



Guide to the Mike O'Callaghan Professional Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	O'Callaghan, Mike
Title:	Mike O'Callaghan Professional Papers
ID:	MS-01055
Date [inclusive]:	1943, 1968-2004
Physical Description:	23.97 Cubic Feet (37 boxes, 1 framed item)
Physical Description:	20.04 Linear Feet
Physical Location:	Some materials are stored in the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval Unit (LASR). Advanced notice may be required to access these materials.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Mike O'Callaghan Professional Papers (1943, 1968-2004) mainly consist of research files gathered by Mike O'Callaghan in his post-political capacity as executive editor of the <i>Las Vegas Sun</i> as well as owner and publisher of the <i>Henderson Home News</i> , <i>Boulder City News</i> , and <i>Green Valley News</i> . The papers also contain handwritten and typewritten drafts of O'Callaghan's "Where I Stand" article for the <i>Las Vegas Sun</i> , along with his reporter's notebooks, monthly planners, and photographic prints. The research files cover a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to environmental issues; nuclear waste; state and local politics; military and veterans affairs; foreign relations including Israel, Iraq, and Korea; and education. The collection also contains copies of speeches given by O'Callaghan as the 23rd Governor of Nevada between 1971 and 1979, some of which contain handwritten notations.

Preferred Citation

Mike O'Callaghan Professional Papers, 1943, 1968-2004. MS-01055. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Donal Neil "Mike" O'Callaghan served as the 23rd Governor of Nevada from 1971 to 1979. O'Callaghan was born September 10, 1929 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He joined the United States Marine Corps at age 16 and was discharged as a sergeant in 1948. When he returned home, he graduated from high school in Winona, Minnesota. After working as an ironworker and serving in the Marine Corps reserve from 1948 to 1950, O'Callaghan joined the Air Force as an intelligence operator and was assigned to the Aleutian Islands. In 1952, he joined the Army infantry during the Korean War. During his time in the Army he was injured in combat and, as a result, had his left leg amputated. His military honors include a Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Valor medal, and Silver Star medal.

After his years of military service ended, O'Callaghan attended the University of Idaho and Colorado State at Greeley and received his bachelor's and master's degree in education. In 1956, he began working as a teacher and boxing coach at Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada. O'Callaghan began his political career when he was appointed by then-Governor Grant Sawyer to head Nevada's newly formed Department of Health and Welfare from 1963 to 1964. He worked as Program Management Director for the Job Corps Conservation Centers from 1964 to 1966, and then as Regional Director for the Office of Emergency Preparedness from 1967 to 1969.

In 1966, O'Callaghan ran in the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor but lost. In 1970, he received the Democratic gubernatorial nomination and won in the general election over his Republican opponent, Edward Fike, by a narrow margin. He was re-elected in 1974 by a four-to-one margin. O'Callaghan was the last Nevada governor before term limits and was eligible for an elected third term, but chose not to run again in 1978.

After he left office, O'Callaghan became the executive editor of the *Las Vegas Sun*. In 1981, O'Callaghan bought the *Henderson Home News* and its sister paper, the *Boulder City News*. In over two decades, O'Callaghan held a number of positions in the newspaper business, from columnist to executive editor and chairman of the board.

Donal Neil "Mike" O'Callaghan passed away on March 5, 2004 at the age of 74. His legacy as a Nevada politician and philanthropist is honored in four structures that bear his name: O'Callaghan Park in Henderson (1979), Mike O'Callaghan Middle School in East Las Vegas (1992), Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital on Nellis Air Force Base (1996), and the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge that spans the Colorado River (2010).

Sources:

Koch, Ed. "A giant dies: Sun executive editor, former governor was 74." *Las Vegas Sun*, March 5, 2004. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2004/mar/05/a-giant-dies-sun-executive-editor-former-governor/>

Hopkins, A. D. "Mike O'Callaghan," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. February 7, 1999. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/mike-ocallaghan/>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Mike O'Callaghan Professional Papers (1943, 1968-2004) mainly consist of research files gathered by Mike O'Callaghan in his post-political capacity as executive editor of the *Las Vegas Sun* as well as owner and publisher of the *Henderson Home News*, *Boulder City News*, and *Green Valley News*. The papers also contain handwritten and typewritten drafts of O'Callaghan's "Where I Stand" article for the *Las Vegas Sun*, along with his reporter's notebooks, monthly planners, and photographic prints. The research files cover a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to environmental issues; nuclear waste; state and local politics; military and veterans affairs; foreign relations including Israel, Iraq, and Korea; and education. The collection also contains copies of speeches given by O'Callaghan as the 23rd Governor of Nevada between 1971 and 1979, some of which contain handwritten notations.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged into four categories: professional, political, personal, and visual material. Within each category, materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Timothy O'Callaghan in 2021; accession number 2021-074.

