

“ONE BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE”

Last Thursday, October 14, 2010, my wife Colleen and I had the privilege to participate in the dedication of the Mike O’Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge. Along with Ray Friedlob of the law firm of Kamlet Reichert and his wife Irene we had the opportunity to be one of the first from the general public to walk out onto the bridge and participate in a very moving ceremony dedicating this bridge. From members of the local Indian tribes to the family of fallen American hero Pat Tillman, the event epitomized why we are in this business of working to identify the federal funding resources necessary to make such projects move from the drawing table to reality.

Twelve years ago at the invitation of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and former Governor Fife Symington (R-AZ) and former Congressman Bob Stump (R-AZ) Mr. Friedlob and I met with the full Arizona Congressional delegation to outline a federal legislative strategy that eventually resulted in the construction of this “man-made natural wonder”. The bridge was built with over \$100 million in direct federal highway discretionary funds, \$40 million in Arizona and Nevada local funds and \$100 million in federal innovative funding from bonds paid off by federal highway discretionary funds.

This \$240 million in funding would not have materialized without the bipartisan support of four Governors: Governor Fife Symington (R-AZ), Governor Jane Hull (R-AZ), Governor Janet Napolitano (D-AZ) and Governor Jan Brewer (R-AZ). The funding would also not have been possible without the strong and consistent support of Arizona members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. The honor roll would include Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Congressman Bob Stump (R-AZ), Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ) and Congressman Ed Pastor (R-AZ).

As you can see from the photos, this beautiful bridge is a testament to two great heroes, one from Nevada and one from Arizona. In addition, this bridge is a monument to what mankind can achieve when government, the private sector and a national security need come together to achieve a high national goal. There is no doubt that the national goal was achieved!

