

21 February 2015

HB 56

Firefighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property. Here in Alaska, as it is nationwide, that dedication is in the form of countless hours volunteered over many years, in others it is many selfless years working in the industry. In all cases it risks the ultimate sacrifice of a firefighter's life.

House Bill 56 would set aside a day when Alaskan's can reflect, recognize and honor the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. It is also a day in which current and past firefighters can be thanked for their contributions.

It will be a day to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. At the same time, we can show our support and appreciation to the firefighters statewide who continue to protect us so well throughout the year. For these unsung heroes this is not so much to ask for all they give. Many hours are spent away from family for the volunteer firefighters, who train so diligently, and then to go on to serve their communities and state. Paid personnel, more often than naught go above and beyond the hours they are paid to protect their communities.

A day set aside dedicated to these "heroes" is the least we can do. I urge you to support and move HB 56 to fruition.

Respectfully representing the finest people I know.....the volunteer fire service of the great State of Alaska.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Koklich" with "F.M." written to the right of the name.

Suzie Hill Koklich  
Alaska Director  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
P.O. Box 876  
Valdez, Alaska 99686