

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

FOR RELEASE: April 17, 2013

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**Governor Signs Bill Naming State Justice Building
for former Attorney General Joe Mazurek**

HELENA – Governor Steve Bullock this morning joined the family of former attorney general Joe Mazurek, First Lady Lisa Bullock, Attorney General Tim Fox, and many of Mazurek’s friends and former co-workers for the signing of Senate Bill 258.

Bullock ran Mazurek’s campaign for attorney general in 1992, and worked for Mazurek at the Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general and later as his acting chief deputy.

“I am incredibly honored to sign SB 258 renaming the Justice Building the Joe Mazurek Building and authorizing a fountain at the front of the building,” the Governor said. “This will be a fitting tribute to Joe – to his dedication, his high ethical standards and his boundless enthusiasm for life and for serving the people and the state he loved.”

The bill authorizes the installation of a three-level water feature and artwork commemorating Mazurek in the garden area next to the stairs on the southwest side of the building’s main entrance. The water feature and artwork, including installation and maintenance, will be privately funded.

“Put simply, I requested this legislation because Joe Mazurek was a model statesman,” Attorney General Tim Fox said. “When he passed away last year, I lost a friend and mentor, and Montana’s civic life lost a treasure beyond comparison. Governor Bullock and our state legislators have my gratitude and deserve the thanks of all Montanans for giving Joe and his family this special honor.”

First Lady Lisa Bullock will lead the fundraising effort. The Helena Rotary, where Mazurek was a long-time member, has agreed to undertake the accounting for the fundraising group. Anyone wishing to contribute to the memorial can send a donation to:

Joe Mazurek Memorial Fund

Helena Rotary Foundation

PO Box 333

Helena, MT 59604

Checks should be made payable to the “Joe Mazurek Memorial Fund” and donations are tax deductible.

“On behalf of the entire Mazurek family, we would like to express our gratitude for this great honor. My dad was an inspiration to all of us and we are extremely proud that his legacy will continue with the naming of the building that meant so much to him,” Tom Mazurek said on behalf of his mother, Patty, his two brothers and their families. “We would also like to thank everyone who helped to make this dream a reality.”

The bill was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Art Wittich, and carried in the House by Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh, who began his career in public service at Justice under Mazurek. The measure passed both houses of the legislature with near unanimous, bi-partisan support.

Joseph P. Mazurek served 12 years in the Montana Senate, from 1981 to 1992, during which time he was elected Senate President. He then served eight years as Montana’s Attorney General, from 1993 to 2000. As Attorney General, he helped bring about a peaceful end to the Freeman standoff and worked tirelessly to end youth violence in Montana. He was widely recognized for his commitment to bringing opposing parties together and for his deeply held belief that it was an honor to serve the people of Montana.

Mazurek died of Alzheimer’s in August 2012.

The state Justice Building at 215 North Sanders in Helena houses the Montana Supreme Court, the Attorney General’s Office and the State Law Library.

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