

**HB**

**37**



To the Members of the Alaska State Senate,

Educators across Alaska and the nation strive to deliver a jam packed cultural and content driven curriculum. Students focus on their text books with the goals of mastering material and meeting the standards. The best text books are chosen, teachers receive better training to meet the student needs as they integrate technology as both a teaching tool and a tool for students. Let's take one more step forward.

Students need more than text books for their learning. Students need to transition the learning from the books to real life circumstances and applications of what they learn to what occurs in the real world. Students need to listen to the stories from their elders and those adults who accomplished goals and been inspirational to others. As students build their educational and life skills, they need to reflect on the accomplishments of the people of Alaska.

During her lifetime and in her passing, Susan Bucher exemplified what it takes to be the kind of Alaskan that that continues to make Alaska an incredible state.

Although Susan's life and breath was her family--- human and canine, the passage of this bill has a great deal to do with sled dogs, but has even more to do with presenting the youth of this state with a kind of role model to help teach respect, responsibility, perseverance, initiative, self confidence, courage, and other character traits that we wish to see in the youth of today.

Susan lived these traits and in her passing, she is remembered not just for her accomplishments with her dog team, but more so, she is remembered for the impact she's left upon those in Alaska and beyond demonstrating the traits necessary for life long learning and success.

I encourage you to pass this bill and know that the state of Alaska is ready to embrace our Alaskan hero, Susan Butcher. The passage of this bill is symbolic of the steps we take as a state to help our youth and the communities of Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Diane Johnson*

Diane Johnson

Director of Education  
Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race  
[djohnson@iditarod.com](mailto:djohnson@iditarod.com)  
605 228 6071

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1987

Dear Ms. Butcher:

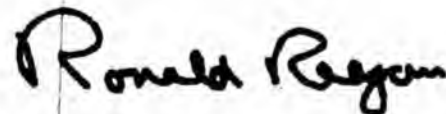
Congratulations on your outstanding victory in the 1987 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. You can be proud of your second consecutive triumph in what, I understand, is aptly called "The Last Great Race on Earth." Writing you at the end of the Iditarod is getting to be a habit.

Your record time is a tribute to your obviously tremendous stamina and skill and to your love for the great Alaskan wilderness. I'm sure there are a few other factors you credit for your first-place finish — Mattie and Granite and the whole remarkable team of dogs who were your power source and your constant companions. I am told that preparation for this grueling competition is a year-round occupation, and that you intend to begin your labors for the 1988 race almost right away. That kind of dedication is well in keeping with the spirit of courage and sacrifice that built this Nation.

You have won a race from Anchorage to Nome, but the news of your success has traveled from coast to coast, and your renown stretches from Norton Sound to the banks of the Charles and the shores of the Chesapeake.

Nancy and I are pleased to join the people of Alaska, your family and your friends in cheering your achievement. Congratulations, again, and God bless you.

Sincerely,



Ms. Susan Butcher

Eureka, Alaska

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1987

Dear Ms. Butcher:

It was a special pleasure to greet you, following your victory in the 1987 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, when you came to the White House with Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens and Congressman Don Young. Again, my congratulations on your outstanding achievement.

Many thanks for the thoughtful mementos which you brought for me. I'm pleased to have these wonderful keepsakes of a champion friend.

Nancy joins me in sending you our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Ms. Susan Butcher

Eureka, Alaska

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1990

Dear Susan:

I was delighted to welcome you to the White House as the 1990 Iditarod Sled Dog Competition Winner. My congratulations to you on again capturing this outstanding honor.

Many thanks for the framed picture of you and your dogs at the finish line and the envelope autographed by members of the Iditarod Official Finisher's Club. Barbara and I appreciate these tokens of friendship from you and your colleagues.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Mrs. Susan Butcher  
General Delivery  
Manley, Alaska 99756

# AVON

AVON PRODUCTS, INC.  
1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS  
NEW YORK, NY 10020-1196

BRIAN C. CONNOLLY  
GROUP VICE PRESIDENT  
U.S. SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE

May 8, 1998

Ms. Susan Butcher  
P.O. Box 60249  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706

Dear Susan,

I hope this note finds you and your family safe at home in the wilderness of Alaska. I have a smile on my face because I am looking out my office window at Rockefeller Center knowing this is probably the last place on earth you would like for a life . . . ha, ha! It's my first day in the office since you spoke at our "Sales Manager Convention" in Las Vegas. I don't like to use superlatives, but in this case I must . . . "you are the most incredible, down-to-earth speaker with the most inspirational life story of the soul of a champion I have ever heard."

