

HJR

14



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature
Senate
Office of the Secretary

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 213
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3701
FAX: 465-2832
EMAIL: senate_secretary@Legis.state.ak.us

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

DATE: 5/13/03
TO: Community and Regional Affairs Committee
(Mary, Room 427)
FROM: Office of the Senate Secretary
SUBJ: Referral Change

The Chair of the Committee noted above has waived the referral(s) on the following bills(s):

RETRIEVE

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14(STA)
Urging that the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games be held in Anchorage,
Alaska.

Please give the bill file(s) to the page delivering this message for forwarding to the next Committee of referral.

Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE ERIC CROFT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Tom Wagoner

FROM: Representative Eric Croft

DATE: May 12, 2003

RE: Senate Community and Regional Affairs Hearing Request, HJR 14

Please schedule HJR 14 for a hearing in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience. I have included a sponsor statement and the other required documentation. This is a non-controversial resolution that deserves to move this session.

Thank you.



REPRESENTATIVE ERIC CROFT

SPONSOR STATEMENT HJR 14

2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

This resolution urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America to hold the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Anchorage. Hosting the games in Anchorage would show Alaska's support and respect for our nation's veterans and its accessibility to people of all physical capabilities.

Alaska is proud of its veterans and those from other states. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is an excellent way for paralyzed veterans to showcase their amazing accomplishments and to inspire all those with whom they come in contact both disabled and not.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world and will bring an estimated 1,300 to 1,500 visitors to Alaska. With food, hotels and related tourism activities, these participants and their families and supporters will not only inspire Alaskans, but they will also add millions of dollars to the Alaskan economy.



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR NO. 14
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Military and Veterans Affa
 Title 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair G BRU _____
 Sponsor Croft Component _____
 Requester _____ Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services			0.0			
Travel			0.0			
Contractual			0.0			
Supplies			0.0			
Equipment			0.0			
Land & Structures			0.0			
Grants & Claims			0.0			
Miscellaneous			0.0			
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--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 Budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
 HJR NO.14 resolves that the Alaska State Legislature urges Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Joseph L. Fox, Sr., President, Paralyzed Veterans of America to hold the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Anchorage, Alaska. No fiscal impact anticipated.

Prepared by: John W. Cramer Phone 465-4602
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 5/2/03 1:57 PM
 Approved by: _____ Date 5/2/2003
 Agency: _____

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

"I can't even walk any more. Can I still compete in track?" "Do you really think a quadriplegic can play rugby?" "You mean to say I've got to tackle stairs in the wheelchair slalom event?" Welcome to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, where all answers are a resounding "Yes!"

Started in 1981, these Games promote rehabilitation and wellness through rigorous sports competition. Now the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the U.S., it gives newly disabled veterans a chance to gain and enhance sports skills while introducing them to experienced wheelchair athletes. Veterans compete according to their ability in such sports as basketball, softball, track and field, rugby, slalom, and many others.

The spirit at these Games inspires every veteran to achieve his or her personal best. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

"Last year was my first Games and it was fantastic! It gave me confidence, and was the most rewarding and challenging event for the disabled that I'd ever seen. It's broadened my abilities...and the confidence I'd lost has started to come back."

Evo Marini, 55
Air Force combat veteran of Vietnam,
Missouri City, Texas

"This is a great event to help people get back into participating in life. Sports helped me adjust and accept my disability. Some doors have closed, but many more have opened, including the opportunity to represent the United States in three international Paralympic Games."

Laura Schwanger, 41
Army veteran, Williamstown, N.J.



CONTACT

National Veterans Wheelchair Games
Tom Brown, Program Director
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
San Antonio, Texas 78284
(210) 617-4125



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APR 14 2003

Alaska Disabled Veteran Sports Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 241586, Anchorage, Alaska 99524, Voice (907) 272-1094, Fax (907) 272-1094

State of Alaska
House of Representatives
Resolution in Support of 2006 National
Veterans Wheelchair Game Held in Alaska

April 13, 2003

I have been involved in the wheelchair games since 1999. I represented Alaska in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Since then I have participated in the wheelchair games in San Antonio, Texas and New York City. At each event, I have been asked, "when are we coming to Alaska?" We have the opportunity to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July of 2006.

