



February 14, 2023

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities commemorates Marvin Thurmond, who worked for DOT&PF for more than 32 years. Marvin was a model employee who was dedicated to serving the people of Alaska. He started as an Equipment operator in Galena and retired as the Galena Airport manager. Marvin's leadership in maintaining and operating the airport hub ensured that outlying communities received the highest level of service from DOT&PF. Through many challenges throughout his career, he performed above and beyond his regular duties, keeping the safety of the public a priority. These unselfish acts are commendable, and so the Department, with support from the community, nominates the Galena Maintenance Shop to be named in honor of the late Marvin Thurmond.

A few accomplishments and things to know about Marvin,

- Marvin and his crew were invested in the community. And their performance at the job was frequently acknowledged by their community. Marvin understood that the Galena Airport was not only a lifeline to Galena, but also to the surrounding communities. Marvin's crew could be counted on to respond to an event at any time of day, allowing for the Galena airport to be maintained in a safe condition for the many communities which it serves. Through his leadership, the Galena Airport remained a constant for the region, allowing for goods and services to be dispersed to Galena and the surrounding communities.
- Marvin never complained and was known for finding solutions to the unique challenges that are presented in rural Alaska. He remained positive, and always found ways to utilize resources to create opportunities.
- During the spring of 2013, Galena and many surrounding communities experienced extreme flooding from an ice jam on the Yukon River. Marvin and his crews quickly responded to secure private residences, as well as the Galena Airport. Marvin and his crew also assisted in mobilizing the community's equipment and resources to the Galena Airport Levee. As water rose, the crew quickly placed additional fill material on the top of the levee, preventing the water from overtopping it. Marvin went on to help restore access along many of the roadways in Galena. Without his quick response and after-action repairs, further damage to state and city infrastructure would have delayed access throughout the region, impacting not only Galena, but the surrounding communities.
- Prior to the realignment of the Galena Champion Roadway, the road was frequently washed away to erosion by the Yukon River. For many years, Marvin and his dedicated crews worked to

move the roadway further inland, and away from the river. Marvin's relationship with the community, local contractors, and adjacent tribal landowners allowed the Department to effectively realign this roadway in a matter of days, restoring access to the community landfill.

- The Galena Airport serves as an important base for wildlife fire management. Marvin worked together with both State and Federal Agencies in responding to wildland fires to keep rural Alaskans safe.

With the support of the community of Galena, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities nominates the Galena Maintenance Station to be named in honor of Marvin Thurmond. Marvin was a model community member who always strived to enhance DOT&PF's services to Alaska. It was a pleasure having him as part of our team and we speak for many when we say-- he is missed.

Sincerely,

Jason Sakalaskas
Northern Region M&O Chief