

NONCODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored By: Assemblymember Yundt
Introduced: 04/18/23
Public Hearing: 05/02/23
Adopted: 05/02/23

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 23-037**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY NAMING
STATION 6-1 THE BENNY COTTLE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING.

WHEREAS, Benjamin (Benny) R. Cottle was born on October 15, 1933, to John and Della Cottle from Riddlesburg, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, Benny Cottle moved to Wasilla in the winter of 1948 driving the Alcan with his stepdad Vincent Smith, who they called Pap. Benny; and,

WHEREAS, upon arriving in Alaska, Benny and his brothers Jerry, Rodney, and Richard, lived in the homemade truck camper, building a small cook shed from logs to start their homestead; and,

WHEREAS, Benny worked at Teeland Country Store while in school, making it to the 8th grade before heading out on his own; and,

WHEREAS, Benny married his wife, Marlene, in 1952 and they enjoyed 71 years together; and,

WHEREAS, Benny and Marlene bought 110 acres in Wasilla and built a small home out of stacked railroad ties where they lived with their three children while building their current home; and,

WHEREAS, Benny was an entrepreneur who: commuted to work at the Jonesville coal mine with his truck to deliver coal in the evenings; started the first garbage hauling business in Wasilla; teamed up with his brother Jerry to build Cottles Fuel and Trucking into a successful business; and built the first self-service gas station in Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, over his many years of community involvement, Benny was an active member of Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, Pioneers of Alaska, Elks Club and served as a board member for MEA and MTA; and,

WHEREAS, Benny was one of the original people who started the Wasilla Volunteer Fire Department and was the longest serving member from 1960 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, Benny provided the land that Station 6-5 and Cottonwood Creek Elementary School sits on; and

WHEREAS, Benny helped secure the first new fire apparatus for the city of Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, Benny was instrumental in the creation of the Wasilla Fire Department, Ambulance and later Central Mat-Su Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Benny was involved in the hiring of the first full time fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, during his decades of service, Benny held every position in the fire department at one point; and

WHEREAS, Benny Cottle provided over 60 years of service to the fire department and the citizens of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This Ordinance is a noncode ordinance and is enacted notwithstanding the provisions of MSB 1.51.

Section 2. Dedication and Naming of Facility. In recognition of the service, devotion, and accomplishments of Benjamin (Benny) R. Cottle, the Matanuska-Susitna facility currently known as Station 6-1 is dedicated to the memory of Benny Cottle and named the Benny Cottle Public Safety Building.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 2 day of May, 2023.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Fonov, and Bernier