

orlandosentinel.com/news/local/lake/os-lk-tavares-alleyways-20100615,0,5460310.story

## OrlandoSentinel.com

### Tavares to honor historical figures along with famous aviators with alleyway names

By Emily Fuggetta, Orlando Sentinel

June 15, 2010

TAVARES — Driving or taking a stroll in town soon will be a blast from the past as alleyways take on the names of famous seaplane pioneers and the city's historical elite.

The City Council has approved a list of 15 names for the alleyways, each of which will have a street sign and a sign detailing the history of the person after whom it was named.

The original idea was to name the alleys after famous figures in aviation history to promote the city's image as "America's Seaplane City," but council member Bob Grenier, who also serves as president of the Historical Society of Tavares, saw the naming of alleyways as an opportunity also to commemorate important people in the city's history.

"A lot of people drive around and think, 'hey, I bet that street's named for someone famous,'" Grenier said. "This is a chance to honor famous Tavarians of the past."

Grenier said the society had no trouble coming up with names of people to honor.

Four alleyways near busy Alfred and Caroline streets will be named after pioneers in

advertisement



**TODD MINER**  
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

**Personal Injury Attorney**  
**407-420-4040**  
toddminerlaw.com

*"Download my free iPhone app now and be prepared."*

seaplane history. There has been talk of the two streets becoming a one-way pair, in which case the alleyways that intersect them would be used more often.

One alleyway will be named for Henri Fabre, the French aviator who invented the first seaplane in the beginning of the 1900s. Two other alleyways will honor Glenn Curtiss and John Cyril Porte, who worked together to pioneer seaplane use for the military. Another will bear the name of Clara Adams, who helped introduce the world to the concept of passenger flying in the late 1930s by flying around the world on passenger airlines.

Discarded from the original list of possibilities were alleyways named after hero pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III and aviation legends Amelia Earhart, the Wright brothers, Chuck Yeager and Howard Hughes.

For the rest of the alleyways, the historical society came up with men and women who made an impact in Tavares and who are not already recognized.

The list includes:

- **"Doc" Robert Boulware**, who opened a pharmacy on Main Street in the 1930s where locals sipped fountain drinks while they waited for prescriptions.
- **Leo Coven**, who built many homes in Tavares that in the early 1900s that still stand, including the Harry Duncan house at 426 Lake Dora Drive. The city is reconstructing the Lake Dora pavilion Coven built in 1912.
- **William Reed Cromartie**, who was active in the black community and city schools. He also served as a school trustee. There was once a school named for him, but it no longer stands.
- **Joel Flowers**, who served as the last town marshal and became the city's first police chief in 1925. He set fines for infractions like illegally parking mules — a \$2 penalty — and possessing moonshine, which set violators back \$10.
- **Edward Donald Gardner**, who had an auto garage in the 1920s. The now pea-green building on Main Street downtown, which used to house Ace Hardware, still stands, though it is currently empty.
- **Thomas Hux**, a confederate veteran who founded Astatula in 1872 before moving to Tavares. Always active, Hux, then 95, challenged a 96-year-old Mount Dora resident to a footrace.

•**Marie King**, who opened the Tavares Inn in 1931. King, who came to Tavares in the 1920s, was active in the community and was once recognized by President Harry Truman.

•**Bennye Kinsler**, a longtime Tavares Elementary School teacher after whom a wing of the school is dedicated and who was a role model for African American children. She was a proponent of desegregation.

•**Frederick Shorts**, who arrived in Tavares in 1916 and reached out to the black community. He helped the needy by bringing them food and providing transportation to the grocery store and church.

•**Blanche Sperry**, who pioneered a school lunch program in 1939 and was Tavares schools' lunchroom manager for more than 40 years. She saved schools money by purchasing vegetables from local farmers, inspiring others around the state to do the same.

•Judge **Emmett Tally**, who served as Lake County judge beginning in 1910 and who famously caught an escaped convict in 1933. His home at Alfred and Rockingham streets still stands.

No plans have been made yet to post the signs yet, but Grenier said when complete the project will help people learn about Tavares history and honor those after whom the alleyways are named.

"Our vision for the future is how we honor our past," Grenier said. "I think people will recognize that we honor our history."

Emily Fuggetta can be reached at [efuggetta@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:efuggetta@orlandosentinel.com) or 352-742-5923.

Copyright © 2010, [Orlando Sentinel](http://www.orlandosentinel.com)