

Thank You

The staff of Begich Middle School expresses deep appreciation to all of the individuals and organizations who dedicated their time, effort and support in the development and creation of Begich Middle School.

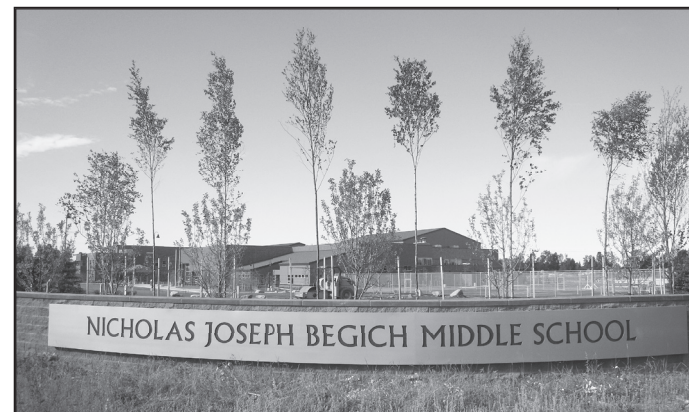
Begich Middle School Staff 2007-08

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Jane Yokoyama

***Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of
Begich Middle School***



Friday, August 10, 2007

Noon



Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony



Nicholas J. Begich
1932-1972

Nicholas J. Begich was born the son of Croatian immigrants and raised in Eveleth, Minnesota. Though the youngest of four children, Nick was the first to attend college. He earned a BA from Saint Cloud State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota. Nick also pursued a Doctorate in Education at the University of Colorado and the University of North Dakota.

Nick began teaching in 1952 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where he met his future wife, Margaret "Pegge" Jendro. After they married in 1956, Nick and Pegge moved to Alaska where Nick was hired as a counselor at Anchorage High School. He moved on to become an Anchorage School District administrator and eventually the superintendent of on-base schools at Ft. Richardson. During his time as superintendent, Nick was active in Alaska politics and was elected to the state Senate in 1962. Nick left after two terms when he was elected to the United States Congress in 1970.

While serving as a freshman member of Congress, Nick was key in the successful passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He also played a role in passing several other pieces of legislation. While campaigning for reelection with Hale Boggs, the U.S. House Majority Leader (D-LA), their plane disappeared en route to Juneau from Anchorage. Though missing, Nick held the seat in Congress until he was officially declared deceased in December 1972, two-and-a-half months after his disappearance. The plane was never found.

Nick and Pegge had six children, Nichelle, Nick, Tom, Mark, Stephanie and Paul. Of the five that currently live in Alaska, two work for the Anchorage School District and one is presently the Mayor of Anchorage.

Presentation of Colors	Dimond High JROTC Color Guard Directed by Angel L. Ortiz, SFC, USA (Ret) C/2LT Ben Davis C/CPT John Dasch C/LTC Ryan Montgomery C/SFC Kyle Brown C/SFC Chase Campoamor
Welcome	Jeanne Fischer, Principal
Opening prayer	Dorothy Cook, President, Native Village of Eklutna
Pledge of Allegiance	Anissa Payne, seventh grade
National Anthem	Adriana Latonio, sixth grade
Remarks	Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Remarks	Mark Begich, Mayor and son of Nick Begich
Remarks	Tom Begich, son of Nick Begich
Remarks	Tim Steele, President, Anchorage School Board
Acceptance of Building.	Carol Comeau, Superintendent Tim Steele, Anchorage School Board Jeanne Fischer, Principal Roger Hickel, Roger Hickel Contracting Angie Barr, Kumin Associates, Inc.
Remarks	Jeanne Fischer, Principal
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.	Carol Comeau, Superintendent Tim Steele, Anchorage School Board Jeanne Fischer, Principal Ms. Pegge Begich Mark Begich, Mayor Roger Hickel, Roger Hickel Contracting Angie Barr, Kumin Associates, Inc. and the grandchildren of Nick Begich

Please join us in the multipurpose room for refreshments and student-led tours of the building immediately following the ceremony.