



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

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### **Sponsor Statement for** **HB 246 An Act Naming Certain Bridges**

Cordova is located in the Copper River Valley and its residents have a strong sense of duty. Duty to country and duty to their people. It is that sense of duty that has spurred the people of Cordova to serve in every major war of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is also that sense of duty that compelled an Eyak elder to nearly singlehandedly preserve the Eyak language for future generations. It is also this sense of duty that prompted the City of Cordova to ask the state to name 15 of its unnamed Cordova-area bridges after some of their finest residents.

In honor of the brave young men who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the City of Cordova has requested that 14 of their unnamed bridges be named for each of the sons that they have lost. They are:

#### **World War I**

James Bennet  
William M. Jones  
Steve Green  
Lucian Platt  
Mathhew Anderson  
W.H. Mumby  
John W. Jones

#### **World War II**

Patrick B. Burchett  
Norman D. Osbourne  
Leonard F. Olson

#### **Vietnam**

David Henry Elisovsky  
David Allen Lape  
Warren Allen Paulsen  
Michael Dean Banta

The City of Cordova has also requested that the bridge over the Eyak River be named after Marie Smith Jones. Marie Smith Jones was an Eyak elder who worked tirelessly to preserve the Eyak language. She left behind one of the most comprehensive records of any aboriginal language that exists today.

Naming these bridges after some of Alaska's finest residents is the least we can do to thank them for their service and their sacrifice. I urge your support of HB 246.