

Agenda Bill  
**Harrisburg City Council**  
Harrisburg, Oregon

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**THE MATTER OF A REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP  
WITH BREAL-SOUS-MONTFORT IN FRANCE**

**STAFF REPORT:**

Exhibit A: Email Chain with Requestors

Exhibit B: Article from 8<sup>th</sup> AF News 'Voice of the Mighty Eighth'

Exhibit C: Article from 'Breal Mag', Sept 2024

Exhibit D: US Embassy 'Sister City Project' Questionnaire, and  
sample agreement

**ACTION:                      DISCUSSION ONLY - TBD**

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**THIS AGENDA BILL IS DESTINED FOR:** Agenda – February 11, 2025

BUDGET IMPACT		
COST	BUDGETED?	SOURCE OF FUNDS
N/A	N/A	N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Staff recommends Council review materials, and to determine if they would like to explore a Sister City relationship with the City of Breal-sous-Montfort**

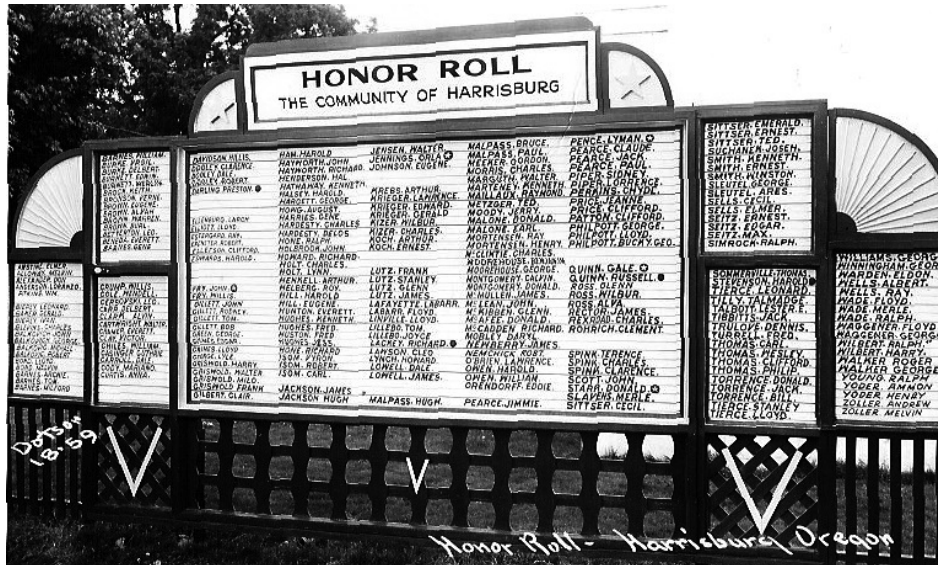
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On Saturday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, Staff received an email from Marilyn Montgomery Smith. (See **Exhibit A**, at the bottom of the Email Chain). Staff didn't respond to Marilyn until this request had been discussed with Mayor Duncan on Feb 2. Marilyn attended school at Harrisburg High School, graduating in 1971, and worked for the Albany Democrat Herald as a reporter. Back in 1994, then Mayor Walt Dickson received a letter, which was opened by the City Recorder, Grayce Coffey. The letter was from Jean-Paul Favrais, who was 9 years of age when Lieutenant Russell G. Quinn of Harrisburg flying his P38 fighter-bomber was shot down by the German's and crashed near the old railway station in Breal-sous-Montfort, France. Grayce knew that Marilyn was good friends with the Quinn Family. Marilyn put Pat Hayworth, the sister of Russell and Gale Quinn in touch with Jean-Paul Favrais. In 1995, the Hayworth's, including Russ and Mary, attended the dedication ceremony for a memorial that was placed in Breal for Lt. Quinn (A street was also named for him). A year later, Jean-Paul and Henriette Favrais came to Harrisburg. Mayor Walt Dickson read a proclamation, and the Hayworth's installed a 2<sup>nd</sup> flagpole to fly the French Tricolor at their home on Powerline Rd.

During the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, just last year, Breal-sous-Montfort held a much larger ceremony, that Russ Hayworth, and Marilyn Montgomery Smith and her husband attended. This included personnel from the U.S. Consul in Rennes, Brittany, about 500

townspeople, a children's choir, wreaths laid on an enlarged and improved monument, and release of 100 doves. The memory of the crash stayed with Jean-Paul, who close to retirement in 1992, had searched for the identity of Lt. Quinn. This initial search led to collecting information and contacting family members for more than 2,500 more American and Canadian military members who served in that liberation. Jean-Paul, who is now an honorary member of the 8<sup>th</sup> USAAF, wrote an article that appeared in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF News (Sept 2024 publication), **Exhibit B**. His son-in-law, Thierry Thomas, also forwarded a multi-page magazine that is published by the City of Breal-sous-Montfort. Staff has included it (**Exhibit C**) for the color pictures, as it is published in French. (The larger magazine is available in the City Records Office).

