

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 2008, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, Don Munks, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008:

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Presentation of the 11th Annual J. Larry Russell Commemorative Award

Tim Holloran, Coordinator for Skagit County's Special Olympics Program, stated the Program is celebrating its 28th year of athletic training, sharing courage, joy and friendship throughout the valley. Currently there are close to 200 special athletes participating. Mr. Holloran introduced Nathan Mirante, a 25 year old who graduated from Mount Vernon High in 2001 and for the past seven years has worked in food services at Where the Heart Is in Burlington. Nate has been active in Special Olympics since elementary school as a member of the Skagit Trumpeters in the sport of Track & Field. He was a swimmer and currently trains and competes in the sports of bowling, basketball and soccer. He has numerous medals to show for his hard work.

Mr. Holloran said the presentation of the J. Larry Russell Commemorative Award is an ongoing celebration of a very special person's life and a tribute to the impact he made in our community and our lives. Jimmy Larry Russell passed away at the age of forty. He was one of the original members of our Special Olympics Program and acted as a self-imposed ambassador, in addition to touching many lives in our valley.

Commissioner Dillon introduced Gladys Buhrow, Larry's mother, and stated that the J. Larry Russell Award is presented as our community's appreciation of an individual's or organization's outstanding support of Special Olympics in Skagit County. This award is one of a kind and the only one in the nation honoring community support for Special Olympics as a tribute to the life and legacy of a Special Olympian. Past recipients include: Ben & Elsie Bournes; Skagit Bicycle Club; Skagit Valley Eagles No. 3242; Pauli Mickelson; Bill Silves & Carlos Hall; The Ed Gegen Family; RiverCity Screenprinting & the Kyle Davis Family; Polly Phillips, Dottie Moe & Shirley Brunz; Cindy Lindquist & the Skagit Valley Family YMCA; and Mike Almvig, Rick MacGavin, Brian Young.

Mr. Holloran stated that this year's presentation is made in appreciation and recognition of the work of the Mirante Family, Ken, Nina, Aaron, Katie and Nathan. This outstanding family has been and continues to be very supportive of Special Olympics. Aaron and Katie were unified partners on the Skagit Trumpeters track relay team at Centennial Elementary School. Ken and Nina attend all the practices and pitch-in when needed. They actively participate, encourage others offer and provide financial assistance in their typically quiet way.

Mr. Holloran stated this award is presented to the Mirante Family as Champions for Inclusion. We take this time to recognize their leadership in a grassroots movement to create an inclusive model for differently-able children. The Mirantes are very humble people. We know they accept this honor on behalf of their friends, fellow parents, exceptional educators and pro-active coaches devoted to the concept of respecting and including everyone in the school and community setting said Mr. Holloran.

The Commissioners asked the Mirante family Ken, Nina, Aaron, Katie and Nathan to come forward to accept this year's J. Larry Russell Award.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Munks adjourned the proceedings.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners