

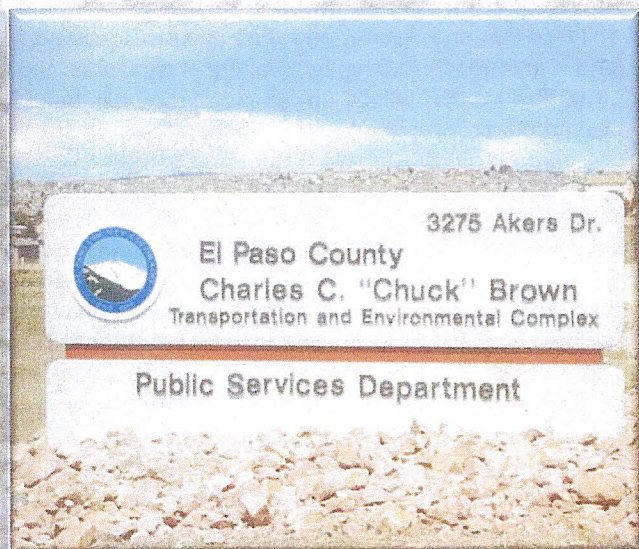
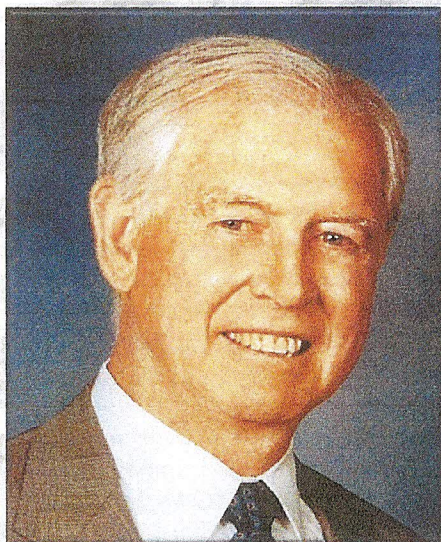
# PLAIN BROWN RAPPER

News for the Grace and Tandy Brown Family

July, 2011

## Rededication of the ...

El Paso County  
Charles C. "Chuck" Brown  
Transportation and Environmental Complex  
3275 Akers Drive, Colorado Springs, CO



## Thursday, August 18, 2011

In June the family newsletter wrote about the rededication of the  
"TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLEX"  
building being renamed and dedicated to our brother  
CHARLES C. "CHUCK" BROWN.

This edition of the newsletter is to honor Chuck and his accomplishments.



Our brother Mike and his wife Nanette attended the ceremony and the following are Mike's comments.

## ***THE "CHUCK"***

By little brother Mike

On August 18, 2011, the El Paso County (Colorado) Commission rededicated their Transportation and Environmental Complex as the ***EL PASO COUNTY CHARLES C. "CHUCK" BROWN TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLEX***. The ceremony was held at the facility located at 3275 Akers Drive. Many of the County's and City of Colorado Springs' political and administrative leaders were in attendance, along with a multitude of Chuck's family, friends and county employees. Even a delegation from the local Marine Corps League was there to cheer their fellow Marine on with a big ***SEMPER PARIT***. It was a warm, clear day, with a spectacular view of Pikes Peak in the background.

The complex sits on the eastern edge of Colorado Springs, overlooking the city and Pikes Peak. The entrance is announced with a large, attractive sign. The face of the transportation building also has a large sign showing the new name of the facility. Although the complex was originally built in the 1990's when Chuck was Commission Chairman, the recent updates and expansion make it appear brand new. While walking around the seating area looking for a place to take pictures, I overheard one of the attendees say that he expected the complex to become known as "The Chuck". It sounded reasonable and appropriate since that is how everyone in the area has come to know Charles.

The ceremony began with the introduction of the many VIPs in attendance; along with Chuck's wife, LaVena; his attending children Ron and Natalie, and their spouses Jody and Mark; and Nanette and me. Following were several speeches (and some friendly ribbing) by a variety of dignitaries and officials, and a very humble acceptance of the honor by Chuck. The plaques that will be placed inside the main building were then unveiled for all to see. Finally, a light buffet and beautifully decorated cake were served.

