



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

You are here: [Home](#) / [Press Releases](#) / State Launches Contest to Name New Ferries

State Launches Contest to Name New Ferries

January 5, 2016

Press Release: 16-001

January 4, 2016 JUNEAU – Governor Bill Walker called on Alaska students today to help name two state ferry vessels, which are currently being built in Ketchikan after the Alaska Legislature appropriated funding for the projects in the fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2012 budgets. From now until March 15, students between 6th and 12th grade are invited to name the two new Alaska Class ferries, and submit an essay explaining the choice. According to statute, each ferry must be christened after one of Alaska's 745 named glaciers.

The two ferries are currently being built at the Vigor Alaska shipyard in Ketchikan, and will serve the ports of Haines, Juneau and Skagway – also known as the North Lynn Canal region. Crews began construction on the ferries in the fall of 2014 and are scheduled to be complete their work in 2018.

"Just like Benny Benson made history when he won the contest in 1927 to design the Alaska flag, two young Alaskans can also help make a mark in state history," said Governor Bill Walker. "I look forward to seeing our young people's creativity on display on the two vessels that will play such an important role in our state's transportation system."

The two winning essays will be framed and displayed on the respective ferries. Two winners will be chosen—one from the 6th-8th grade group; another from the 9th-12th grade group. The winning essays will be selected by Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Byron Mallott and Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Commissioner Marc Luiken.

The winners will be announced May 1. The two students with winning essays will receive an award certificate in their classroom, presented by Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Mallott or Commissioner Luiken.

Complete contest details and entry forms may be found online at FerryAlaska.com/contest.

View the contest outline [here](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 16-42

Contact: Katie Marquette, Press Secretary – (907) 269-7447
Aileen Cole, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 269-7458

Governor Walker Announces Winners of Contest to Name New Ferry Boats

May 17, 2016 JUNEAU – Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott today announced the names of Alaska's two new ferry vessels. They thanked Tanalian School 7th grader Malea Voran of Port Alsworth and Eagle River High School 10th grader Taylor Thompson of Eagle River for the winning entries naming the Alaska Class ferries the Tazlina and the Hubbard. According to statute, each ferry is to be christened after one of the state's 745 named glaciers.

In January, the Governor called on Alaska students to submit essays on potential names for the vessels. The two ferries are being built at the Vigor Alaska shipyard in Ketchikan after the Alaska Legislature appropriated funding for the projects in 2009 and 2012. Upon completion in 2018, the ferries will provide day boat service between Juneau, Haines, and Skagway – also known as the North Lynn Canal region.

In all, 448 6th through 12th graders submitted essays to name the two new vessels.

"Benny Benson was 13 years old when he won the contest to design Alaska's flag. Similarly, these students are leaving their mark on history by helping name the two most recent additions to our fleet of Alaska Marine Highway System vessels," said Governor Walker. "I'm inspired by all the students who took the time to submit an essay, and I congratulate Malea and Taylor for their award-winning entries."

In her essay, Malea Voran explained that Tazlina, an Ahtna Athabaskan name meaning "swift river," is an appropriate name for a ferry, which should be named after something swift and agile. "This name would remind us that even small things are capable of doing big things. This small boat could be named after something big and inspiring," Malea wrote.

Taylor Thompson wrote her essay on the Hubbard Glacier, which, unlike most glaciers, has been thickening and advancing into Disenchantment Bay for over a century. "This glorious slab of ice has defied its predisposition and proved to be a true wonder. An Alaskan ferry should be just as incredible," Taylor wrote.

The Tazlina

By: Malea Voran

"The Tazlina" would be a great name for the one of Alaska's new ferries. Imagine stepping out of your car amidst many other parked vehicles. Your heart rapidly beats with excitement. You are on a dock looking at a beautiful ferry in which you will be riding from Skagway all the way to Juneau. Your anxiety and excitement overwhelms you as you breathlessly whisper, "The Tazlina... I will be riding on the Tazlina."

Alaska has given kids, grade six through twelve, the opportunity to name two of Alaska's new ferries that are being built. The names that the kids will enter have to be from an Alaskan glacier. This is great for children to work on their writing abilities and it also encourages children to use their imagination.

In 1819, W.C. Mendenhall gave the Tazlina Glacier its Ahtna Athabaskan name. Mendenhall spelled it, T-a-x-l-i-n-a, but now it is spelled, T-a-z-l-i-n-a, which means, swift river. The Tazlina Glacier is twenty-five miles long, and roughly, at its widest point, is three and a half miles. The elevation of this glacier is 4,655 feet above sea level. It stretches one and a half miles north of Mt. Cashman, all the way to one mile south of Tazlina Lake. This glacier is the largest receding glacier in the Chugach Mountains. Near its terminus, where the Tazlina Lake and the Tazlina River are located, the Tazlina Glacier thins out gradually. This valley glacier is a popular attraction for tourists who come visiting to Valdez. From the Tazlina Glacier to Skagway and Haines is about 380 miles. As you can see, this glacier is indeed a prodigious but incredible glacier.