These games are the largest wheelchair competition in the world. Approximately 1300 to 1400 individuals will be involved. As well as the athletes, coaches, referees, and support staff, many family members accompany the competitors. The games not only let the athletes visit different cities nationwide, the residents of the cities can see what can be done by individuals in wheelchairs and how the disabled adapt to their changing environment. It also gives everyone a chance to see the latest in technology and products available to everybody.

I am sure that Alaska will be a great host and the wheelchair games will be a huge success.

This resolution is important as it shows the Veterans Administration in Alaska that we have the support of all Alaskans.

Yours sincerely,

George Pikus

Vice President/Program
Director for Alaska Disabled
Veterans Sports Program

Where there's a will there's a way.

NUMBER OF PAGES = 11

DATE: April 23, 2003
 TO: Mark Gnad/Representative Eric Croft
 FROM: Julie Dodds/Anchorage convention & Visitors Bureau
 RE: National Veteran Wheelchair Games



Mark:

Here is some information and some letters of support. I hope it is enough information. If you need additional information or have any questions please call me at 907 257-2327.

I am mailing you a couple of videos. If you would please send them back to me when you are through, or if you do need to keep them, just let me know so I can get replacements.

Please call me when you receive this and let me know if this is what you were looking for.

Thank you for your support.

Take care.

Julie Dodds
 National Sales Manager
 Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau
 524 West Fourth Avenue
 Anchorage AK 99501-2212
 Toll Free: 888-257-2381 ext 327
 Local: (907) 257-2327
 Fax: (907) 278-5559

Email: jdodds@anchorage.net

Wild About Anchorage!
 Anchorage: 2002 All-America City

www.anchorage.net

524 W. Fourth Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska
 99501-2212

907-276-418
 Fax 907-278-5559

www.anchorage.net
 Email: info@anchorage.net

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES JULY 2006

Representatives from the VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) have completed an initial site inspection in Anchorage last Fall, September 2002. They toured the local facilities and met with the hoteliers, Egan Convention Center, Sullivan Arena, Anchorage School District and Airport Representatives, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs Alaska Healthcare System and Regional Office to discuss the feasibility of Anchorage hosting these Games. Their findings were that Anchorage does have the facilities to host these Games. They are going to do a final site inspection this summer, July 2003, following the Wheelchair Games in Long Beach, California.

Dates-

Currently looking at July 2-7, 2006.

Hotels-

“Hotel Facilities to include at least 600 rooms that can reasonably be made accessible for wheelchairs. Accessibility refers to entrance into the hotel, number of elevators, door widths, size of lobby/registration area and width of hallways. In addition, 250 rooms are needed for sponsors, officials, and VIP’s.”

The hotels in Anchorage have tentatively committed 900 rooms. This includes the five largest downtown properties and does not include the many other hotels in and around the downtown Anchorage area.

Transportation-

Currently working with the Anchorage School District and First Student.

**NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
JULY 2006**

EVENT	VENUE(S)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Track:	Sullivan Arena/Mulcahy Stadium/Kosinski Fields	8 lane certified track
	East High School	8 lane certified track
Swimming:	Bartlett High School Pool	Olympic size 50 meter
Basketball, Quad Rugby:	Sullivan Arena/Mulcahy Stadium/Kosinski Fields	3 Courts
	University of Alaska Anchorage	1 Court
Bowling:	AMF East 40 Lanes	40 lanes
	Polar Bowl	40 lanes
	Park Lanes	34 lanes
	Center Bowl	30 lanes
	Jewel Lake Bowling Center	26 lanes
Field Events:	Sullivan Arena/Mulcahy Stadium/Kosinski Fields	
Slalom, Table Tennis, Weightlifting,	Egan Center/Sullivan Arena	
Opening/Closing Ceremonies	Egan Center/Sullivan Arena	
Exposition and Registration:	Egan Center	
Archery:	Sullivan Arena/Mulcahy Stadium/Kosinski Fields	
Nine Ball:	Hawallan Brian's	20 tables
	Anchorage Billiard Palace	16 tables
	Minnesota Billiards	15 tables
	Runarack Billiards	14 tables
Banquet facilities:	Egan Center/Sullivan Arena	



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Alaska Healthcare System and Regional Office
2925 DeBarr Road
Anchorage AK 99508-2989

December 16, 2002

In Reply Refer To: 463/135

Chair, Bid and Site Selection Committee (11K)
Attention: Mr. Tom Brown
Department of Veterans Affairs
South Texas Veterans Healthcare System
7400 Merton Minter Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78229

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is my pleasure to fully support the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office (AVAHSRO) as the host site for the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

We look forward to working with your office and the Paralyzed Veterans of America in making 2006 the best in the history of the games.