Chuck has had a long distinguished career of public service to America, Colorado Springs and El Paso County. It began with his service in the Marine Corps from 1945 – 49. While on his way to the Pacific to join the troops preparing to invade Japan, they surrendered and he was diverted to duty in Northern China. Following the Marine Corps he earned an engineering degree at Colorado A&M in Fort Collins and then moved to Colorado Springs, his home for the past 50+ years. (He once told me he never wanted to live anywhere he could not look out and see Pikes Peak) He then became active in the Pikes Peak Range Riders and the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. After telling the then Mayor he was unhappy with some decisions the parks department had made. The Mayor told him if didn't like it, he should get involved and do things right. This was followed by service on the City's Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission and Urban Renewal Board. He was then elected to the City Council, serving from 1975 – 79. In 1982 he was elected County Commissioner serving until 1985, and then again from 1993 – 2005. For 6 of his 12 years as commissioner, he served as Chairman of the Commission. He also served as chairman of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. Following his retirement from El Paso County he served on the El Paso County Highway Advisory Commission. During all this, he had a real job.

The most impressive thing Nanette and I found at the ceremony was the esteem with which everyone holds Chuck. It was apparent in the comments by the presenters, but even more so during conversations with those in attendance. It did not matter if it was a current Commission member, past city or county official, Marine Corps League member, or county employee that worked for him, they all were honored to know him and respected the way he conducted business and himself. This is nothing new to all of us that have known him over the years, but as family we may be a bit prejudiced. However, hearing it from the wide range of people with whom we talked really brought it home. We were very proud to represent the Brown family at this great event.

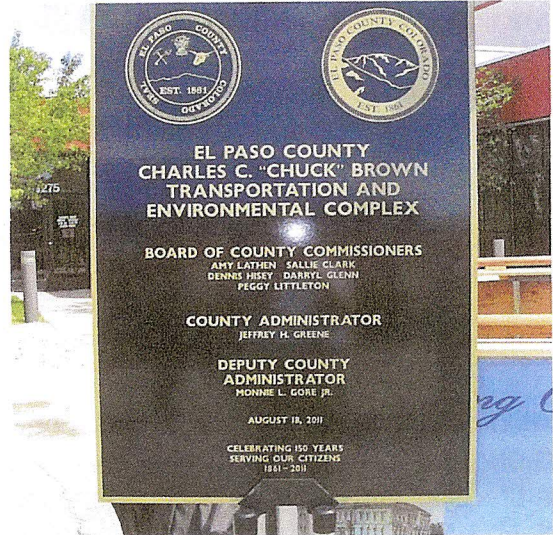


Pictures courtesy of Mike and Nan Brown.



At any celebration, there is a lot of great food. Here is Charles cutting his cake!

The Plaque which is in front of the building.



Charles' family was in attendance. From l to r; Jody and Ron Brown, Charles and LaVena Brown and Natalie and Mark Dinkleman. Behind, the building with its new name!!!! Contratulations Charles, Job will done!!!!



**CORRECTION.** As many in our family use the newsletter for family history, it is important to keep it honest. In the last issue I was extolling the virtues of our brother Charles and his honor by El Paso County in naming the building for him. I wrote about the statue in downtown Colorado Springs of the three Range Riders. One of whom is on a mule. I wrote that it was Charles on the mule. Well, it isn't, it is Ken Brookhart, Charles' father-in-law.

Ron Brown (Charles' son) wrote to correct my statement. Just because I think it should be Charles just doesn't make it so.

Mr. Brookhart was very active in all things Colorado Springs and El Paso County. He has been honored many times and was loved by all. Especially his grandson Ron.

Thank you Ron for keeping me honest and please know I love you all the more for helping me!

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At Dick's reception a lady approached me trying to remember olden days. She said she thought the weirdest job she ever heard of was my being a "Professional Mourner." For a time I wondered what she was talking about until I realized it was while in Washington, D.C. I was an "Army Lady of Arlington.

If you want to know what Arlington Ladies do, you can look them up on the internet. While we did attend funerals it was as the representative of the Chief of Staff of the Army and we attended all funerals when a veteran was interred. Our job, if you can call it a job, was to accompany the Chaplain and stand off to the side. When the service was over, the flag had been folded and presented to the family then we presented a card with condolences from the Chief of Staff of Army, whoever it was at the time. It was the desire of the Chief of Staff to be sure no one who ever served our country was buried without someone there. He had apparently noticed a funeral where there was only the honor guard. During the 7 years I served, we were not at war so most the time it was old veterans. Now however, the women are attending services for men and women who have died in the service of our country. A much greater service to our young men and women who lay their lives on the line each and every day.

It was a tremendous honor and there are many funny stories, some very sad stories and once in a while you were thought to be the "other" woman. But it was the most honorable volunteer job ever. The chaplains are a terrific group of individuals and to be escorted by those tall handsome young soldiers from the "Old Guard" was pretty heady stuff. In order to be an Arlington Lady, you were invited – you did not volunteer and it was amazing. Plus, you were invited to some pretty prestigious parties and dinners and etc. Of course I really loved that part. However, this was not a Professional Mourner as she said, it was a volunteer position as a representative of the Chief of Staff of the Army.