Our management team was so moved by your simple, sincere story of setting goals and being so passionately driven and committed to their achievement. I can tell you from my 20 years of experience at Avon, that your one hour on stage will last a lifetime to the people in attendance. Many years from now, Sales Managers will remember your message as a Worldclass benchmark for comparison purposes. And if you had a book to sell when you left the stage last week, it would be on the New York Times "Best Sellers" list this week.

I personally was awe-struck by your message and the humility and humor with which you delivered it. I will spare you the story, but I am one of eight children in a family that grew up within a very healthy competitive sports environment. I follow sports, but I am not a "freak" about them. . . I am more interested in the competition than the outcome. The point of me telling you this is that I have always wanted to look into the soul of a Worldclass competitor, ones such as Michael Jordan, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Jack Nicklaus and others. Unfortunately,

continued . . .

Ms. Susan Butcher

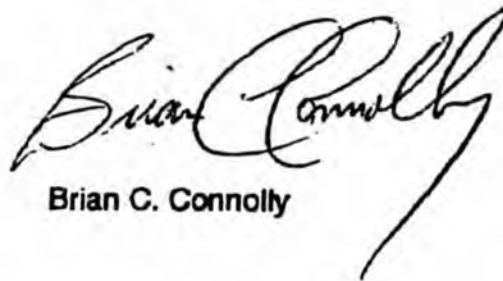
Page 2

my insight is only through the media which, I believe, is too worried about selling magazines and athletes too worried about their public image; therefore, it is almost impossible to see the depth that motivates them. Maybe now you will understand why I felt blessed to have heard you tell your story, it was an historic day for me, thanks!

I wish you and your family the best, and I am sending along, under separate cover within the next several weeks, some products that may be of use to you or your team. Somehow I know when the opportunity is right, you will get a chance in an even larger forum to tell your story to the people at Avon, and I look forward to that day.

All the best,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Connolly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brian C. Connolly

B. C. C.  
.tav



*Golden Plate  
Awards Council*

- MR. T. AHERN**  
*Prime Minister of Ireland*
- SIR ROGER BANNISTER**  
*Olympic and World Legend*
- HON. MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG**  
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*37th President of the United States*
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*42nd President of the United States*
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*Chairman, Washington Post Co.*
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*President of Afghanistan*
- CORETTA SCOTT KING**  
*Civil Rights Leader*
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*Nobel Prize for Peace*
- GEORGE LUCAS**  
*Movie Director, Production*
- DAVID McCULLOUGH**  
*Author of White House Biographies*
- M. E. YOWERI K. MUSEVENI**  
*President of Uganda*
- GEN. RICHARD B. MYERS**  
*Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff*
- HON. SHIMON PERES**  
*Nobel Prize for Peace*
- LEE B. RAYMOND**  
*Chairman, Ford Motor Corporation*
- DR. SALLY RIDE**  
*First Woman in Space*
- LORD ROTHSCHILD**  
*Banker and Philanthropist*
- CARLOS SLIM HELU**  
*Chairman, Telcel Mexico*
- STEVEN SPIELBERG**  
*Movie Director, Production*
- HON. ROBERT S. STRAUSS**  
*President, World Bank*
- ARCHBISHOP DISMOND TUTU**  
*Nobel Prize for Peace*
- M. E. VAIRA SIGI-FREIBERGA**  
*Prime Minister of Latvia*
- MIMI WALLACE**  
*U.S. Senator*
- DR. JAMES O. WATSON**  
*Chair, President's Council on Bioethics*
- LEE WITSEL**  
*Chair, President's Council on Bioethics*