My reasoning behind this name is that this glacier is big, strong and simply amazing. Since "Tazlina" means, "swift river," the ferry should be named after

something swift, fast and agile. I also feel that this new boat should be named after the Tazlina Glacier because, in my opinion, that name sounds grand and majestic. "The Tazlina" just rolls off your tongue. You could even nickname it the Tenacious Tazzy, or something enjoyable and intriguing to persuade passengers to want to ride on this ferry. If this new watercraft were to be named the Tazlina, it would represent a great glacier.

Thanks to the Department of Transportation, youth around the state of Alaska receive a chance to enter a contest to name two new ferries that are being built to serve along the Alaska Marine Highway. One of these ferries should be named the Tazlina in honor of the glacier. This name would remind us that even small things are capable of doing big things. This small boat could be named after something big and inspiring. If the one of these new ferries were named the Tazlina, it would be named after a glacier that inspires awe.

Student Name: Taylor Thompson

Parent or Guardian Name:

Mailing Address:

Home Phone: n/a

Email Address:

Name of School/Home Schooled: Eagle River High School

Grade Level Currently Enrolled: 10

Student's Age as of 03-15-2016: 16

Hubbard Glacier

One of the Alaska Marine Highway System's ferries should be named after the Hubbard Glacier. This glacier surpasses all others in its beauty and magnificence. A ferry named after it would surely do the same.

The Hubbard Glacier is near Yakutat City and Borough, Alaska. It is about seventy-six miles long and is underwater at its terminus in Disenchantment Bay. In contrast to many of the world's glaciers, Hubbard Glacier has been thickening. This unusual behavior has baffled scientists. It has also been advancing into Disenchantment Bay for over a century. This glorious slab of ice has defied its predisposition and proved to be a true wonder. An Alaskan ferry should be just as incredible.

The Hubbard Glacier was named after Gardiner Greene Hubbard in 1980. He was an amazing man who accomplished great things in his lifetime such as co-founding the National Geographic society and helping found Clarke School for the Deaf. This man was so outstanding

that he had many places and geographical figures named after him as a sign of honor. Since it seems as though Hubbard Glacier took on some traits of its namesake, I can't help but assume that a ferry would be afforded some of the same magic.

Glaciers have been a part of Alaska since before it was even a state. The Hubbard Glacier has not only existed since before 1959, it has also been moving and shedding icebergs. It has affected the lives of many Alaskans along its path. Now, people like to visit the glacier so they can hear the thunderous sound it makes as it moves, and to see it calve chunks of ice. The Hubbard Glacier is even important to Alaska's precious wildlife. Since Orca whales do not visit Disenchantment Bay, seals are able to give birth to their babies on the icebergs shed by the glacier. The Hubbard Glacier serves as a place of love and adventure for families of both the human and non-human variety. It would be wonderful for a ferry of the Alaska Marine Highway System to serve as the same type of happy place for everyone to come together.

The Hubbard Glacier is one of Mother Nature's most fantastic works of art. It is big, beautiful, and majestic. If an Alaskan ferry were to be named after it, then the ferry would certainly match the glacier's charm. A ride on the MV Hubbard would be one you could never forget.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 17-010

Contact: Katie Marquette, Press Secretary – (907) 465-5801
Jonathon Taylor, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 465-3985

Governor Walker Introduces Bill to Name New State Ferries

January 23, 2017 JUNEAU – Governor Bill Walker introduced legislation today naming two new state ferries that will come into service in late 2017. The two vessels are currently under construction at Vigor Alaska in Ketchikan. As required by Alaska law, each ferry bears the name of an Alaska glacier – the *Motor Vessel Tazlina* and the *Motor Vessel Hubbard*.

Last year, Governor Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott reviewed hundreds of names submitted by Alaska students in an essay competition to name the two ferries.

“I am honored to include Alaska’s young people in the ferry naming process. Just like Benny Benson did when he designed the Alaska flag, these two students are leaving their mark in our state’s history,” Governor Walker said. “I look forward to seeing these beautiful vessels sail in Alaska waters for years to come.”

Tanalien School 7th grader Malea Voran of Port Alsworth proposed the name “Tazlina.” The Tazlina Glacier is named after the Tazlina River. In her essay, Malea explained that name is an Ahtna Athabascan word meaning “swift river”, making it an appropriate name for a ferry.

“This name would remind us that even small things are capable of doing big things,” she said in her essay. “This small boat could be named after something big and inspiring.”

Eagle River High School 10th grader Taylor Thompson of Eagle River suggested the name “Hubbard.” The Hubbard Glacier flows 80 miles to its terminus at Disenchantment Bay, near Yakutat in the St. Elias Mountains. Originally named for National Geographic Society founder Gardiner G. Hubbard, the Hubbard glacier has been advancing for over 100 years – unlike other glaciers.

“This glorious slab of ice has defied its predisposition and proved to be a true wonder,” Taylor wrote in her essay. “An Alaskan Ferry should be just as incredible.”

Attached: Copy of the Transmittal Letter

###