. 8

At our regular meeting of April 2, 2001, we voted unanimously to OPPOSE renaming the Fairbanks International Airport after William R. Wood, and further, to keep the name of the Fairbanks International Airport unchanged.

We feel William Wood had little to do with the development of the airport nor with aviation in Interior Alaska. Wood Center on the UAF campus is named after him, which is appropriate. Renaming the Fairbanks International Airport after him would be inappropriate.

The Alaska Legislature is moving too rapidly on this issue, without enough time for input from the citizens of Fairbanks. We of Auxiliary #8, Pioneers of Alaska, with a membership of over 900 women, strongly oppose SB 119, and ask you to hold it until more public opinion is heard.

Thank you for your consideration.
Susan K. Kalen, Secretary, Auxiliary #8, Pioneers of Alaska

Copy: Interior Delegation.

Subject: SB 119 and companion House bill

Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2001 13:22:56 -0900

From: "Kathleen (Mike) Dalton" <pioneer@mosquitonet.com>

To: "Sen. Gary Wilken" <Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Jim Whitaker" <Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>

CC: "Representative Ethan Berkowitz" <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Representative Reggie Joule" <Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Brian Porter" <Representative_Brian_Porter@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Carl Morgan" <Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Lesil McGuire" <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Pete Kott" <Representative_Pete_Kott@legis.state.ak.us>,
"Rep. Vic Kohring" <Representative_Vic_Kohring@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Legislators:

Naming Fairbanks International Airport after Dr. William R. Wood is a matter that needs some public discussion in Fairbanks, in the State of Alaska, and in the aviation community. It needs some time. Please put the brakes on.

I suggest the bill remain in House Rules until the 2002 session so you and others can let the current emotional mourning process over a beloved community leader (Dr. Wood) take time to heal and so more rational discussion of the issue is possible later.

Do you remember years ago when the well meaning, loving, supportive Seattle folks renamed SEA-TAC the Henry (Scoop) Jackson airport - only six months later to remove that name and return to the original designation. At some cost and effort. It was not out of disrespect to the late Senator Jackson that they did that.

Many years before that - in 1963 - well meaning, grief stricken folks rushed out to re-name the space launch center (Cape Canaveral) to the Kennedy Space Center, only to come back months later and to remove the Kennedy name and to recapture the geographic Cape Canaveral name. It was not out of disrespect for President Kennedy that that change occurred.

A little caution is needed here. More public discussion is needed. A respectable time of mourning is appropriate.

Sincerely,

Kathleen (Mike) Dalton

Sunday, April 8, 2001

LOCAL

Festival Fairbanks aims to realize Wood's vision

By NANCY TARNAI
Staff Writer

It's a good thing Michelle Calvillo keeps a ready supply of tissues on her desk at Festival Fairbanks; it's not uncommon recently for visitors to need a Kleenex or two for wiping away tears.

The February death of the non-profit organization's beloved founder and executive director, William R. Wood, left a definite hole in the downtown Fairbanks office, but don't look for the doors to close, or for the staff to sit around weeping. They have, as Calvillo asserts, plenty to do.

"It would have been nice to have had more time to grieve," said Calvillo, who had worked for Wood at Festival Fairbanks 14 years. After two days off, Calvillo and her administrative assistant, Marti Steury, were back at work.

"We have a corporation to run and we wanted people to know we're still here," Calvillo said.

Festival Fairbanks board members agreed. Althea St. Martin said because Wood was so good at sharing his vision the board and staff have at least six years worth of goals to achieve. "Dr. Wood is no longer with us but he certainly left his vision," St. Martin said. "Festival Fairbanks reminds us of our history—to recognize and celebrate it."

"We've all lost a very good friend," Festival Fairbanks board President Frank Chapados said. "But we are going forward with the program."

Regrouping is the word Barbara Schuhmann used to describe the current situation. "Dr. Wood's inspiration will carry all of us on," she said. "He inspired us to do bigger, more forward-thinking projects. We will have to work very hard to try to make Dr. Wood's visions come true."

"The need is certainly still there," board member Bill Robertson said. "No other group does what we do. It's such a broad spectrum. We identify things that would enhance the community and fill a niche."

Festival Fairbanks got its start 20 years ago, when Wood was city mayor. The original mission was to ensure a 1984 Fairbanks celebration of Alaska statehood's silver anniversary. Since then, the organization has expanded and left its mark on the city in a variety of ways.

