

Thank you for being here today. We are here to memorialize the legacy of a man that gave 51 years of his life to this community and region. During the late 1950's, a group of men began a journey to protect this beautiful region we call Boothbay Harbor. That's when this all began. Those three men were Norman Hodgdon, John Tourtillotte, and John Arsenault.

In 1959, major legislation took effect, and the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District was born. Once formed, the torch was passed to those three men. These men spun this idea into a concept and spent countless hours gaining public support, meeting with engineers, financiers, and attorneys to transform that concept to this site. Construction of the original facilities began in the early 60's and were operational in 1964 and its environmental impact was immediate. So, here we are today to celebrate the joy and give thanks to that group of men that had the foresight and

diligence to move such an undertaking forward to protect our region for all to enjoy.

As time went by, trustees changed. However, there was one stabilizing factor. That factor was John Arsenault. Jolly was the rudder that steered this ship. And he steered this ship for 51 years. Just think about that. What a huge commitment that went relatively unnoticed by this community.

As times and regulations changed, the plant needed replacing and it was too much on Boothbay Harbor to bear by itself and yet this community is unique because it welcomes, doubles and triples in size, in the summertime so there is a public interest, a statewide interest, so it's absolutely critical to do this. Again, in 1992, Jolly led the charge to acquire financing, engineering, community buy in, and the little plant morphed into the existing

secondary facility that is here today. 23 years later we are embarking on another iteration of this facility.

When I came to work here in 1995 and through the years, Jolly would stop by and chat from time to time and give me what I will call paternal advice. Quite honestly, I think he was checking up on me to make sure I was working and not off playing golf.

One day we were chatting about the importance of this facility to the region and the typical grumbling of the clogged summertime roads. Jolly looked at me and told me “just remember one thing, we can’t have a robust economy, we can’t have robust tourism, without protecting the environment and that’s just a fundamental thing. The folks in this region may complain from time to time but they know it the best, whether it’s the town, or this incredible body of water, Boothbay Harbor, which is the anchor, an anchor to the region’s heartbeat”. I think

about those words often and say wow, this guy is really committed to the success of this region. I could go on.

However, I can get long winded, so it is time to wind down.

When Jolly was still with us, I told him I wanted to rename this facility in his honor. In typical form, he said absolutely not and that his service was just part of his civic duty. I did not agree with him then and I do not agree now. He should be honored for his service. From those original 5 pump stations in 1963 to the 20 we have today and through his myriad contributions, and now through the name of the John N. Arsenault Water Reclamation Facility, Jolly's legacy will have enduring significance for all who walk our streets. His name will matter here because names matter to how we understand history, and how we understand history matters to how we understand ourselves and our community. By honoring John Arsenault in

this way, we recognize the indelible impact he has had on this community. Thank you Jolly and thank you the Arsenault family for your sacrifices over those 51 years of service.