



33RD ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 10
CHAIR, HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 141: An Act establishing June 9 of each year as Don Young Day.

House Bill 141 celebrates June 9th of each year as Don Young Day. Don Young was the longest serving Republican in Congressional history. He served as Alaska's longest-tenured member of Congress and the longest-serving Republican in Congressional history. In 2017, Don Young was rated by Georgetown University's McCourt School on Public Policy as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress for the 115th and 116th Congresses. In December 2017, Don became Dean of the House (member with the longest unbroken record of service). He was in his 25th term and 49th year in Congress. Don was the 43rd person (since 1852) to be laid in state in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall on March 20, 2022.

Since his death, the House of Representatives passed a bill (with no opposition) in December 2021, that Mount Cerberus, an active volcano (part of the Ring of Fire) on Semisopochnoi (pronounced Se-mis-o-poch-no) Island ("Island of the Seven Mountains") was renamed to Mount Young. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan intentionally chose a volcano, stating that "As we were looking for something that might be fitting, we looked not only at mountains, but we looked at mountains that continue to blow their top to this very day." He has been paid further homage; the measure also renamed the federal building in Fairbanks and the Job Corps Center in Palmer to reflect the Don Young name in his memory.