

Alderson Myers offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution 11 – 2009

Support of name change for Amery/Dresser Trail

Whereas, Pharis Harvey Stower, Jr., a dedicated life-long public servant and advocate for social justice issues, passed away at the age of 65 on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 and Marilyn Stower, a dedicated nurse who passed away on January 29, 2008; and

Whereas, Harvey Stower was born in Frederic, Wisconsin, on September 17, 1944, graduated from Amery High School in 1962, and earned degrees in political science, English, and education from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls in 1966; and

Whereas, Marilyn (Nielsen) Stower was born in Madison, Wisconsin, on July 14, 1946, graduated from Madison West High School in 1964, and earned a B.A. degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and graduated as a Registered Nurse from MATC in Milwaukee in 1973; and

Whereas, Harvey Stower met Marilyn Nielsen while attending college at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, and they were married on March 11, 1967, in River Falls, and together raised two daughters, Kate and Elizabeth; and

Whereas, while attending college at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, Harvey Stower was active in United Methodist youth, campus politics, and working for social justice issues across the United States, including participating in the Selma to Montgomery march with Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1965, beginning a life-long commitment to working for civil rights; and

Whereas, after teaching English at Prescott, Clayton, and Nicolet high schools, Harvey Stower attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., to pursue his dream of becoming an ordained United Methodist minister, and after his ordination in 1977, Harvey and Marilyn moved to Milwaukee where he served as a minister at Kenwood United Methodist Church for several years; and

Whereas, Harvey Stower returned to Amery in 1982 to run for the 28th Assembly District seat, which he won, serving for the 1983–84 session, and then ran again in 1988 and won, serving from 1989 until 1994; and

Whereas, during his time in the state assembly, Harvey Stower authored legislation to create the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, support public schools and rural communities, and improve the lives of farmers, workers, motorists, veterans, and people with disabilities, while also championing core humanitarian issues like hunger prevention and homelessness; and

Whereas, Harvey Stower had an extraordinary ability to work with legislators from both political parties, was a man who had a remarkable and distinct commitment to building relationships with every individual he encountered, and approached his job as a lawmaker with high moral and ethical standards, which earned him the title and legacy of being “The Conscience of the Legislature”; and

Whereas, Harvey Stower’s public service continued in his role as Amery’s mayor for the past 14 years, where his visionary leadership focused on developing the riverfront in Amery, downtown revitalization, economic growth, creating a thriving arts center, and improving the city’s infrastructure through improved facilities for the airport, hospital, library, and food pantry; and

Whereas, Marilyn Stower spent her entire life involved in service to her community and her church; and

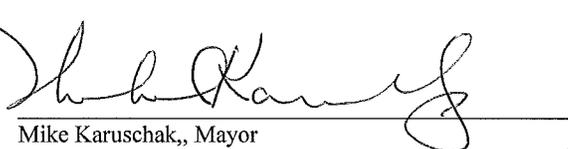
Whereas, Marilyn Stower volunteered at an inner city free clinic and founded a food cooperative in Washington D.C., facilitated a church project to help feed the poor in Milwaukee; and

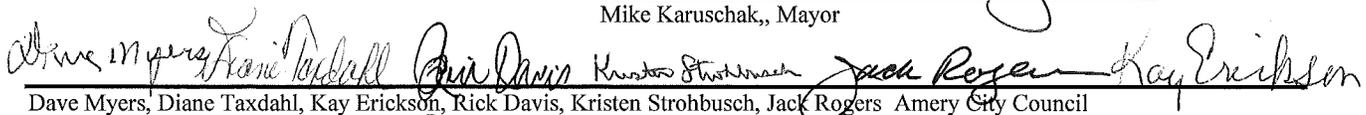
Whereas, Marilyn Stower organized a nurses union, housed the Community Referral Agency in her Amery home, took in abused women and children who needed care, served as Vice President of the Amery Housing Authority, taught midweek church school to kids, raised funds for the Amery Band Boosters and other school programs, sewed costumes for the Amery Community Theater, was a member of the Democratic Party, served as Girl Scout Leader, was State President of the Wisconsin In-service Coordinators at Nursing Homes, and participated in numerous other state and local committees; and

Whereas, one of the current passions of Harvey Stower’s service to the City of Amery was the completion, promoting and development of the Amery/Dresser Trail and since the Amery City Council supported Harvey Stower’s passion; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the City Council of Amery, That the Natural Resources Board of the State of Wisconsin honor Harvey & Marilyn Stower for their decades of tireless and devoted service to northwest Wisconsin, Polk County, the City of Amery and the entire state by the renaming of the Amery/Dresser Trail to the Harvey and Marilyn Stower Memorial Trail.

Adopted: November 11, 2009


Mike Karuschak, Mayor


Dave Myers, Diane Taxdahl, Kay Erickson, Rick Davis, Kristen Strohbusch, Jack Rogers Amery City Council

Attest: 
Darcy Long, City Administrator