The AVAS'RO appreciates this opportunity and hopes you will select our facility and region for the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Please find enclosed our bid package for this event.

Sincerely,

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

Alex Spector
Director

Enclosure



Municipality of Anchorage

Office of the Mayor

George P. Wuerch, Mayor



December 9, 2002

Ms. Julie Dodds
National Sales Manager
Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau
524 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501-2212

Dear Ms. Dodds,

On behalf of the Municipality of Anchorage, I am pleased to support the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau's bid to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July 2006.

From numerous experiences, be assured that the community is very capable of hosting such an event, and doing so in a way that makes it a most memorable for participants and visitors.

We understand the commitment required to host a major event such as this. Capable organizers and countless volunteers have proven time and again that they are up to the challenge, and hopefully we will get the chance to do so again.

Good luck with your bid to host a successful National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

George Wuerch
Mayor



Anchorage School District

4600 DeBarr Road
P.O. Box 196614
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614
(907) 742-4000

SCHOOL BOARD

Jake Metcalfe
President

Tim Steele
Vice President

Mary Marks
Clerk

Harriet A. Drummond
Treasurer

Rita Holthouse

Debbie Osslander

John Steiner

SUPERINTENDENT

Carol Comeau

December 6, 2002

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have been asked to write a letter of support for the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to be held in July 2006. The idea of the games coming to Anchorage is very exciting, and I certainly support the Convention & Visitors Bureau in their endeavor to bid for this event.

When individuals from the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) were in Anchorage to do a site inspection to see if Anchorage had the facilities to host this event, they were able to meet with District representatives to discuss transportation, facilities, and rentals issues. Steve Kalmes, Director of ASD Transportation, and Sharon Schoonmaker, Rentals Manager, were very supportive and agreed to further discussions once Anchorage is awarded the bid.

Anchorage recently hosted the 2001 Winter Special Olympic World Games, which many of our students participated in and supported. It was a great benefit to them and we see this event as another inspirational and educational opportunity for our 50,000 students.

I encourage you to consider Anchorage as the site of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July 2006.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

December 3, 2002

Mr. Tom Brown
 Director
 National Wheelchair Games
 South Texas Veterans Health Care System
 7400 Merton Minter Blvd.
 San Antonio TX 78284



ANCHORAGE
 Convention &
 Visitors Bureau

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau is extending a warm invitation to you and the participants of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to come to Anchorage in July of 2006.

We are excited about the possibility of hosting your distinguished group. Anchorage is a fabulous destination that offers not only first-class accommodations and meeting facilities, but also excellent airline service from the "Lower 48."

The possibilities to experience, in conjunction with a conference, some of Alaska's famous attractions and activities are endless: glaciers, mountains, wildlife, Native art, day cruises, fishing and flightseeing options are waiting for you.

When the participants of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games come to Anchorage, they will experience the warm hospitality that Alaskans offer their visitors. For many delegates, attending a meeting in our city is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit America's Last Frontier, a dream for many in the nation!

I offer you the full assistance of the ACVB and its staff to making your convention a most memorable and successful event.

We look forward to greeting you in Anchorage for one of your most enjoyable conferences!

Sincerely,

Bruce Bustamante
 President & CEO

524 W. Fourth Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska
 907-501-2212

907-276-4188
 Fax 907-276-4359

www.anchorage.net
 E-mail: info@anchorage.net

December 12, 2002

Mr. Tom Brown
Director
National Wheelchair Games
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78284



Dear Tom:

I am most delighted to hear of your positive interest in Anchorage as a site for the 2006 National Wheelchair Games. It was a pleasure to have met you when you were up last. Being the Chief Operating Officer of the Special Olympics World Winter Games, (held in Anchorage in March of 2001), talking with you brought back many exciting and fond memories. The thought of Anchorage being given *another* opportunity to host a world-class sporting event, such as this, is unbelievable.

As you might remember from our conversation, the World Games hosted over 6000 people from nearly 80 nations. Typical to Alaskan's frontier spirit, we had over 6000 volunteers with 2000 on the waiting list. Those 2000 excess volunteers initiated a new "Spectator Team" program that I could easily see taking off at the National Wheelchair Games. Adopting a country or team approach became the task for these spectator teams leaving everyone involved with "home town" cheering squads. You would not believe the roar of the crowds as you entered each of the sporting venues around the city.