**WAYNE R. REYNOLDS**  
*Chairman & Chief Executive Officer*

June 17, 2005

Ms. Susan Butcher  
Trailbreaker Kennels  
P.O. Box 60249  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706

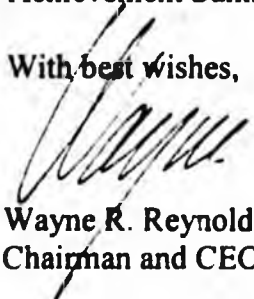
Dear Susan:

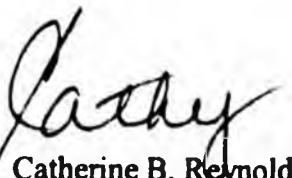
We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for your recent participation in the 2005 International Achievement Summit in New York City.

From the opening symposium at The Metropolitan Museum of Art to the festive conclusion of the Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies, the Academy's 44<sup>th</sup> annual Summit was an inspiration for all the attendees. Your presence and active engagement in the Summit's events helped to make it a truly unforgettable experience for the 260 student delegates from more than 40 countries, as well as for the Academy members and new honorees.

Thank you once more for making time in your busy schedule to attend the 2005 Achievement Summit, and we look forward to seeing you and David again soon.

With best wishes,

  
Wayne R. Reynolds  
Chairman and CEO

  
Catherine B. Reynolds  
Summit Host Chairman



## **Susan Butcher Quotes**

"I got to know her by being a little guy on the sideline, not wanting to be Susan Butcher but be like her. When I grew up there were a few people in this sport that stood out and she was one of them. She was not only a role model in our sport but in our family as well. She will be one of those people that will be talked about forever one of those people who stood out in the world. Everybody knows Susan Butcher, or of her, she will be remembered for years and years. I'll always be an admirer of her and she will be deeply missed....."

**- Lance Mackey**

"Tennyson said, 'We are here to live a meaning full life. A meaningful life is one where we inspire only one other person' .If that is the definition then Susan lived thousands of lives."

**- George Lucas**

"She is someone who everybody knows...When we had the Anchorage Organizing Committee bid we traveled all over the world promoting Anchorage as a site for the Winter Olympics. There was one person who everybody in the world had heard of, she was named by Sports Illustrated as one of the 100 greatest female athletes of all time. Somebody we all love... Susan Butcher"

**- Rick Mystrom**

"Many years ago Reader's Digest used to do a feature on 'unforgettable characters'. I had the privilege of interviewing thousands of people in nineteen years of Good Morning America. Susan was one of those you just don't forget. And I'm not exactly sure why. Yes, she had done something extraordinary - for man or woman. But it was her spirit that I found so appealing. And there was a wonderful peace and grace about her being - a spirituality perhaps that must have come to the fore when she was alone communing with forbidding surroundings. Her passing is a great loss -she had many admirers. I am among them."

**- Charlie Gibson**

"When I turn my thoughts to her, I see her face and feel her spirit so strongly. She appears as I knew her - strong, vital, fun, real. Susan was very present in my life. I would say I would miss her, but, oddly, I don't, because she still feels present in my life and always will. When I face tough circumstances, I will draw on that presence for inspiration, courage, and determination."

**- Andrew Weil**

"I have had the opportunity to witness the extraordinary impact she had on the young women of the United States of America. Susan was inducted into the American Academy of Achievement in 1988 and each year spoke to the outstanding future leaders of the World. She was always an inspiration to young women with her outstanding achievements and reflected so favorably on our state of Alaska.

I am told that the bill to honor Susan passed the House and is awaiting action by the Senate. Any favorable consideration you could show would be most appreciated."

**- Joseph W. Ralston, General, USAF (Ret)**

"She was known throughout the world. I give thanks for the gift of her life, her loving spirit, her everlasting smile, friendship and kindness will never be forgotten. We will miss her but she will live on in our hearts."

**- Herbie Nayukpuk, from a prayer he gave for Susan**

"...He lovingly grows of his friend Susan Butcher..."What a broad. She has a brain and a sense of humor." A supreme Clancy complement."

