



December 14, 2020

Vermont Transportation Board  
67 Aspen Circle  
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Vermont Transportation Board Members,

I have been authorized by the Board of the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) to register CEDRR's opposition to naming the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport terminal building the "Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal." When polled, no member of the CEDRR Board recognized Mr. Houghton's name or accomplishments. Although Mr. Houghton may have notoriety elsewhere, we do not believe that this warrants naming a facility after him in Rutland County.

The CEDRR decision is in concert with the unanimous vote by the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport Committee to contest the naming. In addition, we do not believe the naming is supported by the requirement in the Rules for Renaming page 8 (G) which state, "When considering a proposal to name a transportation facility after a person or family, the Board may consider whether the person or family made some significant contribution to the transportation facility or the region where the transportation facility is located or earned a favorable local, regional, national, or international reputation or whose character and integrity, whether or not accompanied by fame or fortune, warrant remembrance."

This decision in no way intended to disparage Mr. Houghton's name, integrity, accomplishments, or legacy. But, we believe that the tribute of a "naming" should have local recognizable significance.

Sincerely,

Lyle P. Jepson  
Executive Director

cc John B. Zicconi, Executive Secretary Vermont Transportation Board  
John Casella II, CEDRR Board President/Representative  
Butch Shaw, Rutland Delegation Chair  
Joe Giancola, Chair of the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport Committee  
Chris Beitzel, Manager Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport Committee

## TOWN OF CLARENDON

Clarendon Select Board

PO Box 30

Clarendon, VT 05759

December 15, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Clarendon Select Board recently discussed the renaming of the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport at their Select Board meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. After the Board read the short biography on Walter E. Houghton, they motioned to endorse the same opinion as the Airport Committee; which is, opposing the petition. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Mr. Houghton did not spend much of his life or career dedicated to Rutland County, and thus the Board feels it is not necessary to name a terminal in his honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Klopchin".

Mike Klopchin, Chair

Clarendon Select Board

Mr. Zicconi,

Jan 8, 2021



Thank you so much for sharing the protocol and guidelines for naming of State buildings and the boards mission and responsibility in this regard.

Let me be very clear in referencing our previous conversation in this regard. I understand fully the policy the state has adopted, and although I do not agree, it is not my place, nor desire, to be obstinate.

So let me take the position of agreement, rather than disagreement, and also let you know that I am writing this to you so that you know I appreciate your explanation of the rationale in this decisionmaking.

This is just for clarification as I am enclosing a letter to the Board specifically addressing my concerns and requests to them, and am also enclosing the original letter to my Legislative delegation, which I would also like you to share with the board so that they may enter it into the official testimony.

Again, thanks for your help in this process.



Encl. Letter to Rutland County delegation leaders

Letter to State Transportation Board

State of Vermont

Jan 8, 2021

Board of Transportation

Montpelier, VT 05602

Honorable members of the Transportation Board,

First of all, thank you for your service to our beautiful state, and Happy New Year to all of you.

I am writing in regards to your agenda item for the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the naming of the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport. Not having all the protocol particulars until Mr. Zicconi explained them to me recently, I attempted to engage our legislative delegation here in Rutland County, as president and spokesman for Kiwanis of Rutland to place in front of you another very deserving individual for this honor.

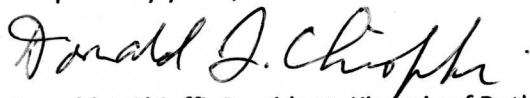
As background for you I am enclosing the letter to our delegation in this regard, though I am well aware that due to your policy on naming, it would not be appropriate at this time.

In your deliberations concerning the matter before you, I urge you to consider carefully that this facility has been here in Rutland and dedicated, but not named, since the era of Governor Madeline Kunin, whose name, as the sitting governor, is on the dedication plaque. It is no small matter to the folks in Rutland County that the facility, and the upgrading, modernization, technical and ground improvements that even allowed it to be dedicated in this manner were all accomplished under the guidance, hard work and dogged perseverance of Mr. Joseph A. Giancola, Airport Chairman during all phases of the resurrection of this airport. And just possibly, this may very well be a good reason that it has not been named after anyone to this point, and a continuing reason that there is no necessity at this time to name it after anyone.

