Omaha Formalizes Sister City Agreement with Isigny-Omaha Intercom

Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert and her French counterpart, Président Patrick Thomines of Isigny-Omaha Intercom, signed documents formalizing a sister city partnership between our communities on Thursday, May 18, 2023. The agreement establishes Omaha's seventh sister city partnership and links Omaha with the French townships overlooking historic Omaha Beach in Normandy, site of the historic D-Day landing on June 6, 1944.

The signing ceremony was held on the recently refurbished Gene Leahy Mall before an audience of 40 representatives of Omaha Sister Cities Association; Alliance Française of Omaha; Cédric Fichepain, honorary consul of France; and city officials. A delegation from Isigny-Omaha Intercom in Normandy, France, was on hand to celebrate the occasion. The delegation, led by Président Thomines, included Mr. Noël Anquetil, Vice President for Tourism; Mme. Catherine Viel, Vice President for Culture and Sport; and Ms. Laura Conte, Events Service for the Intercom.

Isigny-Omaha Intercom is a "communauté" (collective) of 59 townships with a population of 27,000 residents along the Normandy coast. The Intercom combines the communities' efforts in areas including tourism, economic development, cultural exchange and environmental sustainability.

OSCA President Steve Gerdes noted that the formal agreement is the culmination of a five year process that began with outreach to the French Intercom to form a "Friendship Agreement" leading to the current official sister city connection. "We look forward to cementing the bonds of friendship between our communities with a broad range of cultural, educational and touristic exchanges," Gerdes concluded.

Mayor Stothert welcomed the formalization of ties between Omaha and Isigny-Omaha Intercom, recalling the emotions she felt during her own visit to Omaha Beach in October 2019: ""History brings us together. This is truly the beginning of a very, very special friendship."

Président Thomines cited the lasting ties of friendship between France and the United States, that were deepened through the heroic sacrifice of the Normandy landings. "We do not forget those who fought to bring us freedom," Thomines said. "Long live Omaha!"

Footnote: The City Council of Omaha passed a resolution (2023-0516) at its May 9 meeting encouraging the establishment of a sister city relationship with Isigny-Omaha Intercom. The text of the resolution and the Mayor's transmittal letter can be found here https://cityclerk.cityofomaha.org/images/agenda/ID_23_05_09/RES-2023-0516.pdf

News coverage of the event can be found online at:

https://omaha.com/news/local/omaha-formalizes-sister-city-relationship-with-region-in-france/article_fa377d66-f4e7-11ed-a654-639108ba8614.html

Attached photos for posting:

4696; 4702 – Mayor Jean Stothert and Président Patrick Thomines signing the sister city agreement

4713 – Mayor and Président holding signed document together

Official Titles of the delegation:

Patrick P Thomines- Président, Isigny Omaha Intercom; Mayor of Colleville-sur-Mer

Noël J. Anquetil- Vice President for Tourism, Isigny Omaha Intercom

Catherine G. Viel- Vice President for Culture and Sport, Isigny Omaha Intercom; Mayor of Columbières.

Laura L Leconte- Events Service, Isigny Omaha Intercom