

American Legion, Ross Reid Post 9

108 1st St. S.W.

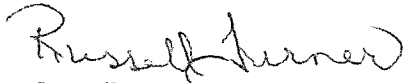
Oelwein, IA. 50662

To: Oelwein City Council

Subj: Park and Rec Letter

To All members of the Oelwein City Council,

Could you bring up at your council meeting and make a decision on the request letter addressed to the Park and Rec. members? The request is to designate the area around the jet at city park the **Saur- King Jet Plaza**. Dates and details are spelled out in the letter addressed to the Park and Rec Members. The reason for this sense of urgency is that we need approval before we can get the plaque made for the monument. Your attention to this request would be greatly appreciated by all of the veterans and associated groups.



Russell Turner

Commander,

American Legion, Post 9

Oelwein, IA

June 30,2022

Dear Park and Rec Members:

Two gentlemen, Walt Saur and Royce King, both near and dear to this town, were responsible for bringing the Air Force Jet to Oelwein's City Park in 1964. It has been a focal point now for generations, although it has lost some of its luster over the years.

As you are fully aware, there have already been some significant upgrades made to the jet recently. My goal has been to honor Walt and Royce, and also other local veterans as well, by improving this area into something memorable and even more dignified. Oelwein may be small, but there's a lot of pride in our military heroes. I put out a request and received over \$12,000 from local benefactors. That says a lot to me, that the citizens of Oelwein care and haven't forgotten them.

With these funds, the jet has been refurbished and lights have been added. Future plans will include a cement pad, textured and stamped with a compass, up-lighting to accent the jet from below, as well as a monument with a plaque, detailing how the jet came to be here.

The final cost of the project will exceed \$40,000 - at no cost to the city. A lot of work has gone into generating funds and making this project come to life as a tribute to Royce and Walt, and maybe to create something unique and special to Oelwein.

My request is to have your board agree to naming this installment the **Saur-King Jet Plaza**. Our target date for this dedication is September 25th, which happens to be Frankie King's birthday. If you concur, we need to get your approval notice to the city council prior to their July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jake Blitzsch



Many people were involved in getting this static display here from Truax Air Base near Madison, Wisconsin in 1964. Most instrumental in that effort to acquire this F-80 Shooting Star were two Oelwein Air Force retirees: Brig. Gen Walt Saur and Lt. Col. Royce King.

The plane is the property of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and is on loan to Oelwein's American Legion Post 9.

Be it known on this day of dedication, (September 25, 2022), the area surrounding this display will hereby be known to all who visit, as: Saur-King Jet Plaza.

