



AN ACT NAMING THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE EAST WING OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS BARDANOUE; AMENDING SECTION 2-17-808, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Francis Bardanoue was a Blaine County farmer-rancher from near Harlem whose service in the Montana Legislature spanned 5 decades; and

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1958 and reelected 17 times; and

WHEREAS, until his retirement in January 1995, he served a total of 18 sessions, 10 as the tight-fisted chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in establishing and transforming many of the institutions that most Montanans simply take for granted; and

WHEREAS, he secured passage of legislation creating the Board of Investments, but only after traveling at his own expense to several states to study their systems; and

WHEREAS, he spent time in each of the state mental and hospital institutions to experience them firsthand and worked hard for better conditions, becoming the champion for the deinstitutionalization of many patients warehoused at the state hospitals at Warm Springs and Boulder; and

WHEREAS, he pressed for funding of a full-time professional staff for the Legislative Council, replacing a system in which lobbyists and corporate lawyers often drafted legislation; and

WHEREAS, he led the charge for the creation of the office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst that gave the Legislature the power to independently analyze and set budget policy and priorities for the state, and was fond of telling stories about how funding for programs had previously been set by relying on individual legislators keeping running totals on slips of paper they kept in their vest pockets and where analyses of any type did not exist and justifications were largely a product of friendships; and

WHEREAS, of all of his many accomplishments, he often said he had but one regret in life, that he never got to ride his horse over the beautiful landscape that encompassed the prison ranch at Deer Lodge; and

WHEREAS, he was still on the advisory board for the Montana State Prison when he died in March 2002 and, while in the Legislature, played a major role in turning the ranch from a business that consistently lost money to a viable business enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Francis Bardanouve was a humble man who never cared much for recognition and raised modesty to an art form; if he was aware of this proposal, he would likely kick up a fuss; and

WHEREAS, he was a compassionate man who always fretted about the well-being of his cattle, worrying about whether they had enough water and grass; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bardanouve was an ardent advocate of education and often demonstrated his dedication to and faith in the efficacy of higher education; and

WHEREAS, he was fearless and had a steel-trap mind; he was blessed with an earthy commonness that is so uncommon among most elected officials; and

WHEREAS, he constantly reminded his colleagues never to forget where they came from and not to let their positions go to their heads, commenting that "It never fails. All the sessions I have served in Helena, I go back to Harlem and someone passes me on the street and says, "Francis, where have you been all winter? Did you go down south?""; and

WHEREAS, Francis overcame a severe speech impediment after years of having been teased and taunted, disappearing without explanation in the winter of 1946 and going to Pennsylvania to have surgery on his cleft pallet; and

WHEREAS, the most remarkable part of his transformation into an inspirational and persuasive speaker on the floor of the House of Representatives was when he met and later married Venus, his speech therapist, who was the love of his life and who at age 50 made him a stepfather to her three children; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bardanouve's reputation and legend epitomize everything that is good and honorable about public service; his life and contributions serve to remind us that very ordinary Montanans can overcome adversity and perform remarkable feats; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation is a small commemoration for all that Francis Bardanouve, a beloved son of Montana, contributed during his time in office and the examples he set for current and future public servants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 2-17-808, MCA, is amended to read:

**"2-17-808. Placement of certain busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays.**

(1) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in the capitol:

- (a) the busts of Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, and Joseph Dixon;
  - (b) the plaques commemorating Theodore Brantley, Fred Whiteside, the first Montana volunteers who fought in the Spanish-American War, the construction of the capitol from 1899 to 1902, the 1972 Montana constitutional convention, and the women legislators' centennial;
  - (c) the murals by Edgar S. Paxson, Ralph E. DeCamp, Charles M. Russell, Amedee Joullin, and F. Pedretti and sons;
  - (d) the statues of:
    - (i) Wilbur Fiske Sanders;
    - (ii) Jeannette Rankin; and
    - (iii) Mike and Maureen Mansfield;
  - (e) the Montana statehood centennial bell;
  - (f) the gallery of outstanding Montanans;
  - (g) the Montana constitutional exhibit; ~~and~~
  - (h) the biographical descriptions of Montana's governors, to be placed near the portraits of the governors;
- and

(i) a plaque commemorating former representative Francis Bardanouve and lettering naming the first floor of the east wing of the capitol in honor of Francis Bardanouve.

(2) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the grounds of the capitol:

- (a) the statues of Thomas Francis Meagher and Lady Liberty;
- (b) the plaques commemorating:
  - (i) Donald Nutter;
  - (ii) President George H. W. Bush; and
  - (iii) American prisoners of war and personnel of the United States armed services missing in action;

(c) two benches with plaques recognizing contributors to the 1997-2000 capitol restoration, repair, and renovation project;

(d) the Montana centennial square; and

(e) the monument of the ten commandments.

(3) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the capitol complex grounds:

(a) the statue by Robert Scriver entitled "symbol of the pros";

(b) the monuments to the liberty bell, the veterans' and pioneer memorial building--landscape beautification project, Montana veterans, and Pearl Harbor survivors, and the peace pole;

(c) the sculptures of the herd bull and the eagle;

(d) the plaques commemorating the Montana national guard and Lewis and Clark; and

(e) the arrastra.

(4) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in state buildings on the capitol complex:

(a) the paintings of Dr. W. F. Cogswell and the paintings entitled "burning bush", "dryland farmer", "farm girl", "the river rat", "top of the world", "angus #68", "the source", "the Bozeman trail", and "the Mullan road";

(b) the art displays known as "Montana workers--mining, ranching, and building", "copper city rodeo", "dancing cascade", "save a piece of the sky", and "night light";

(c) the plaque commemorating Walt Sullivan, the plaque of the Sam W. Mitchell building, and the plaque commemorating the original headquarters of the Montana highway patrol;

(d) the busts of Lee Metcalf and Sam W. Mitchell; and

(e) the plaque and Lou Peters award commemorating Karl Ohs.

(5) The senate sculpture depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition is to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the west wall in the senate chambers.

(6) The council shall determine the specific placement of the items identified in subsections (1) through (4)."

**Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 18, 2012.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 0069, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

SENATE BILL NO. 69  
INTRODUCED BY D. WANZENRIED  
BY REQUEST OF THE CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL

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