



WASHOE COUNTY

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SJDC REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 21, 2020

DATE: February 3, 2020
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Jacqueline Bryant, Second Judicial District Court Administrator/Clerk - of Court, 775-328-3119, Jackie.bryant@washoecourts.us
SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to acknowledge a bequest of paintings by Paris Fruscione [\$25,000 value, no County match required], to the Second Judicial District Court from the estate of Martin O'Conlon. District Court (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The estate of Mr. Martin Terrence Kevin Barry Michael O'Conlon, via its executor and current owner, Mr. Paris Fruscione, wishes to donate a collection of oil paintings and a placard of the artist to the Second Judicial District Court (Court). The paintings were painted by Mr. O'Conlon of locations in Northern Nevada and downtown Reno.

County Priority supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

Mr. O'Conlon was a long time Reno resident, musician, songwriter, performer, author, mentor and artist. He passed away on January 14, 2014, leaving behind a collection of paintings of downtown Reno and Northern Nevada landmarks.

Nov 1, 1931 – Jan 14, 2014. Martin (Marty) Terrence Michael O'Conlon was raised in Philadelphia PA to a hard-working Irish family. His exceptional intellect, personality, curiosity and creativity are attributed to his life as a prolific artist and scholar. In school, he led his class with scholastic honors, was an honorary member of the National Honor Society and Quill and Scroll of High School Journalists and was head of the school paper. Marty was also an accomplished musician, playing multiple instruments including guitar, bass, piano, drums, xylophone, accordion, trumpet and clarinet. He served as a proud veteran in the Korean War as an engineer and band leader traveling all over entertaining

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the troops. Upon honorable and decorated discharge, he returned home to the music scene. He worked in Atlantic City and then headlined various showrooms in Las Vegas and the west. Marty was a lead song writer and arranger, as well as a comedian and performer. Among his showcase talent were Tony Austin and Vikki Carr (to whom he was engaged). He wrote many original songs, including the hit “Lake Tahoe” under his pen-name Kevin Barry. Marty domiciled in Reno for most of his life and headlined in major casinos in the area including Harrahs, Harveys, Mapes, and Holiday Hotel. Marty also travelled the world as a performer for Princess Cruise lines for 25 years. During his lifetime, Marty was an avid scholar. If he did not know an answer, he would look it up and have full understanding to report. Starting in his 60s, he dedicated his time to writing books, mixing and creating many musical albums (playing and harmonizing all parts) and oil painting. His paintings were a collection of selected topics, including lighthouses of the world and a collection of historic and iconic buildings and landscapes of Northern Nevada that have memorialized great venues – some of which no longer exist, such as the Mapes Hotel and Pioneer Casino. Marty was an exceptional man who embraced life, had great humor and always found ways to make people smile. He had a thousand jokes and loved to play jokes on those he loved. He made friends all over the world. He adored stimulating young minds to strive for knowledge and creativity. He was a great friend to those he knew and always had something engaging to say to strangers. He loved living in Reno, golfing, creating and being a contributor to the community. He will be missed, but we are thankful to have his creations of music, books and art to reflect upon his spirit. It would have given him great pride and honor to know his paintings of Northern Nevada now hang in the Washoe County Courthouse.

The executor of the estate and current owner of the O’Conlon paintings, Paris Fruscione, wishes to donate the paintings of Northern Nevada and downtown Reno to the Second Judicial District Court with the conditions that the Court: 1) display the paintings; 2) keep the collection intact; and 3) transfer the paintings to another equally visible public entity and exhibit the collection should the Court no longer have a place for them.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge a bequest of paintings by Martin (Marty) O’Conlon [\$25,000 value, no County match required], to the Second Judicial District Court from the estate of Mr. O’Conlon.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the Second Judicial District Court’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to acknowledge a bequest of paintings by Martin (Marty) O’Conlon [\$25,000 value, no County match required], to the Second Judicial District Court from the estate of Mr. O’Conlon by Paris Fruscione.

Pictured: Martin (Marty) O'Conlon