**- Tom Clancy**

"We endorse the passage of HB 37, a day to honor Susan Butcher. She was an inspiration to all she met and well deserving of this recognition. She was the face of Alaska to the rest of the world and an example of hard work, focus, dedication and commitment, to girls and women everywhere."

**Dorothy Hamill**  
**1976 Gold Medal Olympic Figure Skating**

**Kathy Kennedy**  
**Academy Award winning producer**  
**"Shindlers List"**  
**"Seabiscuit"**  
**"Jurassic Park", and many others.**

**Mellody Hobson**  
**President of Ariel Capital Management**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 4  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-4457 Office  
(907) 465-3519 Fax  
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

INTERIM  
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 304  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Office (907) 456-8172  
Fax (907) 456-2490

## Representative David Guttenberg

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### House Bill 37

#### **"An Act establishing the first Saturday of every March as Susan Butcher Day."**

No one exemplified the ideals of Alaska better than Susan Howlett Butcher. Resourceful, self-reliant, generous, adventuresome, and tough, Susan was the worldwide face of not just Alaska's state sport of dog mushing but of the Great Land itself. As the Twenty-fourth Alaska Legislature noted in its Citation In Memoriam, her death August 5, 2006 was as if one of the stars had fallen from Alaska's flag.

HB 37 honors Susan Butcher by establishing a ceremonial state holiday in her name on the traditional start date of the Iditarod Trail sled dog race.

Susan came to Alaska in 1974. She flourished in the wilderness, learning the ways of Alaska's first people, scrimping and saving to build a dog team, and loving Alaska ever more deeply with each passing season. The Iditarod Trail sled dog race became her passion. She amassed twelve top five Iditarod finishes; no one has so dominated the race since. In races and her near-constant training in preparation for them, Susan faced magnificent but rugged, unforgiving terrain, rampaging moose, stubborn bison, and howling Arctic storms with a potent combination of physical strength, mental discipline, and an indomitable positive attitude. That combination led to championships in 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1990. More people have walked on the moon than have won the Iditarod four times.

Susan became a widely hailed sports hero, role model, and mushing icon, but the world's most famous dog musher never strayed from her down-to-earth approach to life and its challenges. It is her smile – a brilliant, joyous, infectious smile – Alaskans will miss most. When Susan unleashed that grin, it revealed the self-confident delight of someone who was living exactly as she wanted, someone always ready to share her joy with her fellow travelers on planet Earth.

HB 37 seeks to perpetuate her memory and remind all Alaskans of this Alaskan hero and the lofty ideals she symbolized. I urge your support of HB 37.

Representative.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us  
<http://guttenberg.akdemocrats.org>

**HOUSE BILL NO. 37(efd add)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES GUTTENBERG, KERTTULA, AND NEUMAN, Lynn, Fairclough, Holmes, Gara,  
Harris, Johnson, Thomas**

**SENATORS Wilken, Bunde**

**Amended: 1/31/07  
Introduced: 1/16/07**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the first Saturday of every March as Susan Butcher Day; and**  
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 44.12.066. Susan Butcher Day.** Susan Butcher Day is established on the  
6 first Saturday of March of each year, the traditional start date of the Iditarod Trail Sled  
7 Dog Race, to honor Susan Butcher, a loving mother, devoted wife, world-class athlete,  
8 determined competitor, true Alaskan, and four-time Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race  
9 champion. Susan Butcher Day may be observed by school assemblies, sporting  
10 events, and other suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public to  
11 remember the life of Susan Butcher, an inspiration to Alaskans and to millions around  
12 the world.

13 **\* Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 37  
 (H) Publish Date: 1/30/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: Establishing Susan Butcher Day RDU: Centralized Administrative Services  
 Component: Administrative Services  
 Sponsor: Representatives Guttenberg, Kertula, et al  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component No: 46

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note. Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation should have no fiscal impact on the agency.

