

**From:** Mary Ehrlander <[mfehrlander@alaska.edu](mailto:mfehrlander@alaska.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs <[SenateStateAffairs@akleg.gov](mailto:SenateStateAffairs@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** support for SB144 Walter Harper Day

Dear Senators,

I'm writing to express my support for the resolution sponsored by Senator Click Bishop to make June 7 Walter Harper Day. I had hoped to call in and testify today, but was unable to do so.

The resolution expresses well the rationale for honoring Walter Harper in this way. As Walter Harper's biographer, I would like to express the value I see in doing so.

Walter Harper's being the first person to summit Denali was a function of the splendid skill set and character traits that made him such an extraordinary young man. His remarkable subsistence skills, coupled with his strong sense of identity, purpose, and direction, and his sterling character and charisma won him admirers from all walks of life. Given the tumultuous times in which he lived, early in the 20th century, when rapid socio-economic and cultural change was occurring, his ability to thrive is all the more admirable.

Today Walter Harper stands as a terrific role model for all Alaskans, especially young people. Honoring him would bring long overdue attention to this extraordinary young Alaskan man after whom young people now and in the future would do well to model themselves.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ehrlander

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