

# Representative Neal Foster

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## Alaska State Legislature

### Sponsor Statement for HB 142

House Bill 142, an act establishing Elders' Day, would recognize and honor Alaska elders on the winter solstice of each year.

Elders have lived through tragedies and triumphs, times of conflict and peace, and are living testaments that people survive, and often thrive, in a variety of circumstances. Their valuable insights and experiences are treasured gifts to celebrate and honor.

Winter solstice signifies a change of the seasons and also a time to celebrate the knowledge and wisdom elders have passed on to younger generations.

Elders' Day can be celebrated in many ways, by honoring elders in public ceremonies and through quiet appreciation.

I hope you will also support the Elders' Day bill.