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A Communication From
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SPONSOR STATEMENT **HB 43**

“An Act establishing Alaska Law Enforcement Officers’ Day.”

HB 43 establishes “Alaska Law Enforcement Officers’ Day” to honor and support the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day to serve the people of our great state, and protect us from barbarism and anarchy.

There is nothing more descriptive of Alaska’s law enforcement mission than some words from the song “*Impossible Dream*,” sung by the gallant and indemonstrable character Don Quixote: “To fight the unbeatable foe . . . To bear with unbearable sorrow . . . To run where the brave dare not go . . . , To right the unrightable wrong . . . to fight for the right, without question or pause, To be willing to march into Hell . . . And the world will be better for this.”

On January 9th, 2015, partnering organizations in support of law enforcement officers nationwide promoted a National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The holiday was started by the FBI National Academy to thank officers across the country who take risks to protect their communities. We believe it would be appropriate to designate January 9th of each year as Alaska Law Enforcement Officers’ Day to honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and those who continue to serve their communities. Peace officers across Alaska wear many different titles: VSPOs, State Troopers, and Police Officers, to name a few, but they share in common a commitment to uphold the laws of our state and to protect its citizens. A Day of Designation would serve as a welcome reminder to thank and honor those who serve us daily in a dangerous line of work.

Alaska and its peoples face many issues and challenges. But without survival those issues and challenges are moot. It is law enforcement and peace officers, and other first responders, who assist our survival. “Alaska Law Enforcement Officers’ Day” helps bring that reality into focus, and says, “Thank you.”