Processing Note

In 2021, Sarah Jones processed the collection and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Mike O'Callaghan oral history interview, 1999 May 06. OH-01408. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Politicians
- Veterans
- Israel -- Foreign relations
- Newspapers
- Education
- Environmental policy
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- photographs
- Las Vegas Sun
- Henderson Home News
- Boulder City News
- Green Valley News

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Professional papers	
Article drafts and research	
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 1988 to 1989	box 01
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 1990 February to 1990 November	box 01
Physical Description: 9 Files	
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 1991 January to 1991 July	box 01
Physical Description: 2 Files	
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 2000 February	box 02
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 2001 February to 2001 December	box 02
Physical Description: 11 Files	
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 2002 January to 2002 December	box 03
Physical Description: 16 Files	box 04
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 2003 January to 2003 December	box 04
Physical Description: 20 Files	box 05
	box 06
	box 07
"Where I Stand" article drafts, research, and notes, 2004 January to 2004 March	box 07
"Where I Stand" list of possible guest authors with request letters, 1993 to 2002	box 07
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>Henderson Home News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2001 January to 2001 November	box 08
Physical Description: 10 Files	
<i>Henderson Home News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2002 January to 2002 December	box 08
Physical Description: 11 Files	
<i>Henderson Home News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2003 January to 2003 December	box 08
	box 09

Physical Description: 12 Files

<i>Henderson Home News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2004	box 09
<i>Boulder City News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2001 September to 2001 December	box 09
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<i>Boulder City News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2002 January to 2002 December	box 09
Physical Description: 6 Files	
<i>Boulder City News</i> article drafts, research, and notes, 2003 January to 2003 September	box 09
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Physical Description: 2 Files	
Andrus Center "Policy after Politics: Public Land Management in the Western States" conference materials, 2000 to 2002	box 15
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Arafat, Yasser: subject file, 2002 to 2004	box 30
Physical Description: 2 Files	
"As We Knew It" the story of Classic Las Vegas: subject file, 2004	box 30
"Asbestos: Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2003": subject file, 2003	box 16
The Balkans: subject file, 1998 to 2000	box 33
Bureau of Land Management lands: subject file, 2004	box 29
Cherokee Nation run-off elections: subject file, 1999	box 16
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Civil Defense for the Family: Instructions for Action During an Attack on the Home Front: subject file, 2003	box 29
Circus-Circus Enterprises: subject file, 1989 to 1990	box 17
Claiborne, Henry and Conforte, Joe legal case: subject file, 1982	box 17
Clark County School District "Comprehensive Master Plan for Excellence in Education" binder: subject file, 1984	box 17
Clark County School District: Vo Tech drug education program: subject file, 1980 to 1989	box 17

Cleland, Max: fundraiser file: subject file, 1996	box 17
Clifton, Guy: "You Know You're A Nevadan If...": subject file, 2003	box 17
Creech, General Wilbur L.: subject file, 2003	box 17
Committee on Corrections, a report to Governor Kenny Guinn: subject file, 2002	box 17
Corbin, William: autobiography draft, 1990 to 1999	box 31
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Dell'Olio, Frank (medicare): subject file, 1994	box 17
Dil, Nasam (Ph.D.) UNLV Special Education professor curriculum vitae: subject file, 1999	box 17
El Paso, Texas oil pipeline: subject file, 2002	box 31
Ellison, James "Pepper": subject file, 1985 to 1986 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 17
Earthquakes in Las Vegas area: subject file, 1989	box 17
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Forfeiture and seizure: subject file, 1992 to 1997	box 18
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Gallegos, Michael A. (Air Force medical): subject file, 1994 September 07	box 18
Ghetto Museum at Terezin: subject file, 1997	box 18
Golden Nugget scholarship banquet: subject file, 1995	box 18
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Graduation speech of the 100th Police Academy class, El Paso, Texas: subject file, 2001 March 15	box 18
Guam war crime trials: subject file, 1991	box 18
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Guns and military weaponry: subject file, 2003	box 31
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Hawkins, Frank: speech at Sports Hall of Fame, 1997 to 2001	box 19
Henderson, Nevada 50th anniversary: subject file, 2003	box 19
Henderson State College Advisory Committee: subject file, 2001	box 19
Hiroshima (WWII bombing of): subject file, 1986 to 1994	box 19
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Israel (State of) bonds dinner: subject file, 1993 October	box 20
Israel's fence: subject file, 2004	box 30
Israel: subject file and clippings, 1990 to 2004 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 20 box 34
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Joyce Communications, Inc.: subject file, 1997 to 1998	box 21
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Laxalt, Bob vs. Mello, Don: subject file, 1978 to 1979	box 21

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Las Vegas Rotary Club valedictorian luncheon speech: subject file, 2002 April 25	box 21
Lincoln Park Elementary School, Sparks, Nevada: subject file, 1994	box 21
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Mahoney, Patrick: subject file, 1997 to 1998	box 21
Marinacci, Kevin and Fabretto Children's Foundation: subject file, 1996 to 1998	box 22
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Olympics investigation: subject file, 2002	box 25
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"Press, military, and war": subject file, 1983 to 2001	box 31
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"Road Map for National Security: Imperative for Change" report: subject file, 2001 February 15	box 26
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Sagebrush Rebellion (Elko, Nevada): subject file, 1981 to 2001	box 26
Schaller, Christy "Chris": subject file, 1984	box 26
Southern Nevada Children's Home: subject file, 1997 to 2001	box 26
State agency reports: subject file, 1972 to 1980	box 26
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