



*For further information...*

The Bridges Foundation: [www.thebridgesfoundation.info](http://www.thebridgesfoundation.info)

Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe: [www.clatsop-nehalem.com](http://www.clatsop-nehalem.com)

North Coast Land Conservancy: [www.nclctrust.org](http://www.nclctrust.org)

Gateway to Discovery: [www.nclctrust.org/gateway.html](http://www.nclctrust.org/gateway.html)

Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association: [www.oczma.org](http://www.oczma.org)



## —WILBUR E. TERNYIK BIOGRAPHY—

### *PERSONAL BACKGROUND:*

Born in Astoria, Ore., Jan. 26, 1926. Graduate of Warrenton High School. Married to Joyce Ann Miller in 1962. They raised five children together. Wilbur has been a resident of Florence, Oregon since 1947.

Ternyik's family lineage goes back to Solomon Smith, a pioneer who came to Oregon from Boston in 1832, and his wife Celiast (also known as Helen), the daughter of Chief Coboway of the Clatsop Indian Tribe. Coboway and his tribe provided invaluable assistance to the Lewis and Clark Expedition while they were camped at Fort Clatsop in the winter of 1805-1806. When Lewis and Clark left Oregon, they gave their fort on the Columbia River to Coboway. The Smiths settled in the Clatsop Plains where they worked as missionaries and operated the first public school in what is now Clatsop County. Smith was one of the pioneer leaders who participated in an 1843 meeting in Champoeg that led to Oregon statehood. He later became an Oregon state senator. Ternyik remains proud of his Clatsop Indian ancestry, is a keen student of Indian history, and has an extensive collection of Indian artifacts.

### *MILITARY SERVICE:*

Joined the United States Marine Corps in 1944. Wounded in the leg by machine gun fire May 10, 1945 in a battle on the island of Okinawa. Received Purple Heart award. Spent eight months in hospitals before being honorably discharged.

### *PROFESSIONAL CAREER:*

As a young man, Wilbur worked more than a decade with the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service learning about plants and how to use them for erosion control and dunes stabilization work. He started his own dunes stabilization business, Wave Beach Grass Nursery, in 1953. During the past half century, he has developed an international reputation as an expert in not only dunes stabilization and erosion control, but as an expert in the delineation, restoration and creation of wetlands and marshes. Has been involved in federal wetlands research projects on the Columbia River and has been employed by the U.S. government to teach wetlands and marsh restoration techniques to natural resource agency personnel.

### *COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ROLE:*

Wilbur was the driving force, along with former Gov. Tom McCall, in a coast wide effort to persuade the Oregon Legislature to appoint the Oregon Coastal Conservation and Development Commission (OCCDC). This group, established in 1971, spent 4 years developing suggested guidelines for the management of natural resources such as estuaries, beaches, dunes and shorelands along the Oregon Coast with a goal of striking a balance between conservation and development. Ternyik headed the 30-member group made up of coastal public officials, as well

as six governor-appointed members representing statewide environmental interests. The work of OCCDC and similar efforts in other coastal states may have headed off the possibility of federal land use being mandated for the Oregon Coast. OCCDC's work had a major influence on the coastal land-use goals later adopted and now overseen by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission. The early work of Ternyik and the commission helped Oregon gain national recognition as a leader in wise management of coastal resources.

### *OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE:*

Wilbur served sixteen years as member of the Florence City Council and 29 years on the Port of Siuslaw Commission at Florence. He served multiple terms as mayor and port president and made numerous trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby for continued federal support for dredging Oregon coastal ports. He represented his community on the Lane Council of Governments, the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and the Cascade West Economic Development District. Wilbur was recognized as Florence's First Citizen in 1971. He and his wife served for 15 years as volunteer wildlife rehabilitators working with state game officials to rehabilitate a variety of injured wild animals or serving as surrogate mothers for orphaned wildlife. He also assisted with the development of the Oregon Wetlands Mitigation Bank Act and the Tillamook Bay Restoration and Enhancement Program.

## —THE GATEWAY TO DISCOVERY—

The bronze honoring Wilbur E. Ternyik will be located at the Gateway to Discovery overlooking Necanicum estuary. This area has deep cultural and historical significance. Efforts are now underway to build a Coastal Natural History Museum at this location. The bronze will be moved into this new museum which will include natural, historical, archaeological and cultural interpretations unique to this area. The museum will also include a Wilbur E. Ternyik Interpretive Area. The bronze will invite you to enjoy Necanicum estuary—the habitat and fishing grounds used by the Clatsop people. The proposed 20 acre coastal forest will also include scenic vistas, photography viewing stands, observation decks, walking trails, wildlife watching and interpretive materials.

### *Involvement of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe*

The Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe hosts you to this event, honoring one of the most important areas—Neacoxie Creek. This site was revered for its beauty and native salmon and anchovies runs which remains today an awesome experience on the Coast and can be observed each year. To assist with development of the Coastal Natural History Center, The Bridges Foundation has provided \$35,000 to begin interpretive programming describing Clatsop life at this location. Additional funding will be needed to expand this unique possibility to learn more about the Clatsop-Nehalem culture and to present this information within the Center and community.

This site was one of two locations that were to have been “reserved” to the Clatsop Tribe by the United States government through the Tansey Point Treaty, which was not honored. A people, shattered by two outbreaks of smallpox, loss of land and livelihood these noble people survive and want to share the story of their people.