It certainly does not have to be a delimiting factor that one must have been deceased in order to be recognized in this manner, since there has not, nor is there any urgency simply to recognize a person just because they are deceased when some who are living may well have contributed far more to the vibrancy, indeed, the very existence, of a facility that was in pretty terrible condition of non-compliance with federal guidelines.

In conclusion, we, as an organization representing businesspeople and community leaders throughout the Rutland Region respectfully request that you enter these two letters into the official testimony of this hearing and that you take no action on naming of this facility at this time.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald J. Chioffi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald J. Chioffi, President, Kiwanis of Rutland

Senator Brian Collamore  
Representative Butch Shaw

Jan 4, 2021

Gentlemen,

Kiwanis of Rutland, at our last meeting, through a vote of both our Board of Directors and our membership, decided unanimously to recommend to you, as the legislative leaders of our County's Senatorial and Representative delegations, to recommend the naming of the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport in honor of Joseph A. Giancola, present and long time Chairman of the Airport Commission.

We have read of the recent petition in this regard and feel strongly that this Airport in our county should reflect the hard work, dedication, and commitment of those responsible for its present viable condition. In support of this recommendation, we refer to the very tenuous situation in which our airport found itself prior to Mr. Giancola's terms as Chairman. On the verge of not being approved for commercial flight due to airport runway length and lack of technological improvement, under the skillful and diligent work guided by Mr. Giancola, over 50 Million dollars was secured from the Federal Government, over 20 Million of which accomplished the previously unheard of project of expansion of both northern and southern runway lengths. This was all accomplished with the direct and personal intervention of Mr. Giancola with the federal officials responsible for allocation of funds, and it should also be noted that the remaining funds that the Commission secured were used to benefit both the Bennington and Middlebury facilities. In addition, as a building contractor with years of experience, Mr. Giancola personally supervised and contracted for the successful completion of these extensions in a timely manner and both the state of Vermont and our region have benefitted tremendously from this success.

Those who put themselves forward so that a state and community can thrive should never be forgotten, and we should seize the opportunity to see that they are appropriately remembered. Kiwanis is a service organization that has put the children of our community first and foremost since 1949 and has been comprised of business and community leaders for over 70 years. It was our consideration that it should be the Legislative Delegation of Rutland County that brought this forward to the Transportation Committee since you deal with them in the legislative arena, and since you are the only ones elected by the entirety of Rutland County. We sincerely feel that as the duly elected representatives of well over 58,000 citizens who are proud to host the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport, that you are the ones that should carry this forward.

It would be a gross understatement to say that Joe Giancola loves aviation, loves to fly, and loves his community, to which he has dedicated literally a lifetime of toil and dedication. It is not a small thing to say, but when the chips were down and things looked pretty gloomy and our airport was on the verge of certain doom with grass shoots literally growing out of cracks in the runway, it was Joseph A. Giancola who devoted countless hours of his selfless effort to save our airport. He would be the last one in the world to expect anything but satisfaction for those efforts, which is exactly why this remembrance is entirely appropriate.

Please share this with your delegations and thank you for your diligence in this important mission.

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Chioffi, President, Kiwanis of Rutland

To: John Zicconi

From: Chris Webber

Address: P.O. Box 576, Wallingford, Vermont 05773

This letter is about a man who devoted his working life to the Rutland Airport. 7 days a week. For over 25 years.

He arrived as the new airport manager in the 1950's. He started from nothing, save the two-seat, fabric-covered Taylorcraft he brought with him. When he retired, some 25 years later, he had built "Rutland Airways" into a thriving FBO (fixed base operation): a fuel concession, a Cessna dealership, a charter flight operation, a flight school, and a maintenance/repair facility.

