

Media Advisory – Oct. 16, 2009

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

County names new road after artist Bernie Webber

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other county and local officials gathered Friday to commemorate a new road at Paine Field Airport after the late Snohomish County artist Bernie Webber.

Webber is best known for his iconic and world renowned watercolors, many featuring Snohomish County leaders and landmarks such as Paine Field, which is operated by Snohomish County. But Webber also was an aviation enthusiast and once served as one of the airport's commissioners.

“Webber left his mark on the hearts of Snohomish County residents, including those that utilize Paine Field,” Reardon said. “It’s fitting that this new road be named in his honor.”

The new road, which connects to the Mukilteo Speedway at the Chennault Beach Road traffic signal, is located on the west side of Paine Field and has been named Bernie Webber Drive.

“Webber painted so much of this county that it’s hard not to think of his artwork when visiting Paine Field or places such as the Mukilteo Lighthouse,” said Dave Waggoner, Paine Field’s manager.

Webber was born in 1923 and grew up in Everett. For decades, he worked as a commercial artist in downtown Everett. In 1993, however, Webber began operating a fine arts studio, working with many of the county’s corporations, nonprofits and government agencies, while documenting the growth and changes occurring throughout Snohomish County.

He was named Artist of the Year in 2004 by the Arts Council of Snohomish County, and most recently, a new scholarship, the *Bernie Webber Scholarship Endowment Fund*, was established by the Rotary Club of Everett, of which Webber was a member for 53 years. The scholarship will be offered to students who plan to pursue a career in art.

Webber died in 2006, but his murals and artwork, including his pieces on Paine Field are still available and able to be viewed. For more information on Webber and his connection to the county, go to www.paineairport.com/bwebber.html.

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