

HB

277

Karen Sawyer

From: Blunt, Richard M. BG [BluntR@korea.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2005 11:58 AM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gene Therriault
Cc: craig.cambell@ak.ngb.army.mil; john_cramer@ak-prepared.com; roger_schnell@ak-prepareu.com
Subject: SB-176/HB-277

Gentlemen,

I am taking this opportunity to convey my concerns regarding SB-176 and its companion HB-277 on naming the ARNG/University of Alaska Southeast Joint Use Facility in honor of Charles Gamble Jr. and Donald Sperl.

It is not my intent to diminish these individuals or their families' sacrifice, nor diminish the debt that Alaska and the United States owe to their memories. However, I am concerned about naming an Alaska National Guard facility in their memory as they had not served in the Alaska National Guard. Perhaps we should defer naming this facility for anyone at this time. As you are well aware we have entered a new era, an era where we have deployments of National Guard personnel in support of combat operations throughout the world. Such areas as Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and the Horn of Africa. Unfortunately, with these deployments comes the risk of casualties and as we see almost daily these casualties include the men and women of the National Guard. Perhaps it might be prudent to defer naming this facility for now. Might it not be better to wait until all of our Alaska National Guard personnel return from current and future deployments and combat operations.

Perhaps it might be fitting to honor the memories of Mr. Gamble and Mr. Sperl in a manner similar to that used to honor James Bondsteel.

I appreciate your consideration of not only this manner, but your service to our State.

Respectfully,

RICHARD M. BLUNT
Brigadier General, AK ARNG
Assistant Deputy Combined Rear Area Coordinator
Combined Forces Command (ROK/US)
Daegu, South Korea



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

**HEADQUARTERS, ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
P.O. BOX 5800, CAMP DENALI
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5800**

June 19, 2002

Adjutant General

Alaska Senator Kim Elton
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Elton:

I recently received your letter concerning the request to honor the memory of long time Juneau residents Don Sperl and Charles Gambell Jr. in the naming of the new Juneau Armory.

A nominating committee will be formed in the near future and I will forward your request for consideration. Thank you for your input and we look forward to supporting the people of Juneau.

If I may be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me or my Director of Facility Management, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Schreiber at (907) 428-6750, or by email at: craig.schreiber@ak.ngb.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phillip E. Oates", is positioned above the typed name.

PHILLIP E. OATES
Major General, AKNG
The Adjutant General

HOUSE BILL NO. 277

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KERITULA, Thomas

Introduced: 4/19/05

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act naming the Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility in Juneau."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 35.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 35.40.195. Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility.** The
5 joint use student recreation center and National Guard readiness center built for the
6 University of Alaska Southeast and the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
7 at Juneau is named the Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility.

Presented by: Assembly
Introduced: 04/11/2005
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2306

**A Resolution Requesting that the Army National Guard Name
the New National Guard Readiness Center After Donald W.
Sperl and Charles F. Gamble, Jr.**

WHEREAS, Juneau-Douglas High School graduates Donald W. Sperl and Charles F. Gamble, Jr., died serving our country in the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, both of these two Juneau residents are listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, and are the only two soldiers listed from Juneau, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army National Guard and the University of Alaska Southeast are building a joint UAS Student Recreation Center and Alaska Army National Guard Readiness Center in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard will have to name the new "Readiness Center" facility; and

WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to name the new facility after these two young men who gave their lives for their country.

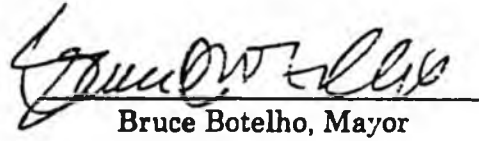
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau respectfully requests that the U.S. Army National Guard name the new Alaska Army National Guard Readiness Center in honor of these two Juneau men, Donald W. Sperl and Charles F. Gamble, Jr.

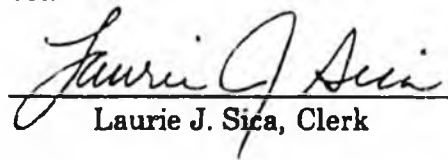
Section 2. Copies of Resolution 2306 shall be provided to the University of Alaska Southeast and the Alaska Army National Guard.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 11th day of April, 2005.