If there ever was a man deserving of having the Rutland Airport terminal building named after him, it is our beloved manager of some 25 years.

Fred Greenwood.

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Fred became manager of the Rutland Airport about 1956. He and his family lived in a mobile home behind the hangar.

I was 12 at the time. Airplanes fascinated me. I would spend Saturday mornings there, just hanging around. A pest at best. But Fred was a very kind and gracious man, a fatherly type – so he set me to work, sweeping out the hanger, emptying wastepaper baskets, along with other odd jobs, such as holding a tool while he did maintenance on an airplane. In return, he would give me a flying lesson or two. I will never forget the first time Fred let me fly and land his Taylorcraft – at age 12, that put me on cloud 9. By the early 70's, I had my license and was part-owner of a Cessna 172. Flying had become part of my life, and would remain so for over 20 years.

During his long tenure as airport manager, general aviation in Rutland thrived. His Cessna dealership sold both single and twin-engine planes. His customers came from all over New England. He opened a maintenance and repair facility, with a full-time mechanic. He ran a flight school, with at least two instructors. He offered charter flights in a Cessna 310, which he, and his charter pilots, flew. He purchased a jet fuel truck, which brought jet traffic to Rutland (including Najeeb Halaby, the head of the FAA, who flew in periodically in the FAA Lockheed Jetstar). And, on top of all of this, he was the local FAA flight examiner. He was, as they say, "Mr. Everything" at the airport.

To say that "Rutland Airways" – the official name of his FBO – was one of Rutland's most remarkable success stories, would be an understatement. He built a thriving airport operation from next to nothing, and brought well over one hundred local people into the fold as students, aircraft owners, renters, and charter customers.

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He was beloved by everyone – admired for his quiet, warm demeanor, his skill as a pilot, his sound judgment, his sense of humor, and his fatherly manner. I know I speak for those who have passed on, as well as those of us still alive, that if there was anyone more deserving of having the Rutland Terminal named after him, it would be Fred. He was more than just a business man – he was a true friend to all who came to know him.

One gets to know someone pretty well when the friendship begins at age 12, – and is continuous through 25 years. I can only say it was truly an honor to have known him, and to have learned from him. We all have people in our past who have greatly influenced the direction of our lives. Fred was one such person for me – and for many others, I am sure.

No doubt Mr. Houghton is a man worthy of recognition as well, a man who devoted much of his life to Vermont aviation. But when it comes to the Rutland Airport in particular, the truth of the matter is this:

Fred Greenwood was Rutland's most revered aviator.

His life's work should not be forgotten.

Thomas Chestnut  
2424 Sandpiper Drive  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

January 2, 2021

John Zicconi  
Vermont Department of Transportation  
RE: Naming of the Rutland Airport

Dear Mr. Zicconi

Fred gave me my first lesson and exposure to flying in early 1966 and I was hooked. He encouraged me to get all my ratings and was instrumental in providing me a platform to do that. After getting my commercial and instructors rating he hired me and I worked for him until going in the Army as a helicopter pilot in 1969. Upon returning from Vietnam I went back to work for Fred as an instructor for several years before moving onto other jobs and retiring after a successful career in aviation. I don't think any of this would have happened without nurturing and mentoring from Fred Greenwood.

Fred was an icon to the New England aviation community for over two decades. Known for his Cessna dealership, his work with the U.S. Forest Service, Vermont Fish and Game, and being an instructor and examiner. He gave numerous checkrides and inspired a lot of pilots with wit and wisdom.

Rutland airport in the 60's and 70's was Fred Greenwood. He could be out instructing, giving a checkride, flying a charter, dropping fish or just sitting in the lobby telling stories about funny things that have happened. He was an inspiration to a lot of people and very deserving to have the airport that was his life named after him, he would be so proud and humbled. Rutland Airport will always be Fred's airport. I hope he is given strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Chestnut", written in a cursive style.

