



City of Glendale
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Office of Mayor Jerry P. Weiers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MAYOR WEIERS JOINS INAUGURAL SISTER CITIES
DELEGATION TO ØRLAND NORWAY**

TRIP FORGES FRIENDSHIPS & CULTURAL EXCHANGE ABROAD

GLENDALE, Ariz. –Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers joined the Glendale Sister Cities Organization on a 19-person delegation and inaugural journey Sept. 19 - 27 to discover more about its Nordic Sister City, Ørland (pop. 5,291) and surrounding cities.

Ørland Main Air Station, at the mouth of the Trondheimsfjorden operated by Royal Norwegian Air Force, is the base of F-16 fighter aircraft, Westland Sea King search and rescue helicopters and a location for E-3A Sentry. The Ørland air base partners with Luke Air Force Base in Glendale to train F-35 pilots.

“Norway is a strategic Allied nation and as the F-35 program continues to expand, we will have more families living in Glendale from Norway,” said Mayor Weiers. “I believe it’s important that we, as a city, do everything we can to enhance the success of Luke Air Force Base and that includes fostering positive relationships with other cities that are connected with the base.”

While in Ørland, the delegation met with Ørland Mayor Tom Myvold and City Council Members, Ørland Business Development Manager Arne Solli Martin, Ørland Sister Cities Representative Margaret Aune, as well as, the city’s historian.

“They were very warm and genuine people who are committed to maintaining a relationship with Glendale,” said Sister Cities President, Nancy Lenox. “All successful Sister City programs have the support of their city government, and having Mayor Weiers accompany us to Norway demonstrated Glendale’s commitment to Glendale Sister Cities and to the relationship we are building with our Sister City in Ørland.”

The delegation had lunch and dinner with Ørland’s city council members and toured historical sites. Mayor Weiers and Lenox presented Ørland officials with a commemorative plaque reading “Presented in Friendship Sept. 20, 2018” on which was mounted a “Key to the City of Glendale” coin, logos and also featured the front and back sides of Mayor Weiers’ challenge coin.

“The city has been fortunate to have development surrounding Luke AFB, a \$2 billion economic engine for Arizona, and it was interesting that Ørland has not had the same kind of development around their air base. That is something that they are working on and learning from Glendale,” said Mayor Weiers.

Ørland officials have met with Glendale economic development representatives on previous visits to Arizona.

Lenox added that another take-away from the trip is that the Glendale Sister Cities program will now build on youth opportunities for cultural exchange.

“It means a lot to them that their F-35 families have a support system while they are training at Luke AFB,” Lenox said. “Now that our Sister Cities are learning more about one another, we are eager to develop educational exchanges for students.”

“They love Americans and definitely have an appreciation for our culture,” said Mayor Weiers who noted that, in a surprising twist, a local barbershop quartet serenaded the group with American songs. “In particular, I enjoyed learning about their heritage, as well as, their perspectives on World Wars I and II.”

In addition to Ørland, the delegation’s itinerary included the Norwegian cities of Trondheim, Baakklandet Old Town, Bergen, Gudvangen, Flam, Myrdal and Oslo.

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