



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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October 15, 2019

Mr. John D. Knott, III
Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart
493 Valley View Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

RE: Letter of Support to the Military Order of the Purple Heart to Designate the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Anchorage as a Purple Heart Trail/Highway

Dear Commander Knott,

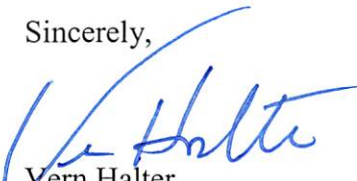
As the Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, I am writing this letter to offer my full support for the request from the Military Order of the Purple Heart to designate the George Parks Highway, from Fairbanks to Anchorage, as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this goal by creating an honorary visual reminder of the sacrifices made by these heroes for the freedom we have to travel and live in a free society.

A portion of the Alaskan Highway, from the Canada/U.S. border connecting the Richardson Highway in Delta Junction and on to Fairbanks, was designated as a Purple Heart Trail in 2009. We support the goal of this current request to link the end of the trail in Fairbanks and extend it to Anchorage. We also support their ultimate goal to extend this Purple Heart Trail to our southernmost drivable city of Homer, Alaska. These connections would then become the longest Purple Heart Trail in the nation.

I strongly support the efforts of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to designate the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Anchorage as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

Sincerely,



Vern Halter
Mayor