Prepared by: Eric Swanson, Administrative Services Director  
 Division: Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Kevin Brooks  
 Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: 465-2200  
 Date/Time: 1/29/07 3 00 PM  
 Date: 1/29/2007



## Susan Howlett Butcher

*"I do not know the word 'quit.' Either I never did, or I have somehow abolished it from my language."*

1954 – Born, Boston, MA

1974 – Arrived Alaska

1978 – Raced in her first Iditarod (18 starts, 17 finishes)

1979 – Led first sled dog team to summit of Mt. McKinley

1985 – Married David Monson

1986 – First Iditarod victory

1987, 1988 – Named Women's Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year

1988 – Inducted to Academy of Achievement, Granite chosen Golden Harness Lead Dog

1994 – Retired from Iditarod racing

1995 – Daughter Tekla born

2000 – Daughter Chisana born

2006 – Died, Seattle, WA

### Susan's Iditarod Record

1978: 19	1984: 2	1989: 2
1979: 9	1985: scratched (moose attack)	1990: 1
1980: 5	1986: 1	1991: 2
1981: 5	1987: 1	1992: 2
1982: 2	1988: 1	1993: 4
1983: 9		1994: 10

- Four victories in five years, three consecutive
- Seven consecutive first or second place finishes
  - Eight consecutive top five finishes
  - 12 top five finishes in 14 years

# Susan Butcher — Honorary Musher



Susan Butcher with Fairbanks & Imperial Valley Iditarod trophy, 1990

Chris Schmitz/Alaska Sled Dog LLC

championships because of the care she gives to her dogs.

Susan's celebrity resulted in all kinds of great opportunities to raise the level of awareness about how women can do whatever they set out to do when they put their mind and their heart to it. She also raised the level of awareness about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The T-shirt that proclaimed "Alaska: Where men are men and women win the Iditarod." was hugely popular and it was a direct reflection of how Susan and her commitment to her team was embraced by all who love this race.

In 1985, Susan married David Monson. David was no stranger to the sport of mushing. Together they built Trail Breaker Kennels in Fairbanks Alaska. Susan and David spent the next five years winning races; four Iditarods for Susan, one Yukon Quest for David. In 1994 Susan ran her last Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race... she was forty years old. Over the course of seventeen Iditarods Susan finished in the top ten fifteen times!

Susan's commitment to building a family was as great as her commitment to building her kennel and her life with David. She brought two wonderful daughters in to the world; Tekla and Chisana.

On August 5, 2006, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race said goodbye to Susan Howlet Butcher. People from around the world all shared the same feeling; a sincere sense of sorrow for the loss of a great human being.

Being a champion means lots of things to lots of people. Susan Butcher built her life around the value of being a champion for the things and the beings she so dearly believed in. Susan was a four time Iditarod Champion. By her own admission she became a four time Iditarod Champion by championing the canine athletes she raised and trained.

She ran her first Iditarod in 1978 and finished 19th. From that day forward until 1986 she consistently finished in the top ten save the race in 1985 when she scratched because a moose attacked her team. Interestingly enough Susan used to laugh about her early years of racing and building her kennel. She said she became known as second place Susan because she babied her dogs. In 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1990 she reigned as the "Iditarod Champion". After an amazing run of four Championships in five years people changed their tune to Susan wins

Susan continued to champion the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race whenever the opportunity arose. She also fervently championed the communities that make up the Iditarod Trail. You could find Susan along the trail interviewing mushers, analyzing race strategies



Susan Butcher mixes food for her dogs one summer.

for media. And she was always talking about the teams; how they looked, what they were eating, what lineage they came from. Susan knew dogs. She also knew people. Her smile and that laugh gave those she met a sense that "this is a person who is living life to the fullest."

During Iditarod 2006 Susan made her last visit to

Chris Schmitz/Alaska Sled Dog LLC

## Susan Butcher continued from page 18

communities on the trail. She brought her family with her. In Ruby, Tekla helped out as a volunteer, while her mother volunteered as a checker. People from each community she visited welcomed her as an old friend who had finally come home.

Susan championed her family. As a mother, fighting Leukemia, Susan wrote a journal to share with her daughters as they grew older. Her courage was contagious. Each day she battled this terrible disease she would share with the world the importance of becoming a bone marrow donor to help give others an opportunity for life.

