

Port Townsend Kiwanis

P.O. Box 489, Port Townsend, WA 98368

July 1, 2014
For immediate release

Contact:
Jill Buhler, Kiwanis Mariners' Memorial Publicity
jillb@olympen.com

Finally...A Mariners' Memorial for Port Townsend

Port Townsend, WA --It is hard to believe that a city steeped in maritime history does not have a fitting memorial to sailors who never returned from the sea. Victorian seaport Port Townsend, Washington was such a city, but thanks to the dedicated efforts of a local family and the Kiwanis club, those brave mariners will soon have the recognition they deserve.

The idea of a Mariners' Memorial was conceived by Bernie Arthur, former partner in Skookum Marine, who with his family donated a prominent 100' parcel of downtown shoreline to Port Townsend Kiwanis for the project.

"Port Townsend has a long history of water-related events and this memorial will give a focus to all who went to sea," Arthur explained. "The Kiwanis Mariners' Memorial will commemorate all who were lost at sea, especially in and around Puget Sound."

More than 20 community members gathered at the property for the recent dedication ceremony. Among them were Makah Tribe hereditary Chief Walter McQuillen and his wife, Sarah, who thanked the Arthur family for their donation, saying, "It is an honor to be included in the ceremony. This great man (Arthur) is doing a wonderful thing for the people that go to the water to provide for their family."

Others present included Port Townsend Mayor David King, Jefferson County Commissioner Phil Johnson, members of the maritime trades, Kiwanis and the Arthur family.

Kiwanis has undertaken a fund-raising effort to build the memorial, which will include a bronze sculpture and is estimated to cost \$200,000. Along with monetary donations, Kiwanis is seeking information from people who can add to the history of lost sailors for inclusion in the final project. Those who contribute will be recognized on the memorial.

To contribute to or for information about the project, contact Kiwanis Mariners' Memorial Project chairwoman Melanie Bozak at mabozak@gmail.com, or write to Port Townsend Kiwanis, P.O. Box 489, Port Townsend, WA 98368.