



MIKE O'CALLAGHAN 1929-2004

As an adventurous farm boy, he enlisted in the U.S. armed forces and matured to be a courageous **WAR HERO** fighting in the Korean War and receiving the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

As a scholar and athlete, he grew to be a caring and respected **TEACHER and COACH** working at Basic High School and the Boys Club in Henderson, Nevada.

As a tolerant person, he won the regard of minorities as a fair, broadminded **CIVIL SERVANT** in Nevada hiring and helping the working poor and at-risk youth.

As a politician with integrity, he rose to be hailed by some as Nevada's most popular **GOVERNOR** fighting for the little person by supporting programs for education, housing, energy, minorities, seniors, and the disabled.

As a critic of governmental conduct, he was feared and loved as an influential **NEWSPAPER EDITOR** leading the editorial campaigns of the Las Vegas Sun.

PAT TILLMAN 1976-2004

As a natural student and athlete, he studied and trained hard to be a winning **COLLEGE FOOTBALL COMPETITOR** helping the Arizona State University Sun Devils to reach the Rose Bowl while earning his academic athlete recognitions.

As a seeker of meaning and truth, he read continually to be a dedicated **SCHOLAR and ADVOCATE** debating vigorously a wide variety of current issues and philosophical ideas.

As an aggressive sportsman, he strove to be a loyal and valued **PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPION** breaking records and pleasing fans of the Arizona Cardinals.

As a patriotic citizen, he was willing to sacrifice his own career and life to be a **SELFLESS SOLDIER** declining a lucrative football contract and enlisting in the Army Rangers. Killed in Afghanistan, he was given the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

HEROIC JOURNEYS

HONORS FOR HEROES

There are many definitions for a hero. Most recognize a hero as someone who has dedicated and given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

This definition includes not only the gallant heroes who in a moment of glory win the day, but also the humble heroes quietly overcoming daily adversities in service to others. Heroes serve as examples to follow in putting high ideals into daily action. For thousands of years human cultures have devised ways of showing their respect for important individuals, groups of people or events. Songs, inscriptions, monuments, and buildings are dedicated as memorials to heroes.

THE BRIDGE AS A MEMORIAL

For centuries, bridges have served as memorials throughout the world.

A memorial bridge serves practical and symbolic purposes, physically spanning space and symbolically spanning time. One who crosses a memorial bridge named after important persons is reminded of those heroes' journeys through life.

At Mike O'Callaghan – Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, we remember the life journeys of two men of heroic spirit by naming the bridge after them. Whenever we say their names in referring to the bridge, we remember and honor them. In life, these two humble men did not think of themselves as being more heroic than anyone else is. However, perhaps now we may see each man as a "hero among heroes."

