

April 3, 2015

The Honorable Ray Carroll
Supervisor, District 4
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Supervisor Carroll,

I write on behalf of Visit Tucson in support of the proposed renaming of the Mt. Lemmon Community Center to the Chuck Bowden Mt. Lemmon Community Center as a way to celebrate the work and love that Mr. Bowden had for Southern Arizona.

"Being alive is gardening and cooking and birds and green and blue, at the very least," is one of the more famous quotes attributed to Mr. Bowden. It is an apt description of why people live in Summerhaven and visit various points on Mt. Lemmon.

As a journalist for the *Tucson Citizen*, author, essayist and contributor to numerous national publications, Mr. Bowden wrote extensively about the American Southwest. He educated many readers about our wide open spaces and conveyed how Southern Arizona's scenic beauty and way of life can help people connect with their thoughts, and with each other, on deeper, more emotional, levels.

Mr. Bowden's writing could be blunt and raw, such as his depictions of life along the U.S.-Mexico border. But, he was honest and conveyed in his writing that rugged spirit of the American Southwest.

Naming the community center after Chuck Bowden will help attract those who followed his work to visit Mt. Lemmon to experience its awe-inspiring setting. It will also honor a man who shared our region so poignantly with the rest of the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent DeRaad".

Brent DeRaad
President & CEO
Visit Tucson