



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

House District 34

Mendenhall Valley
Auke Bay
Out the road

Co-Chair
House Education

Member
House State Affairs

Member
House Transportation

Member
House Labor & Commerce

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 193

Alaska State Flag Song's 2nd Verse

"An Act adding a second verse to the official state song."

House Bill 193 makes official the second verse of the Alaska State Flag Song, offering long overdue honor and recognition to the First People of Alaska and Alaska's diverse cultures. The verse recognizes the history of Alaska's flag and its young thirteen-year old designer, Benny Benson, while continuing the first verse's theme celebrating the beauty of the land and hope for the future.

It is fitting that the State of Alaska, which now officially recognizes twenty native languages as well as English as our State languages, to honor Alaska's history that precedes western settlers' arrival.

Carol Beery Davis, an Alaskan pioneer and poet laureate is the author of the second verse. Inspired by her daughter and a friend, Connie Munro, who expressed dissatisfaction that the song did not acknowledge Alaska Natives, the original caretakers of the land, she wrote the verse to recognize that Alaska's history began long before sourdoughs arrived, and all are now a part of the State's history.

Since it was written in 1987, there has been work towards adoption of the second verse, but official recognition has not yet been realized. With a new wave of support from this generation's children, it is time to do so.

Please join me in supporting the Alaska Flag Song in celebrating Alaska's long and rich history.