### *Neawanna Point and the North Coast Land Conservancy*

The land at Neawanna Point came as a gift from Robert Barnhart of Texas to be protected by the North Coast Land Conservancy. This land was donated in honor of Reuben Snake, a Winnebago Native American who fought and won religious freedom for his people at the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, a memorial honoring Reuben Snake overlooks Necanicum estuary, and remains a tribute to his fight for religious freedom.

This site was proposed for condominium development. The development sparked controversy within the community. Many community members became involved in finding alternatives to development. Kathleen F. Wysong spearheaded efforts to preserve this community vista. Her memory continues to be recognized by a memorial, designed by reknown artist and daughter Linda Wysong, which is on display.

The critical donation helped to promote the acquisition of an additional 2.5 acres by the Seaside Urban Renewal District—which is the land you are seated on today.

### *North Coast Land Conservancy*

Since 1986, the North Coast Land Conservancy has worked with citizens, agencies and municipalities to preserve some of the richest and most productive natural areas and wildlife habitat in the region. Tax-deductible gifts of land, conservation easements, monetary donations and volunteers are needed to continue this work and to support the capital campaign to build the Coastal Natural History Center and Museum. All gifts are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To learn more about supporting the Wilbur E. Ternyik Interpretive Area, the Coastal Natural History Center or to conserve and protect additional land for its ecological and cultural values, please contact:

## **NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY**

Neal Maine, Executive Director.

P. O Box 566 • Astoria, OR 97103

Ph: 503-738-9126

Email: [nclctrust@theoregonshore.com](mailto:nclctrust@theoregonshore.com)

Web Page: [www.nclctrust.org](http://www.nclctrust.org)

## **Wilbur E. Ternyik Tribute**

**May 27, 2006, Gateway Discovery Center, Seaside,  
Noon-4:00 pm**

Tours of Neawanna Natural History Park and Coastal  
Natural History Center  
Hosted by North Coast Land Conservancy

### **Wilbur E. Ternyik Tribute**

#### *Master of Ceremonies*

Neal Maine, Executive Director, North Coast Land Conservancy

#### *Opening Prayer*

Steve Shane

#### *Welcome*

Ann Richardson, Field Representative for US Congressman David Wu  
Patricia Roberts, Clatsop County Commissioner  
Don Larson, Mayor of Seaside

### *Our Family, Our People, This Land & Hope for the Future*

Dick Basch, American Indian Liaison, National Park Service  
Tribal Member, Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe

#### *Life of Wilbur Ternyik*

Onno Husing, Executive Director  
Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

### *Gateway to Discovery and Coastal Natural History Center*

Ken Ulbright, President, North Coast Land Conservancy  
Diane Collier, Chairperson, Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe

### **Presentation of the Bronze**

Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson  
Lorenzo E. Ghiglieri, Sculptor & Rainy Arago Lehrman, Pedestal  
Jack Bridges, The Bridges Foundation

### *Dedication to the Tribe & Tribal Lands and Passing to the Future*

Wilbur E. Ternyik

### *Native American Food*

—PROJECT SPONSORS—

U. S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield  
Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe  
North Coast Land Conservancy  
Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association  
The Bridges Foundation



“The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from grasping wastrels of the land.”

—From Governor McCall’s Opening Address  
to the 1973 Legislative Assembly

**Bronze Patrons**

Dan Kauffman  
Port of Siuslaw  
Kenso Ariki  
Larry Bacon  
Dick Basch  
Kathy Bridges  
Bill Calder  
Onno Husing  
Takenori Ishikawa  
Bruce & Judy Long  
Art & Jane Moshofsky  
Thomas & Lorena Murray  
Norman D. Price, Jr.  
Sue Roberts  
Arolf Salo  
Seaside Native American Project  
Bud & Jeanette Stevens  
Joyce Ternyik  
Rob Trost  
Gary & Carol Walker  
Roger D. Wallingford  
Georgia York

**Additional Support for Tribute**

Paul Benson  
Davidson Industries, Inc.  
Alyse R. Dettmers  
Gerald W. Frank  
Lester E. Fultz  
Benjamin & Maybelle Lentell  
Port of Nehalem  
Franklin Piacentini  
Richard Sasaki  
Roger M. Van

**Artists**

Lorenzo E. Ghiglieri  
Rainy Lehrman

**Assistance with Tribute**

Barbara Allen  
Mari Bailey  
Jack Bridges  
Becky Carpenter  
Diane Collier  
Jacob Fitzpatrick  
Graphic Ingenuity  
Brenda Hart  
L-CAN Cable Television  
FedEx/Kinko’s  
Florence Events Center  
Senator Betsy Johnson  
Don Larson  
Jennifer Lloyd Catering  
Neal Maine  
McKeown’s  
Doris Penwell  
Don Pretchel  
Ann Richardson  
Patricia Roberts  
Seaside High School  
Shilo Inn  
Strawberry Mountain Photo  
Surfsand Resort  
Sweet Septic Service  
Ken Ulbright  
United Rentals  
Linda Wysong

*Special appreciation is extended to Neal Maine, Executive Director, North Coast Land Conservancy for assisting with this presentation, his work at Necanicum estuary to prepare for this Tribute, and for his continuing work to conserve and protect land in the North Coast of Oregon.*