Susan Butcher was selected by the Iditarod Trail Committee as the 2007 Honorary Musher for her commitment to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and for how she championed the very special bond between the human and canine.



Susan Butcher's daughters rub their mom's head at the Ruby checkpoint.

Susan was dedicated to the care of these very special four legged athletes. She carved a wonderful life out of that passion and she gave so much of that passion back to the Iditarod Trail Committee, its volunteers, and its mushers... but mostly the dogs.

"Susan was one of a kind. We'll never see the likes of her again. She was my morning light and that light will shine on through our girls." — David Monson.

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20 January 2008

P.O. Box 2082  
Morehead City, NC 28557

To Members of the Alaska State Senate

The purpose of this letter is to endorse House Bill 37 recognizing the incredible life and achievements of Susan Butcher.

Susan left a legacy that will endure for centuries to come. Her hard work, determination, dedication and amazing achievements served as an inspiration to all who knew, or even heard of, her accomplishments. The independent, strong and wholesome image she projected had such a positive impact on young people throughout the United States and reflected great credit on the State of Alaska.

Her list of achievements are almost too numerous to mention; however, ten National and International Sports Achievement awards, recognition as National professional sportswoman of the year on two occasions and as the outstanding athlete in the world, combined with her selection as a member of the Academy of Achievement in 1988, all demonstrate Susan's world-wide impact.

In spite of her tough training regimen and raising two beautiful daughters, she made time to serve as honorary chairperson and support numerous charitable organizations.

In summary, Susan Butcher was a special and most deserving individual whose accomplishments are legendary. Her life reflects the finest attributes of the American spirit and will serve as an example to be emulated by our youth for years to come. As such, I strongly endorse House Bill 37 since I can think of no other American more deserving of this special recognition.

Henry H. Shelton  
General, USA(R)  
14th Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff



61-100 Iliohu Way  
Haleiwa, HI 96712  
January 26, 2008

Senators  
State Senate  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senators:

I write to offer my strongest support for the pending bill before the Senate to honor the life and legacy of Susan Butcher – renowned Musher, involved citizen, beloved wife, nurturing mother, and an Alaskan

My wife and I met Susan during my tour of duty with the Army in Alaska and were immediately struck by her warmth, her sense of wonderment, and her genuine interest in all around her. Though constantly among friends and admirers, she never failed to reach out, embrace others, and draw them into an ever-widening circle of those captured by her strength of character and love of Alaska. She was the embodiment of the toughness, tenacity, compassion, and energy that seemed to define the essence of what Alaska demands of her inhabitants.

We saw her and David sometime later, when they visited Hawaii. Once again, we were reminded of how much she personified her home... to the casual acquaintance, to a member of an audience, and to not-so-old friends. Through it all, she wore her fame, renown, and adulation with more grace, humility, and warmth than any other. She was unique, and Alaska was the richer for her presence and devotion. Please honor this extraordinary Alaskan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Bramlett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Bramlett  
General, US Army (Ret)

CG, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light)  
1992-1994

To whom it May Concern:

It has been brought to my attention that the Alaska Legislature is considering honoring the late Susan Butcher with an annual day of recognition. I applaud this action and strongly urge you to do so.

It is only fitting that we honor her legacy and her contribution to Alaska, the Iditarod, the nation and the world. Susan proved that the American dream does come true. If you put your mind to something and give it all you've got you can do anything. Move mountains. Change the world. Win the Iditarod. Climb Denali with a dogteam! Susan never ceased to amaze me with her enthusiasm, determination and joy of living.

I do not say lightly that no other Alaskan has had the impact, the inspiration and the name recognition internationally, in both her life and her death, than Susan. That Senator Ted Stevens, Bill and Melinda Gates, Herbert Nayokpuk, George Lucas and Joee Redington, Jr. would venture forth from of their respective worlds to pay tribute to Susan at her memorial in Fairbanks is validation enough. Each one spoke of how Susan contributed to their lives.

