



## **SENATOR FRED DYSON**

### **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

#### **SCR 19**

#### **A Resolution proclaiming September 24, 2012 as United States Marshals Day**

The purpose of this Resolution is to proclaim September 24, 2012 to be US Marshals Day in honor of the long standing service of the United States Marshals and their deputies to the State of Alaska.

The United States Congress appointed the US Marshals Service on September 24, 1789. After the purchase of Alaska from Russia on October 18, 1867, Alaska was designated a military district of the United States and placed under the control of the War Department. The US Army was charged with maintaining law and order until troops were withdrawn in 1877.

In 1884, law and order in Territorial Alaska was assigned to the Marshals. At the start of the gold rush there was only one Marshal and ten Deputy Marshals, the sole law enforcement authority throughout Alaska.

The Alaska Peace Officer Memorial chronicles the eight brave Deputy US Marshals who died in the line of duty in early Alaska. The deputy marshals continued to be the main force of law in rural Alaska until the formation of the Alaska State Troopers. Many early-era troopers were former deputy US Marshals.

The commitment to Alaska continues strong today. In March 1999, the U.S. Marshal's Office established the Alaska Fugitive Task Force to pull together resources of federal, state and local agencies to apprehend state and federal fugitives, especially those wanted for crimes of violence and drug trafficking. The Task Force has arrested over 5,000 subjects in Alaska and extradited over 250 subjects to other States for adjudication of crimes. US Marshal and Alaska State Trooper partnerships include the Village Crime Reduction Program, Registered Sex Offender Compliance & Enforcement Project and the Badges and Books Program.

Many non-fictional books about Alaska's history make reference to the US Marshals. Stories of the frontier Alaskan Marshal still live today in the minds of many village Elders who remember having Marshals in their villages when they were children.

In honor of this legacy, and the rich history between the great state of Alaska and the US Marshals Service, the Alaska State Legislature hereby proclaims September 24, 2012 as US Marshals Day.

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