

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON HOUSE DISTRICT 30

Sponsor Statement

HB 109

Michael G. Wiley was a great Alaskan who impacted the state in many positive ways from the time he arrived here in 1966.

He served as an educator in our schools, a worker on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, a fisherman, and an active member in communities everywhere he went. He was a volunteer with many organizations including the Kasilof Regional Historical Center and the Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association. He also served on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, the Homer Electric Association Board of Directors, and the Kenai Peninsula School Board. Michael was always engaged and working to make his community a better place.

As a fisherman he would always work his hardest right to the very end of the season. Since 1977 he maintained the same Clam Gulch setnet site. In 2007 he also became a board member of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

He did his best to ensure the best possible education was provided to students in the Kenai Peninsula School District as a school board member from 1987 to 1990. He brought the board perspective from his rural teaching experience in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

In 1991 he served for a term on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. In 2010 he also served on the Kenai Peninsula Board of Equalization, bringing his long term knowledge of local property values to the table. He always undertook his work with the utmost sincerity and dedication.

In 2010 he was appointed to the Homer Electric Association Board of Directors after 40 years of membership. There he championed alternative, sustainable energy solutions for Alaskans, worked to help solve Cook Inlet gas shortages, and strove to build far reaching cooperative partnerships with other areas of the state.

Another important activity to him was serving as a member of the Peninsula Gardening Club. He would annually donate produce to the Kenai Peninsula Foodbank.

He always encouraged the people around him to get involved with what mattered to them. It is safe to say that without his advocacy, many community organizations would not be where they are today.

His patience and kindness, along with his tireless work ethic will be greatly missed by all.

HB 109 will name Sterling Highway bridge 670 over the mighty Kasilof River the Michael G. Wiley Bridge to honor this great forward-thinking Alaskan and all he contributed to our state.