

Turner Construction And *Infinity Park*: A Forward Thinking Partnership

by Kathy Fairchild

Writer for and on behalf of the City of Glendale
Renowned as the largest commercial

builder in the United States, *Turner Construction* opened its doors for business in Denver in 1973, 71 years after Henry Turner founded the company in New York City. The company is known throughout the country as the number one green builder, and is known in Denver for such projects as the *Spectrum Building*, the *Johns Manville Building*, *Sports Authority Field*, and *Infinity Park* at Glendale.



In front of the Turner touchline board, the Raptors challenge for the ball against the French Armed Forces during the Serevi RugbyTown Sevens.

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"Henry Turner founded the company based on trusting his clients as his friends and that's how, after six years, we feel about

construction of *Infinity Park*, but had no relationship with the city prior to 2007 when building began.

"We walked into the interview with Mike Dunafon, Linda Cassaday, and Chuck Line in rugby shirts, and the chemistry seemed to click," explained Gene Fatur, Project Executive. "My cell phone rang before we got back to our offices saying we got the job and the partnership was born."

Turner has since been a proud sponsor of the Glendale Raptors and *Infinity Park*.

The team undertook the unique challenge of building the only municipally owned rugby stadium in the United States with a certain vision of how it would come together. They were challenged with building around pre-existing buildings, such as the City Municipal building and the now

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High Altitude Training Center. To hurdle some of the existing obstacles the builders found ways of incorporating pre-existing elements into the new stadium. What is now the *Grubber Grille*, for instance, was once the police weight room, converted to easily face the stadium to serve match at-

tendees, but allow workers to enter from a private entrance.

"The complex was built and planned for the future," Gene said. Unbeknownst to many regular attendants, *Infinity Park* has many high tech features such as special lights that can support a live night HDTV broadcast, an AV system designed for



Turner shows support: During the Remembrance Ceremony for fallen ruggers at the Serevi RugbyTown Sevens, the U.S. Navy presented a USA rugby ball.

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world-wide broadcast, and even gas lines to facilitate spectaculars such as shooting flames from concrete columns. "It is everything we envisioned it would be, plus more," Gene said.

Not only does Turner pride itself on innovative and forward thinking building, but also on giving back to the community and the environment.

"We like to partner with our clients on causes they are passionate about," Mark said. For example, they built and continue to stay involved with the *Gathering Place*, a shelter for women and children on Colfax and High Street. The company also recently put on a talent show with their own employees for disabled veterans in conjunction with the new *VA Hospital* project at *Fitzsimons Medical Campus* they have been working on. "We like to give back to our clients and maintain a strong relationship, which is why we continue to sponsor *Infinity Park* and the *Glendale Raptors*. We rely on *Glendale* and *Glendale* relies on us," Mark explained.

With the *Glendale Riverwalk* set to break ground in 2014, the relationship remains intact as *Glendale* paves the way for the future. The people at *Turner* have had the opportunity to watch the city evolve from the "party area" of the metro area to what it has become: a family and entertainment district. "Infinity Park has been a positive addition to *Glendale*, and *Turner* is proud to be a part of it," Gene remarked.

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