Bruce Botelho, Mayor

Attest:


Laurie J. Sica, Clerk

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2001

Source
SJR 27

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
28



Relating to an Alaska National Guard Armory in Juneau.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Alaska National Guard has maintained armories across the state of Alaska since 1959; and

WHEREAS the Alaska National Guard protects the people and infrastructure of our state, with 84 armories and readiness centers that provide rapid access to all areas of the state; and

WHEREAS the steep mountains, deep waters, open oceans, and inland channels of the southeast area of Alaska create a challenging environment for emergency management, making it essential that emergency workers understand the climate, culture, and coordinates of the area; and

WHEREAS the persons serving in the Alaska National Guard in the southeast area of Alaska are neighbors, coworkers, and friends who dedicate many hours of their busy lives to perfecting their military and emergency readiness skills; and

WHEREAS Juneau was the first Alaska city to have a National Guard unit, and the Alaska National Guard's main armory in the southeast area of Alaska has been located in Juneau since the current armory was constructed in 1960; and

WHEREAS the Alaska National Guard armory in Juneau provides the only battalion headquarters for all of the southeast area of Alaska; and

WHEREAS having a Juneau armory greatly improves the Alaska National Guard's ability to recruit and retain personnel in the state's third largest and capital city; and

WHEREAS the Alaska National Guard armory in Juneau is now located on property owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and the City and Borough of Juneau and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority have worked together to provide a new site for a National Guard readiness center; and

WHEREAS the National Guard is also considering constructing a joint facility with the University of Alaska Southeast, and the facility would improve the capacity of both the Alaska National Guard and the University of Alaska Southeast to fulfill their missions in a manner that is cost-efficient for both;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports building a new Alaska National Guard Armory in Juneau and calls on the National Guard Bureau to make the project a high priority; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the United States Congress to make appropriations to fund a new armory in Juneau, in keeping with the national interest.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defense; General Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff; Lieutenant General Russell C. Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Major General Roger C. Schultz, Director, Army National Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Paula Cadiente

From: Lindegaards [Dock3050@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2005 12:33 PM
To: Sen. Kim Elton
Subject: Naming the new armory here in Juneau

Dear Senator Elton,

Eric and I are both in favor of honoring Charles Gamble and Don Sperl, by naming the the National Guard Armory after our two Vietnam War heroes. Don and Charlie are our hometown boys, and gave their lives for our service, our freedom, and the embetterment of Vietnam. They honored their families, and their whole community. We would like to return that honor, by not forgetting them, and the values for which they stood. Please represent our wishes to name the new National Guard Armory, the Sperl-Gamble Armory.

Sincerely yours, Bunny & Eric Lindegaard

Aurora Hauke

From: Arlene Crumrine [arlenec@alaska.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2005 2:25 PM
To: Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch; Sen. Kim Elton; Rep. Beth Kerttula
Subject: Sperr-Gamble Center

Dear Bruce, Kim and Beth:

As chairperson of the Juneau-Douglas 40th class reunion (this year), I would like to ask you support to help get the new National Guard Armory named for two of our classmates who died in Viet Nam. Both of them died shortly out of high school. Don was in our class and Chuck was a good friend. All of us who have lost loved ones, either by war or some other senseless tragedy, would love to have their names on a building. (Obviously I can't do that for my grandson but we did get his name up by the crossing where he was killed.) Again, I ask for your support in helping us with this project.

Thank you,
Arlene Crumrine

Proclamation

Whereas, This nation is kept strong and free by the loyal citizens who preserve our precious American heritage through their positive patriotic declarations and actions, and

Whereas, All loyal citizens should make it their duty to inspire complete patriotism among all of our peoples, and

Whereas, We urgently need a vigorous display of true red, white and blue Americanism, thus convincing friends and foe alike that our nation is firmly united for self preservation, now

Therefore, I (name of official and title), of the City/State of (name of state), hereby concur with the Congress and President of the United States in designating the first day of May as Loyalty Day, celebrated annually by for over fifty years throughout the nation, and I urge every individual, school, church, organization, business establishment and household within my official jurisdiction to publicly reaffirm their strong allegiance to our Flag and Country through active participation in patriotic programs being sponsored and recognize the start of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week," May 1-7, beginning on this Loyalty Day, May 1, 2005.



Official



Veterans of Foreign Wars
NEWS RELEASE

Contact Information

Name: _____
Phone: _____

For Immediate Release

Community invited to
VFW Recognize Vietnam Veterans Event

Date: _____
VFW Post: _____

announced today that a Recognize Vietnam Veterans event will be held at _____ on Loyalty Day, May 1, at _____.

A spokesperson from the VFW said this event is one of hundreds that will be held this week by VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW members nationwide and overseas as part of VFW's Vietnam Veterans Recognition week, May 1-7, 2005.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the VFW to let our communities know that our Vietnam Veterans continue to serve our country and will continue to make the VFW the nation's leading veterans organization," said _____.

-30-

Editorial

(Send this to your media two weeks in advance of the kick off.)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is designating May 1-7, 2005, as Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week.

More than 3,403,000 American military personnel served in Vietnam, and in Southeast Asia during the war. The service of our armed forces reflected the true dedication they held to America, to freedom and to human rights. Vietnam veterans will tell you they fought for one reason: freedom.

