

**SENATE JOURNAL  
SUPPLEMENT**

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**February 22, 2013**

**Friday**

**No. 3**

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**Commemorative Profiles  
of  
Senate Districts G, H, and I**

**In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary  
of the  
First Convening of the Legislative Branch of  
Government in Alaska**

**Twenty-Eighth Alaska State Legislature**

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**February 22, 2013**

**Juneau, Alaska**



The following Senate District Profiles were submitted for publication by the Senate Rules Committee:

**Senate District G**

*Presented by Senator Bill Wielechowski on February 21:*



Senate District G is located in Northeast Anchorage. District G includes the neighborhoods of Russian Jack, Muldoon, College Gate, Wonder Park, Nunaka Valley, and Chester Valley. It is also the home of the largest Air Force Base in Alaska, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Elmendorf was established in 1940. By February 1941, the 18th Pursuit Squadron arrived along with the 23rd Air Base Group. Other units followed. Elmendorf played a major role as the main air logistic and staging area during the Aleutian Campaign and during the air operations on the Kurile Islands. Elmendorf Air Force Base is now the headquarters of Alaska Command, Alaskan NORAD Region, the Eleventh Air Force, and home of the 3rd Wing.

Besides being the home of our Arctic Warriors, some great Alaska frontiersmen, such as Jacob Marunenko lived in the area. Marunenko, better known as Russian Jack, was a Russian immigrant. He arrived in Alaska in 1915. While not much is known about him, he was one of the first settlers in East Anchorage. Another great frontiersman was Arnold Muldoon. Muldoon famously built his log cabin during the winter of 1940 on what is now Muldoon Road; what was then considered the "middle of nowhere." Both Marunenko and Muldoon helped build Anchorage and are great examples of the individualism that all Alaskans share.

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Great institutions such as the Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) can also be found in District G. In 1987, the Alaska Federation of Natives voted to establish a statewide Native culture center. From 1989 to 1999 \$14.5 million was raised and in May 1999 the Alaska Native Heritage Center opened its doors. For more than ten years the Center has worked to "share, perpetuate and preserve the unique Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions and values through celebration and education." With over 150,000 visitors a year, the ANHC has been fundamental in preserving Native culture and eliminating discrimination and prejudice.

District G is also a major shopping hub. Tikahtnu Commons, located next to the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Air Force Base, provides plenty of family activities such as movies and restaurants. There are also great athletes from District G. In August 2012, the Nunaka Valley girls all-stars softball team won the world championship for 12 to 14 year old girls. District G is also home to Bartlett High School, the only school in the state to win two state football championships in the last ten years, and was the high school of current NBA player Mario Chalmers, current NFL player Zackary Bowman, and former NFL player Tui Alailefeleula. Bartlett High School has many other notable graduates, such as Nobel Prize winning physicist Brian Schmidt, Grammy nominated R&B singer Amerie Rogers, and of course Senator Johnny Ellis.

District G is a great place to raise a family. It is an education center, a cultural hub, ethnically diverse, and a great place to enjoy with plenty of beautiful parks and trails, such as Reflection Lake and Nunaka Valley Park. There is much to see. Many great Alaskans have lived here, and many great Alaskans continue to live here today.

### **Senate District H**

*Presented by Senator Berta Gardner on February 21:*

With a population of 35,722, Senate District H includes Spenard, Midtown Anchorage and the UMed Area, a broad swath right across the middle of Anchorage. The land is mostly flat and at one time included a lot of wetlands and blueberry fields.

Bisected by the Seward Highway, Senate District H stretches from East High School to West High School; bordered on the north by Chester Creek, on the west by Fish Creek, on the east partially by Campbell Creek and to the south by Tudor and Dowling roads. We are home to the UMed District: including the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Pacific University, Providence Hospital with associated medical buildings, and the McLaughlin Youth Center and Alaska Psychiatric Institute Anchorage; the largest employment center in Alaska.

Midtown Anchorage is the financial and commercial heart of the city with banking, real estate development, the BP Building and assets such as malls and strip malls, large hotels and the Frontier Building. Culturally, the district is home to the Z. J. Loussac Library (flagship library for the city), the Wilda Marston Theater, the Wendy Williamson Auditorium, and a variety of traditional and alternative theatres.

We have a host of little neighborhood parks, and community parks such as Cuddy Family Park, Waldron Lake, University Park, and Goose Lake. We have lots of well-established residential neighborhoods, several small mobile home parks, and areas of high density housing (both condos and apartments).

In 1916, Joe Spenard came to Anchorage, a tent community which had been named only the previous year. He is credited with bringing the first automobile to Anchorage, a truck manufactured by the REO Motor Car Company. He also owned a 1915 Ford Model T which served as the city's first taxicab. Spenard Road and the associated neighborhoods are named for this pioneering entrepreneur.

**Senate District I**

*Presented by Senator Johnny Ellis on February 22:*



Bordered on the northwest by Knik Arm, the southwest by Westchester Lagoon, and the south by the Romig Hill area, Senate District I extends east into the Anchorage bowl and north to Government Hill and Mountain View.

With an approximate population of 36,000, the district includes the neighborhoods of Airport Heights, Downtown, Fairview, Government Hill, Mountain View, Russian Jack, and South Addition.

Senate District I is a unique and diverse district. The district contains the city's oldest park, the Delaney Park Strip, a long stretch of open space and recreational facilities that includes soccer and softball fields, tennis courts, an ice rink, two volleyball courts, memorials to Martin Luther King and Purple Heart recipients, and the Centennial Rose Garden. The Delaney Park Strip served as Anchorage's airstrip until Merrill Field opened in 1929. Merrill Field is also found within the district and was the only airport serving Anchorage until 1951 and now houses the University of Alaska Anchorage's Aviation Technology Division.

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Other major landmarks include: the Dena'ina Civic Convention Center – a 200,000 square foot meeting place that honors the Dena'ina people of the Cook Inlet region; the ConocoPhillips building – the tallest building in Alaska; the Port of Anchorage – Alaska's largest port and the entry point for nearly 90% of merchandise cargo in Alaska; Westchester Lagoon – a favorite of locals for skating in the winter and canoeing in the summer; and, as of Spring 2013, Bass Pro Shops – a 100,000 square foot outdoor recreation store that will include a wetlands nature center next to the store.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson appointed an Alaska Engineering Commission to construct a railroad from the Ship Creek area to the Matanuska coal fields. The resulting boom from railroad construction began Anchorage's existence as a "tent city," and would culminate in its growth into Alaska's largest population center.

**Please report corrections to the Senate Secretary's office.**