





The Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

"What's in a name?
A name is a link between the visions of yesterday and the hopeful promises of tomorrow."

Sherry Booth 2003

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MICHAEL O. LEAVITT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER

September 2003

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to congratulate each of you on this important occasion. I applaud your efforts as you officially rename your community center the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Dr. Sanderson is certainly worthy of this recognition.

It is my understanding that Utah has never before named a State Building for a Deaf individual. I would like this name change to become symbolic of how much society's treatment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people has changed during the last century. Change does not occur with out strong leadership and advocacy. The dedicated and committed efforts of Dr. Sanderson have been key to obtaining funding for your center and specialized programs for people who use sign language.

I extend my sincere best wishes as you rise to the challenges of the future. May you enjoy many years of community events at The Robert G. Sanderson Community Center.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt Governor UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Steven O. Laing, Ed.D. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Voice: (801) 538–7500 Fax: (801) 538–7501 TDD: (801) 538–7876 250 East Cears E. Chavez Blvd. (500 South) P.O. Box 144200 Sall Lake City, Utah 84114–4200

September 25, 2003

Dear Friends,

I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Robert G. Sanderson on behalf of the State Board of Education as you celebrate and give the building a new name on October 4, 2003. The Board voted unanimously in favor of renaming your center after this outstanding Deaf individual on August 4, 2003. We applaud his life of service and recognize that his dedication has made a significant difference in the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Utahns.

We were very impressed that Dr. Sanderson has been involved in lobbying the legislature for more than 40 years. The beautiful center that stands today in Taylorsville is a testament to the power of advocates, like Robert Sanderson, who do their homework...then never give up.

As we carry on in the 21st century, it is important to remember the role that Dr. Sanderson and other Deaf leaders have played in shaping a society that gives Deaf and Hard of Hearing people more equality and opportunities.

Congratulations! It is inspiring to the state of Utah to have individuals like you among us.

com - scuru

Kim Burningham (Chairman

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September 9, 2003

Dear Robert G. "Sandie" Sanderson,

What an honor it is to write, on behalf of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), to congratulate you on this well-deserved recognition. Please know that we all join you, your family and the Utah deaf community in celebration of the naming of the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a lasting tribute to your lifetime of giving.

What better role model could we who follow in your giant footsteps have? You have done so much and have influenced so many! I would need reams of paper to list all of your accomplishments and contributions. Speaking for myself now, as president of the NAD that you served for four years, I am in awe of your leadership.

There is no better person to quote, than you – these words certainly epitomize your beliefs:

Quite a few nationally and internationally known deaf people began their political careers in local deaf organizations, where they learned the ropes. They used the knowledge they learned and the influence they earned to become active in state and national associations.

So young people can expect to win some and lose some -- but the real winners will be those who stay with the game, continue to learn, work through disappointment, win friends, and influence people and before they know it they will be in "power." Robert G. Sanderson, "E=mc²" for the NAD Members Only Area.

High hands to you, Sandie! The NAD is bustin' its buttons, we are so proud of you!

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Lange President

Andrew J. Lange



Dr. Robert G. Sanderson

"We need this name and event to inspire gratitude for generations to come"

> Marilyn Call 2003

RENAMING CEREMONY SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4, 2003

RECEPTION 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Greet Lt. Governor Walker and other VIP's Building tours including Sanderson Memorabilia Light refreshments

PROGRAM

In the Gym, 7:30pm Master of Ceremonies, Richard Rose, Jr.

Marilyn Call, Director Division of Services to the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

> AnMarie Rainey, President Junior Utah Association of the Deaf

> > Ron Nelson, President Utah Association of the Deaf

Kathy Evans, President Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, Utah Chapter

Gary R. Sanderson, Coordinator Western Region Outreach Center & Consortia Son of Robert and Mary Sanderson

> Dr. Merri C. Pearson, Ed.D, Director National Center on Deafness

Blaine Petersen, Executive Director Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

Olene G. Walker, Lieutenant Governor The State of Utah

Dr. I. King Jordan, Ph.D, President Gallaudet University

Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, Ed.D

OFFICIAL UNVEILING

Outside, 9:00pm

Proceed to the west side of the building as directed

Dedication, Lt. Governor Olene Walker

Interpreting services provided by:
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> Photography provided by: Norman Williams

Thank You!

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- Richard Rose, Jr.
- Sorenson VRS
- Sprint
- The Counseling Center
- Utah Association for the Deaf

To our Gold Heart Volunteers for your enthusiasm... To Kelli Peterson and Lee Grey for the extra mile... To our staff and other state employees who said, "Yes"...

The wonder of this evening was made possible because you joined in the effort to make it all happen.

Many, many thanks to each of you.



Sprint and Relay Utah proudly salute Robert G. Sanderson for his vision, persistence and dedication to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Utah and across the nation.

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