As a former Alaskan and early Executive Director of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race now working within the international film community, I assure you that Susan's name is on the top of my colleagues' tongues whenever Alaska is mentioned. I would go so far as to say synonymous with Alaska. People from all walks of life have told me time and again that Susan has been a source of great inspiration to them.

Certainly she has been and continuous to be so for me.

To honor her each year would be a joyous, inspirational and educational event for generations to come.

I fully support that you set aside a day in March of every year to honor the life of an extraordinary woman and Alaskan, Susan Butcher.

Sincerely,

Raine M Hall  
Former Executive Director, Iditarod Trail Committee  
Moose, Wyoming 83012  
[extremelocations@aol.com](mailto:extremelocations@aol.com)  
310-994-1550

SUSAN L. RUDDY  
2435 LAHONDA DRIVE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99517

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Dear Senators,

I understand there is legislation establishing a Susan Butcher Day. I trust this will be given serious consideration by you and your colleagues.

Susan was a friend of mine for thirty years. Many people know her as a successful dog musher and Iditarod winner. Many more know her and remember her for her significant charitable roles. I am writing to make sure that you know of those as well.

- Did you know that she was the honorary chair of the Special Olympics for several years?
- Did you know that she founded, organized, and participated in Mush for Kids for ten years? The proceeds from this event supported the Alaska Children's Trust.
- Did you know that, while she was pregnant with her own second child, she worked with a fetal alcohol syndrome education program statewide?
- She supported the March of Dimes, St. Jude's Children's Hospital and other similar organizations too numerous to mention here.
- While she herself was ill with cancer, Susan promoted bone marrow donor registration among the Alaska Native Community. Before her inspiration and motivation, Alaska Natives were the most under-represented group in the database. This has been particularly significant to me, personally, because an Alaska Native friend of mine had several extra years of life because of a bone marrow transplant.

Because of things she did with her life, Susan was able to inspire and motivate many others to become engaged in activities to make Alaska - and, actually, the world - a better place to live.

Oh, and by the way, she *was* a great musher! Her successful mushing gave her the public profile to make a difference - and she did.

Thank you for considering the bill to create a Susan Butcher Day.

Sincerely,

# IRONMAN

January 29, 2008

To: The Members of The Alaska State Senate,

I first met Susan Butcher in 1979 when I was producing and directing the Iditarod Sled Dog Race for ABC Sports. It was obvious to me at that time that Susan was going to become a major player in the sport.

For 21 years I was involved with the Iditarod as a television producer and for 3 years as a member of the Iditarod Board of Directors.

Susan changed the way everyone approached the Iditarod. From dog care to race strategy, and physical fitness, Susan was leaps and bounds ahead of the other competitors.

After Susan retired from competition I was lucky enough to have Susan work with me on Television Productions for ESPN, The Outdoor Life Network and The USA Network.

The amazing thing to me over the years is the effect Susan had on people outside of Alaska. In fact the name Susan Butcher became synonymous with the Iditarod and hence Alaska.

Susan was an inspiring athlete and human being that carried on her shoulders what was a little known sport in 1979 to the forefront of awareness. Susan Butcher single handedly brought the name Iditarod to the same level as swimming, figure skating and other major sports.

The impact of the Iditarod throughout the rest of the United States and for that matter the world would not be what it is today without Susan's determination and efforts.

Whenever I heard Susan speak, whether it be a private conversation on the Iditarod Trail, an interview with a journalist in New York, or addressing a group of businessmen in Los Angeles, Susan held the audience in awe with her descriptions of racing and life Alaska.

To me Susan Butcher represents everything that is Alaska!

Best Regards,

Peter R. Henning  
Sr. V.P. Television Ironman Productions  
World Triathlon Corporation

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB 37(afd add)  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): HB037-DOA-DAS-1-29-08 Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: Establishing Susan Butcher Day RDU: Centralized Administrative Services  
 Component: Administrative Services  
 Sponsor: Representatives Guttenberg, Kerttula, et al  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component Number: 46

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation should have no fiscal impact on the Department of Administration.

Prepared by: Eric Swanson, Director  
 Division: Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 465-2200  
 Date/Time 1/29/08 12:00 AM  
 Date 1/29/2008