Vietnam veterans often bore the brunt of a nation angry and divided by the war. Despite being treated with disrespect and detention upon returning home, and slighted by a nation that appreciated victory more than honorable service, Vietnam veterans proudly knew they fought the good fight, and their cause was a just one.

Vietnam veterans can be proud of their legacy, especially the vow they made to ensure that future generations of veterans will always receive the assistance and appreciation they earned.

Notwithstanding the stereotype sometimes depicted by Hollywood and in the media, the majority of those who served in Vietnam returned home and put the war behind them. Some became doctors or lawyers. Some became teachers or social workers. Some chose to run for political office. All in all, they made a decision to make a difference, to do what they could to make the world better.

The contributions Vietnam veterans have made to America and to society are endless. They deserve nothing but respect and admiration for their dedication to service and country.

SPEECH

(Greeting/Salutation)

For many long years, from February 20, 1961 to May 7, 1975, members of our armed forces fought on behalf of the South Vietnamese people.

Today, we have the opportunity to not only pause and reflect, but to remember and honor the memory of the more 58,000 men and women who gave so much — the ultimate sacrifice for freedom's sake.

During VFW's Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week, we also need to use this occasion to honor and remember the more than 3,403,000 military personnel who served in the republic of South Vietnam or elsewhere in Southeast Asia in support of the U.S. military operations in Vietnam.

Because of the actions of Vietnam veterans, the flame of freedom burns brighter today than ever before throughout the world. The tradition of service demonstrated by those who served during the Vietnam War provides lasting testimony to the indomitable and tenacious spirit that resides in the heart of our Vietnam veterans.

Vietnam War veterans were everyday people made extraordinary by events beyond their control. They did their duty not out of bravado or boldness, but out of a sense of duty and because they had a deep and abiding love for their country. Quite simply, they believed in the promise of the American dream and the essential goodness of America.

Vietnam veterans fought to preserve democracy and freedom, not just here in America, but for all freedom-loving people around the world. The freedom and prosperity we enjoy today is in large part, guaranteed by all of those who served so honorably in Vietnam.

All of us need to be forever thankful to all of them for their unselfish devotion and for their courageous willingness to put their life at risk.

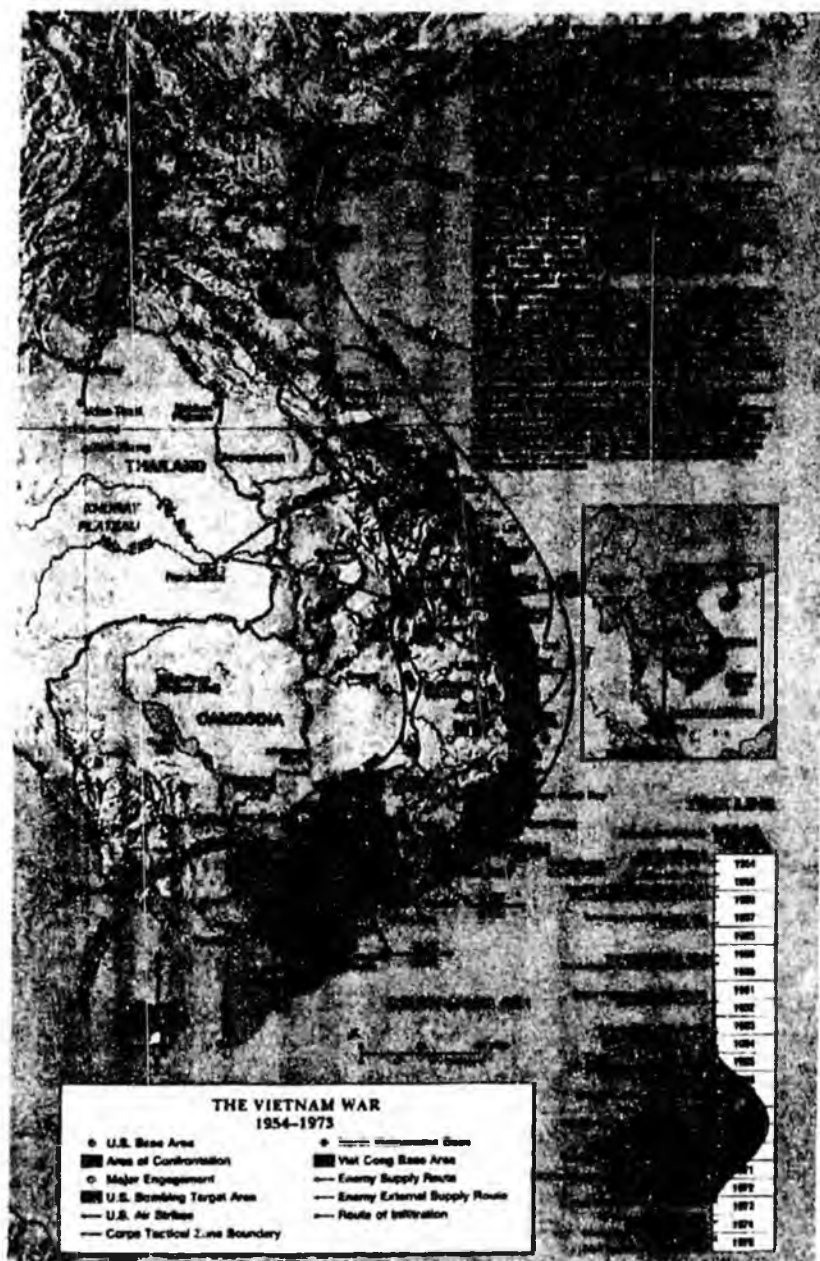
We honor them because we appreciate what they have given us. Without their contributions the world would be a much different place... a darker place. Our Vietnam veterans performed the highest form of public service. They are one of the reasons we stand apart from the rest of the world as a nation. When it all came down to it, they stood strong, and when it was needed, they answered the challenge.

