



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL · CITY OF SEATTLE

A PROCLAMATION acknowledging the unique relationship between Mount Rainier and Mount Fuji.

WHEREAS, 1999 marks the Centennial of the Rainier National Park, the fifth designated national park in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mount Rainier and Mount Fuji, both volcanic icons, physically dramatic in appearance, culturally significant, and beloved by the citizens of their respective countries continue to inspire artists, poets, philosophers and naturalists; and

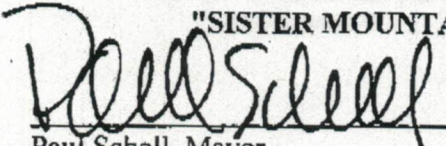
WHEREAS, artworks from 46 contemporary Seattle artists have been sent to Fujinomiya to acquaint visitors from around the world with the majestic grandeur of Mount Rainier and artworks by contemporary Japanese artists will travel to Seattle so that the beauty and symmetry of Mt. Fuji can be more widely shared; and

WHEREAS, The United States Ambassador to Japan, the Honorable Thomas Foley, is a citizen of the State of Washington wherein lies Mount Rainier; and

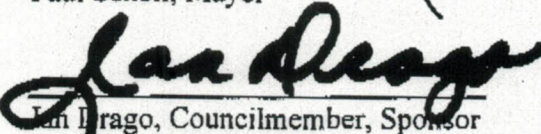
WHEREAS, the symbolic exchange between these two mountains creates opportunities for friendship, trade and tourism between our two cities and our two nations;

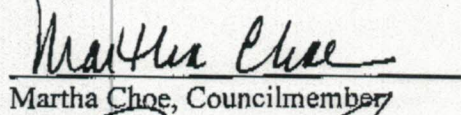
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

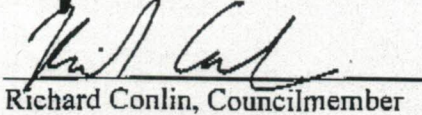
MOUNT RAINIER AND MOUNT FUJI ARE HEREBY FOREVER JOINED AS "SISTER MOUNTAINS" IN THE SPIRIT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE.


Paul Schell, Mayor

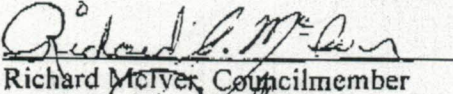

Sue Donaldson, Council President



Jan Drago, Councilmember, Sponsor

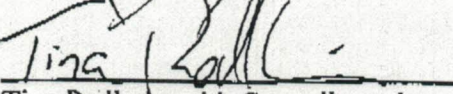

Martha Choe, Councilmember

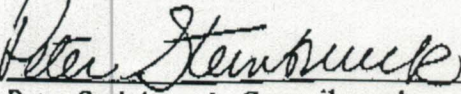

Richard Conlin, Councilmember


Nick Licata, Councilmember


Richard McIver, Councilmember


Margaret Pageler, Councilmember


Tina Podlodowski, Councilmember


Peter Steinbrueck, Councilmember

Rainier, Japan's Fuji to be named 'sisters'

BY SARA GONZALEZ
Seattle Times staff reporter

Peggy Weiss thought the idea of making Mount Rainier and Japan's Mount Fuji sister mountains was, as she put it, "goofy."

But to her surprise, the idea was embraced by Seattle and Japanese officials. As she boarded a plane to Japan yesterday afternoon, she took with her the Seattle City Council proclamation declaring the "volcanic icons" sister mountains.

Tomorrow, Weiss will join Osamu Watanabe, mayor of Fujinomiya, Japan, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Tom Foley and several Japanese executives to proclaim the mountains siblings.

"This sets the stage for increased cultural tourism and cultural exchange between the national park services," she said.

William Briggie, former superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, first attempted to make the mountains sisters two years ago, but after the superintendent of Mount Fuji National Park unexpectedly retired in 1998, the idea died.

Briggie, who went to Japan with Weiss, said he had waited a long time to see his idea become a reality. "This is one of the last pieces of ... business I didn't get finished," Briggie said. "It's just right. It's a good thing."

Weiss said she toyed with rejuvenating Briggie's idea after organizing an art exhibit celebrating the centennial of Mount Rainier for Seafirst Gallery, a nonprofit branch of Seafirst Bank. She serves as director of the gallery.

One hundred Northwest artists put together artwork celebrating

Mount Rainier, which to Weiss seemed to be a perfect excuse to build yet another connection with Japan. Washington and Kobe are "sister states," and the ports in Seattle and Kobe are "sister ports." Comparisons have been made between the two mountains for years.

"There are so many similarities in terms of the way they are revered by local populations, and the way they inspire creativity, philosophy and art," Weiss said. "They are these two geological volcanoes that have this mythical relationship to people."

Weiss contacted the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, where former Washington congressman Foley serves as ambassador, to see if there was interest in displaying the art near the mountain.

The embassy was more than

welcome to do just that. Forty-six of the works were shipped to the Fujinomiya Citizens Cultural Center, located at the bottom of Mount Fuji, where they have been on display since July 15. The art will return to Washington next week and will be displayed first at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner and then at the Yakima Valley Museum.

In November, 25 works from contemporary Japanese artists will be on display at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

"About 500 times along the way, this could have just stopped in its tracks," Weiss said. "But it seems to capture people's imagination and creativity. It's really a cool project."

Sara Gonzalez's phone message number is 206-748-5811. Her e-mail address is sgonzalez@seattletimes.com

The route will begin at Seattle Center and end at about



Stacey. I received the mailing from the Seattle/Kobe Sister City Assoc and travelled to Kobe in 98 w/ a trade mission w/ Fred Tauscher. Thought you might want to know about this.
(Diana Watanabe@fujinomiya.com) Peggy Weiss 585 3200