

# Alaska Legislature

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### **Sponsor Statement - House Bill 35**

#### **"An Act Establishing March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day"**

The March 27th 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake leveled many areas of Southcentral Alaska but it also brought out the strength, determination and compassion of Alaskans. The list of Alaskans who demonstrated that courage includes, but is not limited to, first responders, military and National Guard personnel, health care providers, state and municipal workers and many others.

House Bill 35 establishes March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day to give Alaskans the annual opportunity to hold public events that honor the lives lost and remember the thousands of Alaskan men and women who put the needs of others before themselves when it counted the most.

It will increase public awareness about the importance of designing and building structures that can protect Alaskans when the next major earthquake strikes.

The legislation directs the governor to issue a proclamation commemorating Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day and to fly the Alaska flag at half-mast every March 27.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation so all Alaskans can reflect on and honor one of the most important days in Alaska history.

*Prepared January 25, 2015*