

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Geran Tarr

House Bill 357

“An Act naming the Bragaw Street overcrossing of the Glenn Highway the Insook Baik Bridge.”

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 357 is the result of a months-long collaborative process between the community councils and constituents in House District 19. Recently, constituents brought to our attention that the Bragaw St. overcrossing of the Glenn Highway in Mountain View was unnamed. Community leaders believed that this would be a good opportunity to honor a local figure who has contributed to the fabric of the neighborhood, so our office collaborated with the community councils in order to compile a list of potential honorees in our district. We had a final list of 7 community members who have given time, money, and energy to better their neighborhoods, and we publicized this list to get community feedback.

After several weeks of surveying and many responses the neighbor we are recognizing is: Insook Baik, the owner of the Mountain View Shell gas station and 35-year resident of Anchorage. In addition to being a key member of her faith and the Anchorage Korean-American community, Ms. Baik has gained statewide recognition for the last decade due to her annual Thanksgiving meal drive. Every Thanksgiving, Ms. Baik gives back to her community by preparing and serving hundreds of hot meals to anyone who visits her business. This past year, the Mt. View Shell estimated that they served 900 meals to neighbors in Anchorage.

Her generosity has been documented by the Anchorage Daily News multiple times, and when reporters asked her son about the reason for her Mountain View meal drive, his response was, “She's fallen in love with the community here. It's one of the few places where people will give their last dollar to each other. I think that pulls at her heartstrings.”

Ms. Baik’s generosity and love for her community reflects the best of Mountain View, a diverse neighborhood where individuals of so many different backgrounds come together. Her kindness deserves recognition, so I would greatly appreciate your support in passing HB 357.