

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BROWN & COLE DONATES COMMUNITY PARK ON CAMANO ISLAND:
NAMED TO HONOR PEARL HARBOR VETERANS**

Brown & Cole Stores of Bellingham has donated approximately three acres of land it owns on Camano Island to CARE (Camano Action for a Rural Environment) for a community park.

The proposed park will be named "Freedom Park", according to Craig Cole, Brown & Cole President/CEO.

"We have named this Freedom Park in honor of the veterans of Pearl Harbor, whose terrible experience in 1941 reminds us that freedom and security come at a price," he explained. "We are grateful for those who step forward to serve. The Pearl Harbor Survivors are living symbols of the efforts of many Americans who overcome tragedy to serve the cause of a secure democracy and a safer world."

Brown & Cole has a store, Stanwood Thrifty, near the park site.

The company has signed over the land to CARE, which will be improving the park, which sits at Terry's Corner, the entrance to Camano Island. The group's work on behalf of preserving the natural environment of Camano Island meshes with Brown & Cole's commitment to green space and parks for people to enjoy.

According to Cole, the naming of Freedom Park and its connection to Pearl Harbor is fitting.

"The bridge to Camano Island is named after a famous World War II and Korean War leader, General Mark Clark," he explained. "The Pearl Harbor battleships Arizona and Nevada both visited this area prior to World War II."

"The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, North Cascades Chapter 5, will be honored as they dedicate this park in the spring," he said. "They are a living historical treasure and a symbol of selfless service in preserving American freedom."

Brown & Cole has several other grocery stores in the area, including Stanwood Thrifty, Smokey Point Food Pavilion, Oak Harbor Ennen's, plus Anacortes Food Pavilion, as well as the Cost Cutter stores in Whatcom County. It is the state's oldest food company, founded in 1909 in Lynden.

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