Thomas Chestnut



John,

Thanks for your prompt reply and clarifying that it is only the terminal building--I wondered about that, and yes, it does change my thoughts. I would have no concern or objection to renaming just that building. BJB

On 12/2/2020 10:12 AM, Zicconi, John wrote:

> Bradley,

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> Thanks for your comments. I will share them with the Board. One thing, however. You mention you are opposed to renaming the "Rutland Airport." To be clear, the proposal is to only name the terminal building at the Rutland Airport. Doing this would not change the name of the airport itself. Does this in any way change your thoughts?

>

> John Zicconi

> Executive Secretary

> Vermont Transportation Board &

> Vermont New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board

> 14 Baldwin Street

> Montpelier, VT 05620

> 802-343-7280

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Brad Bender <[wallacad@vermontel.net](mailto:wallacad@vermontel.net)>

> Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 9:55 PM

> To: Zicconi, John <[John.Zicconi@vermont.gov](mailto:John.Zicconi@vermont.gov)>

> Subject: Re-naming Rutland Airport

>

> EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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> Dear Mr. Zicconi,

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> I am opposed to renaming the Rutland airport because it takes away the identity of the region and there has been a lot of work by many individuals and organizations and individuals over the last several decades to "put Rutland on the map."

>

> While there is no question that Mr. Houghton was an honorable man, he does not have an identity with Rutland and I would be willing to bet that if you were to conduct a poll, most people, if not all would not know who he even was. The name Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal has a very odd and somewhat scary ring to it--memorial terminal sounds like a tribute to death from an incurable disease.

>

> Bradley J. Bender

>

> Selectman, Town of Danby

>

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I do not think we should be renaming our terminal building ,it has Green marble sign next to the entrance of the building and was placed there to thank our Governor for providing the necessary funds to improve our airport in the early years .The airport committee has had two meetings on the name change request with no member voting in favor of changing the name also I have not found any one person in favor of it. I have been the chairman of the airport group for more than 10 years and help make this one of the best airports in new England This name on the building only adds problems for our dedicated people working many hours to improve our great airport . Thanks for your time JOE G.

Best Regards,

**Joseph A. Giancola**

JAG Real Estate

Giancola Construction Corp.

**THE GIANCOLA FAMILY OF COMPANIES**

140 Granger Street

Rutland, Vermont 05701

(802) 773-6251

(802) 773-6227 FAX

(802) 236-1548 CELL



## BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Gene Richards  
Director of Aviation  
1200 Airport Drive, #1  
South Burlington, VT 05403

To Whom It May Concern,

When beginning the role as Director of Aviation in 2012, Walt spent an abundance of time with me being supportive and directional. He instilled in me the importance and necessity of the future of all Vermont aviation, commercial, military and general, and how it strategically enhances the way us Vermonters work, live and play. Without many resources, the aviation community in Vermont remains strong due to Walt's teaching, mentorship and shepherding to so many. Walt was a true Vermonter in every way and his support will never be forgotten. I strongly support the naming of the Rutland Southern Vermont State Airport terminal building the "Walt E. Houghton Memorial Terminal"; this naming will complement the Airport and Walt's true passion for aviation.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Richards", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gene Richards  
Director of Aviation  
Burlington International Airport  
grichardsbtv.aero  
802-343-9909

**David Sternberg**  
301 Gallant Fox Drive  
Havre de Grace, MD  
21078  
Tel: 201-410-3800

December 17, 2020

John Zicconi  
Executive Secretary  
Vermont Transportation Board & Vermont New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board  
67 Aspen Circle  
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Mr. Zicconi,

I am writing in reference to the proposal to rename the terminal building of the Rutland Regional Airport to "Walter. E. Houghton Memorial Terminal".

