
Northwest
SENIOR NEWS

November 1, 2001

Dear Gov. Atiyeh -

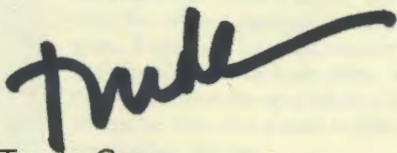
Thanks so much for consenting to give Ted Bryant a story on "just where is Vic Atiyeh now?" We appreciate your taking the time to tell us some of your history.

Enclosed are three editions of *Northwest Senior News* that carried your story. Our local editions cover the area from Portland down through Lane County, so you will be "well read." If you would like more copies just give me a call and I'll send more off to you.

On a personal note, I remember your visits to our *Stayton Mail* newspaper office (Frank and I owned the newspaper from 1964 to 1982) and you were always the perfect guest. It was an honor to have you there. Now I'm part of Denny Smith's brood here in Salem, still hammering away at the news.

Thanks again for the story. I'm sure Vic Atiyeh fans will be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Trude Crow
EDITOR

P.S. The campaign button used in the layout was mine, saved from the days of Vic Atiyeh's reign!

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A visit with Vic Atiyeh

he former governor keeps busy with his brokerage business. See p. 15.



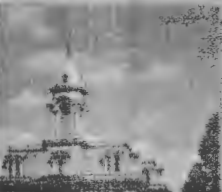
Time for Tea at Moyer House

Each Fall Brownsville raises funds to support its favorite historic home. See p. 16.



Winter bird feeding

Not sure what to feed those birds in winter? Find out on p. 8.



WWII B-17

Tom Newton is familiar with them both.

By GLORIA CLARK
NWSN

DALLAS - Tom Newton of Dallas had a memorable, if not particularly pleasant, 20th birthday. The date was March 30, 1945, and the native Oregonian was a flight engineer on a combat mission over Hamburg, Germany. Heavy flak from 88-mm anti-aircraft guns surrounded the four-engine B-17. Suddenly, over the intercom came the bombardier's voice yelling, "I'm hit, I'm hit." Newton was instructed to go back and check on his comrade's injuries.

"He was OK - just scared like all of us were," says Newton. "The flak jackets we wore were like coats of armor, and that saved him. But when I got back to the nose of the plane, I noticed a lot of air coming in. A shell had ripped holes in both sides, and passed right on through the spot where I usually sat. Normally, the navigator, who was nearer to him, would have seen to the bombardier, not me."

Another stroke of fate had led to Newton's being on the plane at all, instead of being assigned to the infantry. "In the midst of pilot training, we were told we were being phased out because there were too many pilots," he remembers. "So I volunteered for flight engineer training and was sent to Amarillo, Texas, to learn about B-17s, and went on to Flexible Gunnery School in Las Vegas, Nev." That way, at least, Newton was still up in the air.

Newton had been called up for training after volunteering for the aviation cadet program. He started out at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas, before going on to



TRUDE CROW photo

Tom Newton still is able to wear the flight suit he once wore as a B-17 flight engineer in World War II.

Goggles and the clear, smoke or yellow lenses worn in them according to personal preference repose in a barely tattered cardboard container. "I've gained a bit of weight since then, but my flight suit still fits me because it was a bit large anyway," says the man who still appears to be on the slender side.

"The old B-17s were not heated and it was extremely cold at 25,000 to 30,000 feet," remarks Newton. "We wore long underwear with our electrically heated flight suit, with a jacket and pants over it," he adds.

"The temperature was anywhere from 20 to 60 below so our gloves were electrically heated, too. I wore brown silk undergloves in case I had to take the others off; otherwise, my bare hand would have stuck to any surface I touched just like putting your finger in the freezer compartment of a refrigerator and holding it there." His low-altitude leather flying gloves are still like new.

Newton was with the U.S. Army Air Corps



memorabilia courtesy TOM NEWTON



Lt. Harold A. Kay, top center and crew. Dec. 20, 1944 Avon Park, Fla.



Vic Atiyeh

The former governor continues to live the American dream

by TED BRYANT
JWSN

PORTLAND - "It's almost too much to comprehend - the raggedy of almost 6,000 human beings being killed. I could never conceive that they were going to kill so many people."

Vic Atiyeh is speaking, of course, of the murderous actions of Sept. 11. The first person of Arab descent to be elected governor of an American state gazes out the window of his modest second floor office. He recalls that during trips to the mideast the subject of terrorism came up only once "when a cousin in Lebanon mentioned it."

He shakes his head, acknowledging he doesn't understand what has happened. "I don't want to give the terrorists the satisfaction that they can shut down the United States...but they did awaken us."

Atiyeh's parents, Linda and George, were Christians. George Atiyeh was brought to America by his brother Aziz. They opened their rug shop in 1900 and had a downtown store until February of this year. The last location, on Washington Street, was just around the corner from the former governor's office.

Vic Atiyeh skipped a grade and graduated from Washington High School in the class of his twin brothers, Edward and Richard. The trio left the University of Oregon to enlist in the Army. Leg surgery kept Vic out of uni-



TED BRYANT photo

Former Gov. Vic Atiyeh served two terms as Oregon's governor before starting his own brokerage business in downtown Portland.

to work early, push paper around and go home early. That's my business."

Vic Atiyeh knows something about things slowing down. He was in office during a period when some Oregonians were forced to leave the state to find work.

At the slowest point, the unemployment rate hit 12.6 percent.

As a retailer, Atiyeh says he realized the economy was fragile and that diversification was essential. He points out there was a reliance on agriculture, wood products and some tourism when he took office.

Summing up his eight years as chief executive, he claims, "When I left we had those

three, we'd increased tourism and we had international trade and high technology. I'm very proud of all that."

He's also proud of helping to create a law making racial and religious harassment a felony. "I've hated bullies since I was a kid. And that's what those kinds of people are - bullies."

The former governor keeps in touch with some of those with whom he served in Salem. "But," he grins, "with term limits they're all going away. Pretty soon I won't know anybody down there."

Vic Atiyeh is 78 years old. He weighs the same as he did when playing guard for the University of Oregon football team. He's had no recurrence of the chest pains that caused him to undergo angioplasty six years ago. He says his doctor suggested he end 50

years of serious cigarette smoking but "didn't insist on it. And I tell my wife I haven't quit. I just haven't started again."

Dolores (cq) and Atiyeh have lived in the same house since they were married in 1944. Their daughter, Suzanne, and her four children and their son, Tom, and his family live in Portland.

They are living the American dream of their Syrian immigrant ancestors.



photo courtesy VIC ATIYEH

George Atiyeh outside the first Oriental rug shop at 411 Washington St., in downtown Portland. Photo circa 1905.



photo courtesy VIC ATIYEH

The home of the Atiyeh family in the village of Amar, Syria.



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