

LIMITED RUN

8-LS0428\A

HOUSE BILL NO. 98
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES B.DAVIS, Mackie, Willis, Mulder, Foster

Introduced: 1/29/93

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act naming the Black Veterans Recognition Bridge on the Alaska Highway
2 over the Gerstle River."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1. PURPOSE.** The Gerstle River Bridge on the Alaska Highway is named Black
5 Veterans Recognition Bridge to recognize and commemorate the black soldiers of the U.S.
6 Army Corps of Engineers for their contribution in constructing the Alcan Highway, now
7 known as the Alaska Highway, during World War II. The construction of the 1,522 miles of
8 road from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada, to Fairbanks, Alaska, through rugged,
9 unmapped wilderness was heralded as an almost impossible feat. Despite incredible odds
10 through a cold and punishing winter, the Alcan Highway was completed in a record time of
11 8 months and 12 days. The black soldiers of the 93rd, 94th, 95th, 97th, and 388th engineer
12 general service regiments, numbering 3,695 soldiers of a total troop strength of 10,607, were
13 rarely mentioned or praised for their important contribution to the construction of the Alcan
14 Highway.

- 1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 35.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:
2 **Sec. 35.40.085. BLACK VETERANS RECOGNITION BRIDGE.** Bridge
3 number 503 on the Alaska Highway over the Gerstle River at milepost 1392 is named
4 **Black Veterans Recognition Bridge.**