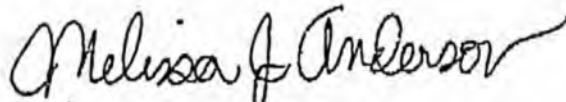
As one person, so profoundly wrote after the Games, "Take time to contact a friend or colleague who might have been in Anchorage during the Games. You will hear about the 'sense of place' projected by this city and felt by participants. You will hear about the winter beauty of the surrounding mountains and sea. You will hear descriptions of Alaska and Alaskans which convey 21st Century diversity with 19th Century friendliness, openness, and happiness - and about a city which is large enough to throw a world class party, yet small enough to still get excited about having out of town guests."

Anchorage's huge success with the World Games should make it clear of our cities capacity and readiness to host another world-class event - the National Wheelchair Games.

Sign me up! Sign up nearly 6000 other volunteers. There is no doubt that you will be warmed by the Alaskan Spirit and amazed by the time and energy Alaskan's will give the National Wheelchair Games.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the World Games and any of the programs that were initiated (such as the Spectator Teams or the Educational programs) because of the Games. I could talk about them for hours.

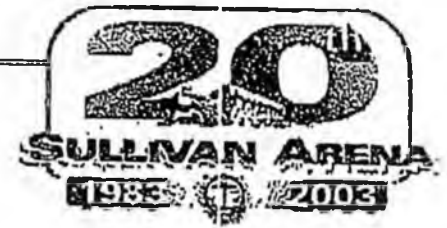
Sincerely,



Melissa J. Anderson
2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer
melissa@alaskadestinations.com
907-244-0504

December 10, 2002


George M. Sullivan Sports Arena



Julie Dodds
National Sales Manager
Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau
524 W. Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501-2212

Dear Ms. Dodds,

Sullivan Arena and Ben Boeke Ice Arena are excited about the possibility for Anchorage to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July 2006!

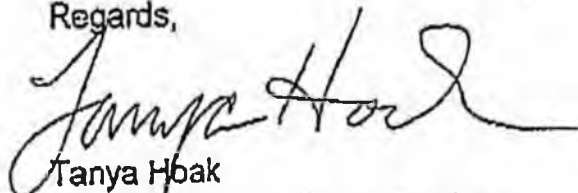
As official venues of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2001 Special Olympic World Winter Games, Sullivan Arena and Ben Boeke Ice Arena have proven to be ideal facilities for events of substantial size and importance.

SMG of Alaska, Inc. Sullivan Arena, and Ben Boeke Ice Arena embrace this opportunity, and welcomes the Wheelchair Games to our great city.

Please let me know if we can assist you with your bidding process.

Thank you.

Regards,


Tanya Hoak
Director of Sales and Marketing
SMG of Alaska, Inc.



2002



Private Management for Public Facilities

SMG of Alaska Inc.

William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center

November 26, 2002

Mr. Tom Brown
Director
National Wheelchair Games
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78284

Dear Mr. Brown:

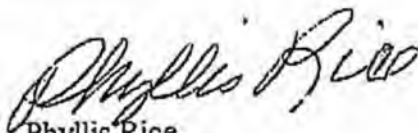
Thank you for your interest in the Egan Center! We are pleased to be considered as the location for the 2006 National Wheelchair Games tentatively scheduled for July 2-7, 2005. Alternate date of July 9-15, 2006.

The William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center is very versatile in configuration and our staff takes the extra effort to ensure your event is a success. Our facility is fully A.D.A. compliant; with power assist doors to lobby and elevator access to all floors. Our Executive Chef Richard Hubbard is one of only six Certified Executive Chefs in Alaska. In all departments our friendly, professional staff strive to surpass the expectations of our guests.

We are centrally located near all the major downtown hotels, shopping and restaurants. There are three parking garages combined with on street parking providing 3000 spaces within a three-block radius and parking can be arranged for your attendees. The cost to your participants is \$2.50 for all day parking when arranged in advance. Our meeting rooms are spacious making your attendees very comfortable and we have a large pre-function space available for your use for exhibits, coat check or registration.

If I can be of any assistance or if you have any questions please call, my direct line is 907-263-2848 and my email address is phyllis@egancenter.com. Our website is www.egancenter.com.

Sincerely,


Phyllis Rice
Event Coordinator

cc: Julie Dodds, ACVB