



PHOTOS: OREGON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (OCZMA)



Clockwise from left: Wilbur TERNYIK (left) with Oregon Gov. Tom McCall in the '70s; TERNYIK with past Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield; TERNYIK next to his likeness in the form of a bronze statue created in his honor.



SIUSLAW NEWS/FILE PHOTO

Legacy from 1A

OCCDC spent four years developing management guidelines for a wide array of ocean and water related ecosystems, ultimately passing laws addressing difficult issues, due in large part to TERNYIK's gravitas.

TERNYIK was selected to head the group that eventually consisted of public officials, environmental advocates and representatives of the business community.

He was a forceful presence on the committee, and his extensive knowledge and experiences working in the field were persuasive and often formed the basis for the group's policies.

Many of the protocols suggested by the group were adopted, with many still in use,

and currently overseen by the OCCDC.

In the 1980s, TERNYIK was employed by the federal government to teach marsh and wetland restoration techniques to individuals working in state and federal agencies, sharing his wisdom and passion.

He and his wife Joyce were married in 1962, raised five children and worked together on many of TERNYIK's projects. The couple spent their retirement years working with state officials to rehabilitate injured wildlife, fostering and caring for a menagerie at their home.

During his work on the OCCDC, TERNYIK became a close friend and confidant to U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield and the two maintained a friendship until Hatfield's passing in 2011.

TERNYIK shared his observations and techniques for beach

restoration with the public in 1979, with the release of his book, "Beach and Dune Implementation Techniques," which is widely regarded as a primer in the field of beach restoration.

TERNYIK also served the City of Florence with distinction in a number of important capacities over a 30 year period.

He served on the city council for 16 years and on the Port of Siuslaw Commission for 29 years. He also served twice as mayor, first from 1985 to 1988 and then from 1991 to 1992.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry, now in his second term, regrets that he did not get to know his predecessor better.

"In reading about this incredible man, it strikes me that too often the accomplishments of those in the past go unnoticed until they depart this earth. I for one had no idea of

the history and accomplishments of this man and I am humbled," Henry said. "I think that it serves as a reminder to all of us that regardless of how much we are accomplishing today, we need to look to the past and remember people like Wilbur who have helped Florence to become Oregon's premier coastal community."

In 1971, TERNYIK was honored with the distinction of becoming the Florence First Citizen. He also later served on the Lane Council of Governments and with the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association.

Roblan said he fondly remembered the manner in which TERNYIK conducted himself on a personal level, appreciating the colorful man's ability to listen to others and still figure out a way to come to a common solution.

"Wilbur was a gentleman and a scholar that helped establish our coastal environmental practices, which became a model for the rest of the world," Roblan said. "Additionally, he had a unique ability to bring people together, to find common ground."

"Wilbur was a great man who will be missed by many of us that were fortunate enough to work with him."

Roblan gave a tribute to TERNYIK's work in 2009 in the Oregon House of Representatives, saying, "He has been an integral part of the City of Florence. ... I just want people to recognize his ability to bring people together, especially the coastal communities."

People can view the brief video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jBBJ9ooq6s.

The Siuslaw Pioneer

Museum in Florence has an extensive collection of Wilbur's correspondence, photographs and a bronze bust that captures TERNYIK's spirit and fire. It was sculpted by Lorenzo E. Ghiglieri with a pedestal by Rainy Arago and dedicated May 27, 2006.

The sculpture shows TERNYIK from the waist up in his buckskin jacket and holding his combination tomahawk and peace pipe.

Public services for TERNYIK will be held at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., on Sunday, April 29, at 1 p.m.

According to Rosie Shatkin, Legislative Policy Advisor to Roblan, the senator plans to sponsor a legislative memorial honoring TERNYIK's service, which could be the naming of a highway.

This message brought to you by these sponsors:

- City Lights Cinemas**
1930 Hwy 101, Florence
541-305-0014
- Craig Drafting & Design**
P.O. Box 2018, Florence
541-997-6926 • Cell 541-999-8804
- Pacific Frameworks**
2420 Hwy 101, Florence
541-997-1138
- Oregon Coast Magazine**
541-997-8401
- Kiwanis Club of Florence**
florencekiwanis.org
- Goodman's Floor Covering**
394 Kingwood Street, Florence
541-997-1080
- Coast Insurance**
777 Maple Street, Florence
541-997-3455

FRIENDS HELP CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The Friends will be having a **Library Book Sale**

Tuesday, April 10th & Wednesday, April 11th

- Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County**
1501 Airport Rd., Florence
541-902-0304
- Hunt Family Dentistry**
950 9th St., Florence
541-997-7181
- Port Hole Books**
179 Laurel Street, Florence
541-902-9091
- Ray Wells Inc**
1770 Laurel Place, Florence
541-997-2054
- Chad Clement, DDS, P.C.**
1256 Bay Street, Florence
541-997-3423
- Terrace Homes**
2825 Highway 101, Florence
541-997-3144
- Siuslaw News**
148 Maple Street, Florence
thesiuslawnews.com • 541-997-3441