Ever appreciated the waving flags at Cushman Street Bridge? Enjoyed a concert at Golden Heart Plaza? Been transfixed by the flowers in the downtown area in the summer time? Attended local events from fireworks to film festivals? Then you've been touched by Festival Fairbanks. Under Wood's direction, Festival Fairbanks has helped promote everything from potatoes to Pope John Paul II's visit.

"We are unique in that public and private companies can work together for the good of the community," Calvillo said. "It's a different avenue to approach people."

"Our mission statement is so broad it allows us to be open to opportunities. We can work on almost anything."

The beauty of Festival Fairbanks is that it can "do all the things that need to be done that nobody else wants to do," Calvillo said. They may not be high recognition, but are nevertheless needs that benefit the community.

As Wood lay in his hospital bed, he made lists of projects for Festival Fairbanks to continue after he was gone. "Right up till the end he was dictating things he wanted done," Calvillo said.

And Wood had been preparing the organization for his demise a long time. "He often said, 'I'll never be here to see this project finished,'" Calvillo said. "He started using that line 14 years ago. We were always at the ready and he defeated the odds so many times."

Wood, a retired University of Alaska president, was such a dynamic community leader that Calvillo said even working side by side with him for so many years she never figured out how he accomplished so much

each day.

Calvillo said the greatest gift he ever gave her was an awareness of how much gardening meant to her. "Plus he gave me confidence that if something is needed it can be accomplished."

Since Wood's death, Calvillo heard a local businessman say he was sort of relieved that Wood would no longer be knocking on his door asking for contributions to improve the community. Calvillo informed him right away that Wood had trained others to carry on the fund-raising duties.

The corporation is funded by city bed taxes (collected by hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns); contracts with the city, corporate sponsorships,
See FESTIVAL FAIRBANKS, Page B-3

FESTIVAL FAIRBANKS

Continued from Page B-1

private donations and government grants. "We have always lived hand-to-mouth on a very tight budget," Calvillo said. "I firmly believe if we continue to serve the community we will be able to fund Festival Fairbanks."

The future looks bright for Festival Fairbanks, Calvillo predicts. "In one word, it's opportunity," she said. On the agenda right now are the development of Barnette Landing (a downtown greenbelt project) and the Fairbanks Centennial celebration. Downtown beautification is a continuous goal.

"This year is exceedingly busy," Calvillo commented. "We are working for the long-term best interests and quality of life for Alaskans."

The structure of Festival Fairbanks remains essentially the

same, with a board of directors making the decisions. Calvillo was promoted to executive director, formerly Wood's position. The office definitely reflects a more feminine perspective these days. "It's girly, isn't it?" Calvillo asked, pointing out her collection of stuffed bunnies and plants in pretty pots.

She makes a point of keeping a photo of Wood behind her desk so that she can feel as if he is looking over her shoulder. "Dr. Wood was not just an integral part of Festival Fairbanks," she said. "He was a mentor and a friend."

"His presence is so strong here for us it's sometimes difficult to realize he won't be coming back. We're going to keep his dream alive and keep moving, but I sure miss him."

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Jim Whitaker
House of Representatives
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SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 151

House Bill 151 will rename the Fairbanks International Airport, the William R. Wood Fairbanks International Airport.

In 1973, Dr. Wood retired as the President of the University of Alaska after thirteen years of service. One of Two University of Alaska Presidents who decided to stay in state, Dr. Wood opened an office in Fairbanks where international, state, local, and academic ideas and plans were given birth and manifested as parks, plazas, hospitals, and industrial and agricultural growth.

It is important to remember that Dr. Wood was not only an educator, but also a poet, a thinker, an advocate for economic development, and an advocate for individual responsibility and self-reliance. He also understood the requisite relationship between successful self-reliant individuals and a robust, prosperous community.

Dr. Wood inspired thousands of individuals around the world through his deeds and dedication for this place we call home. He also leaves a legacy of Alaskans and Fairbanksans who consider him a regional and local hero. This from a man who asked no more of life than to leave his community and state a little better than he found it. He succeeded.

By re-naming the Fairbanks International Airport as the William R. Wood Fairbanks International Airport, we will hopefully inspire future generations of Alaskans to ponder and aspire to Dr. Wood's simple yet magnificent legacy; to ask nothing more of life than to leave our state, our home, just a little better than we found it.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SSHB 151
 (H) Publish Date: 3/14/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: DOT & PF
 Title: An Act naming the William R. Wood Fairbanks BRU: _____
 International Airport Component: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Whitaker Component Number: _____
 Requester: House Transportation

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Mike Kriebler, Committee Aide Phone 465-2186

Representative *Vic Bohning* Date 3/14/01
 Committee Chair