Vietnam veterans are worthy of every praise, monument and memorial that we could offer. But the best way to honor the Vietnam veteran is to help them honor the vow they made to ensure that every new generation of veterans are appreciated and receive the dignity and respect they have earned: to see to it that every veteran receives the benefits and entitlements they deserve is one way of maintaining a link to the thousands of men and women who helped to secure so many blessings for us.

At this time, I would invite all Vietnam veterans in the audience to please stand or raise your hand to be recognized. (Start clapping when the veterans rise.)

The most generous honor we could bestow to the Vietnam veteran is to use the many opportunities that are afforded us to rededicate ourselves to our country, to America's veterans and to their families.

It is time for the nation to give our Vietnam Veterans their due and thank them for their noble efforts and achievements.



Map courtesy of the West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy



Vietnam Warriors

A Statistical Profile

Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports concerning veterans.

IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY

- Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.
- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
- 8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964 - March 28, 1973).
- 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973).
- Of the 2.6 million, between 1 and 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. 15% were in combat units.
- Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

CASUALTIES

- Hostile deaths: 47,418.
- Non-hostile deaths: 10,811.
- Total: 58,229 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and *Mayaguez* casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
- 8 nurses died — 1 was KIA.
- Married men killed: 17,539.
- 61% of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.
- Highest state death rate: West Virginia — 84.1 per 100,000 males (national average in 1970: 58.9).
- Wounded: 303,704 — 153,329 hospital-

- ized + 150,375 injured who require no hospital care.
- Severely disabled: 75,000 — 23,214 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.
- Missing in Action: 2,338 (at war's end).
- Prisoners of War: 766 (114 died in captivity).

DRAFTED VS. VOLUNTEERS

- 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members in WWII were drafted.)
- Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.
- Reservists killed: 5,977.
- National Guard: 9,000 served; 22 KIA.

RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND

- 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.
- 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian; 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.
- 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.
- 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.
- 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.
- 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.
- Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the

- percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.
- Religion of dead: Protestant — 64.4%; Catholic — 28.9%; other/none — 6.7%.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

- 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.
- Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle-income backgrounds.
- Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.
- 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation.)

WINNING & LOSING

- 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.
- Nearly 75% of the general public agrees that it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

AGE & HONORABLE SERVICE

- Average age of the Vietnam War GI: 19 (26 for WWII).
- 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.

PROUD IN SERVICE

- 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.
- 66% of Vietnam vets say they would serve again if called upon (polled in the 1980s).
- 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

Compiled by VFW magazine. Please copy and distribute to educators.
www.vfw.org



THE OFFICIAL SITE OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week

VFW Posts worldwide will host Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week May 1-7, 2005. An array of activities are planned during the week to recognize Vietnam veterans and their families. For ideas and helpful hints in organizing your event, click on the links at right.

Related Links:

- > [Vietnam Veteran Week Brochure](#)
- > [Vietnam Veteran Certificate \(Blank\)](#)
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Veterans H

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Orange

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REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us webpage: www.akreblicans.org/thomas/

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

MEMORANDUM

Date: 5-03-05

To: Senator Therriault, Chair Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Thomas 

Re: HB 277 An Act naming the Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility in Juneau.

I respectfully request that HB 277 be scheduled for a hearing at your earliest convenience.

HB 277 will name the joint use student recreation center and National Guard readiness center built for the University of Alaska Southeast and the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in Juneau the Charles Gamble Jr. - Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact my office.