While I no longer live in Vermont, I was a resident of Chittenden for 16 years, from 2002 to 2017, and based my airplane at Rutland Airport. From 1984 until I moved to Chittenden in 2002, I flew into Rutland frequently to use a vacation property in Killington. I utilized the FBO and fuel farm as a transient pilot all year round.

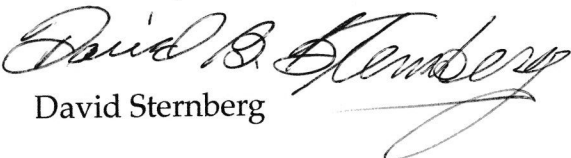
I was a member of the EAA chapter 968 beginning in approximately 1998, eventually becoming the president of the chapter for over 6 years. I was also the AOPA airport support network member for KRUT for at least 10 years. I have been on the KRUT advisory board since it's inception, and worked closely with Chris Beitzel during his tenure at the airport, assisting him with promoting the airport and its facilities and services, as well as being a liaison to many of the airport pilots and the transportation department.

I would like to voice my opinion against the proposed name change. While Mr. Houghton had a distinguished aviation career, both as a military officer and as a civilian, very little of that time was spent in Rutland. Thus with little connection to him, I believe this change should not be made.

In addition, there is already a plaque on the building that gives recognition to Governor Kunin who dedicated the terminal when it was opened.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

  
David Sternberg



CITY OF RUTLAND  
P.O. BOX 969  
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DAVID W. ALLAIRE  
(802) 770-5366  
FAX (802) 773-1827

December 15, 2020

State of Vermont  
Vermont Transportation Board  
Attn: John B. Zicconi, Executive Secretary  
14 Baldwin Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Mr. Zicconi,

In light of the recent vote of the local Airport Committee that unanimously decided to not support the airport terminal building as outlined by the Vermont Transportation Board Public Hearing Order, I add my voice to also not support this change.

As a lifelong resident of Rutland City and actively involved in local transportation issues for 22 years, I agree with the committee and do not see sufficient justification for naming the terminal building after Mr. Houghton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Allaire, Mayor  
City of Rutland



State of Vermont  
Division of Policy, Planning and  
Intermodal Development  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05633  
[vtrans.vermont.gov](http://vtrans.vermont.gov)

*Agency of Transportation*

[phone] 802-505-3480  
[ttd] 800-253-0191

January 15, 2021

Vermont Transportation Board  
67 Aspen Circle  
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Vermont Transportation Board Members,

The Agency of Transportation understands that the Town of Clarendon and the City of Rutland, along with the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region have all registered their input regarding the naming of the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport. We are pleased to learn of this input as we believe that this decision should be guided by official local and regional input.

The State of Vermont will not be offering a specific recommendation regarding the naming of the facility but will await the decision of the Transportation Board and then implement any changes as needed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele A. Boomhower".

Michele Boomhower, Division Director

Cc: Dan Delabruere, Rail & Aviation Bureau Director

December 4, 2020

Dear Sir or Madame,

Please let this letter serve as my comment upon the proposed re-naming of the Rutland Regional Airport terminal. I am a long-time pilot having flown out of the Rutland Regional Airport for almost 60 years.

I do not believe that the name of the terminal should be changed. There are so many pilots who honored the airport by their presence.

My example is Peter Val Preda. Peter was from Rutland and called the Rutland airport home. Peter left high school in Rutland to serve his country. In World War II he served in Europe as captain of a B-24 bomber, bombing Hitler's last oil fields in Rumania, where he survived several close calls. On his last mission, he flew a hazardous bombing run in northern Europe. His engines were damaged, and he was forced to parachute into the North Sea. He was picked up by a German sub and spent two years in a German concentration camp.

When the war was over Peter chose to return to Rutland where he remained as a fixture in the business community until near the end of his life when he entered the Veteran's Hospital in White River Junction – where he died.

Peter is one of many great pilots who called the Rutland Airport home.

Sincerely,

Ted Corsones