



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

57

July 13, 2009

Date

Request from John D. and Kay Jones, 119 S.W. Miller, Des Moines, to consider renaming the Des Moines International Airport.

Moved by _____ to receive, file and refer to the Airport Board for their recommendation, pursuant to the Naming Policy.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

John D. Jones
119 S.W. Miller
Des Moines, IA 50315
(515) 243-4631

June 26, 2009

To the members of the Des Moines City Council:

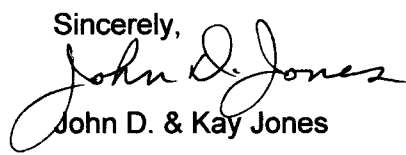
On November 17, 1931 my great grandfather, Truman Jones, sold his 160-acre farm located at S.W. 21st Street and Army Post Road to the City of Des Moines for the location of the new Des Moines Airport.

Arthur Thomas, who had managed the airport at the Altoona, Iowa location from 1925 to 1931, was put in charge of the planning and supervision of the present airport location. In 1932, when operations got underway, Arthur Thomas was Airport Manager. He held this position for 28 years, and in 1940 the airport field was voted one of the four best in the nation. He was also voted Outstanding Airport Manager of the Year in 1960 (there were 500 manager entrants).

If ever there is consideration of a name change of the Des Moines International Airport, we can think of no one more deserving than Arthur E. Thomas.

Please see the attached article, which further explains Arthur Thomas's true dedication and commitment in the development of the Des Moines International Airport.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John D. & Kay Jones

cc: Airport Board



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ARTHUR E. THOMAS

Airport Manager

August 5, 1925 - December 10, 1965

No one person has influenced Des Moines' aviation more than Art Thomas. And no one person is remembered more fondly on the Des Moines Airport's 50th Anniversary.

Through the vision of this man, aviation in Des Moines is what it is today — a successful part of the economy and landscape of Iowa's capitol city.

When Des Moines built Iowa's first Municipal airport near Altoona, Art Thomas supervised the construction. That was 1925. When the current airport was founded, it was Art Thomas who was in charge of planning and supervision of work. And Art Thomas was the airport manager on duty when operations got underway in December, 1932.

But Thomas was more than a supervisor — a planner — a manager. He was a pioneer! At the time Art Thomas first entered airport management, there were no federal regula-

tions and no civilian standards — not even any generally accepted rules for landings and take offs. It was Art Thomas who wrote to airports in London, Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam asking about their plans and governmental regulations. What Thomas learned he put to work in Des Moines, making our airport one of the outstanding operations in America . . . just as Art Thomas was one of the outstanding airport managers in America. In 1960, he received the American Association of Airport Executives Presidents Award.

Des Moines and its aviation industry owe a great debt to Art Thomas. It is in recognition of this indebtedness — and in fondness for one of this country's most courageous aviation pioneers, that this official program of the Des Moines Airport's 50th Anniversary Celebration is dedicated to the memory of Arthur E. Thomas.