Marilyn Montgomery Smith told Staff that Jean-Paul and his son-in-law want to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Harrisburg. As many in this Council chamber will remember, Harrisburg had more people per capita with a family member in World War II than any other city in the United States. Staff believes that the Museum may have pieces of the Honor Roll Sign, and we have pictures of it as well, in City Hall, and in Bess Tweedts book. Marilyn felt that the City would likely be able to establish a simple proclamation and exchange of information.



As discovered in **Exhibit A**, Thierry Thomas had contacted the US Consulate in Rennes, Brittany. He was told that we would need to fill out a questionnaire; he also provided a sample of an agreement with another US City. (**Exhibit D**) Breal is interested in holding a ceremony on an annual basis. Staff doesn't believe that with Home Rule in Oregon, that we need permission from anyone in the US to enter into a sister city relationship with Breal-sous-Montfort, if the City Council so desires it. However, we do remain sensitive to the fact that they may need to follow this process in France. Staff can contact State Offices to start, and/or the Consulate in France to verify if we need to follow a certain process.

There is a National Sister City organization in the United States, which costs \$190 a year for membership. They provide sample resources and information to help cities establish sister city relationships. (The questionnaire provided by Thierry is similar to the on-line questionnaire that this organization has under its membership tab.) Staff doesn't believe that we need to join this organization, as it appears to actually put American cities in touch with cities that match theirs in terms of size, economy, education and youth, health,

government and tourism. The organization helps to organize how the partnership is designed. In this case, our proposed relationship will likely be far different from these, as it's based on circumstances occurring during World War II, in mutual respect of each other. (Breal-sous-Montfort appears to be almost double our current population, and is a larger City).

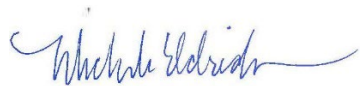
We believe that a relationship can be established that simply recognizes the beauty of a poignant remembrance of a son of Harrisburg who gave his life in World War II, and is being honored by grateful citizens in Breal-sous-Montfort. This in turn honors Jean-Paul Favrais, (who turned 90 last week!) who has become an extraordinary example of what happens when people honor sacrifices made, and who in turn provides honor to his own city. We are sure that there are ways to expand upon that relationship, especially in our school district, and the possibilities of exchanges of information. Our City is recognized for our level of patriotism, and Staff is sure that we should be able to tie in the sister city relationship during the 160<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

After sharing the email with Mayor Duncan, and finding out how he would like to proceed, he noted that the Quinn's used to live in the home that he and Donna have lovingly restored. While researching the information needed for this staff report, Staff sleuthed the following in our historic home tour pamphlet online on the City's website: *"Dr. Clarke House—185 N 4th St.—1903: This home was built for William Tyler. It originally stood on Smith St between the Wyatt and Love/Maxson houses. Tyler ran a hardware and stove store from the 1-story brick building next to the IOOF, later adding groceries. Dr. DG Clark and his wife, Rozanna, bought this home in 1910 to practice medicine, using the south rooms downstairs as an office and waiting room. He was Harrisburg's health officer and the treasurer for some time. The 4th owners, Roy and Irene Quinn, moved the house to the northeast onto the lot on 4th St in 1953 where it now stands so they could build a new home".*

Bess Tweedt also carried the following paragraph in her book, Historic Harrisburg on page 87. This falls under a chapter on Harrisburg during World War II. *"First came the word from Europe that First Lt. Russell Quinn was missing in a flight over occupied France. First Lt. Quinn had already completed twenty missions. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, while flying a P-38 he did not return to his base in England. About a week later came the word that his brother Lt. Gale Quinn did not return to his base in California from a training flight. On August 3, 1944, the body of Lt. (Gale) Quinn was found in the cockpit of his plane near Parkfield, California."*

Marilyn Montgomery Smith and Russ Hayworth will both be at this meeting and might wish to participate in addressing Council this evening. Council can find out more about what they had to say in **Exhibit A**, and both should be able to answer additional questions.

#### REVIEW AND APPROVAL:



02.05.25

Michele Eldridge    Date  
City Administrator