

**HB**

**246**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 246</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
246</SUBJECT><COMM>HTRA27</COMM></TARGET>



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

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### Sponsor Statement for HB 246 An Act Naming Certain Bridges

Cordova is located in the Copper River Valley and its residents have a strong sense of duty. Duty to country and duty to their people. It is that sense of duty that has spurred the people of Cordova to serve in every major war of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is also that sense of duty that compelled an Eyak elder to nearly singlehandedly preserve the Eyak language for future generations. It is also this sense of duty that prompted the City of Cordova to ask the state to name 15 of its unnamed Cordova-area bridges after some of their finest residents.

In honor of the brave young men who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the City of Cordova has requested that 14 of their unnamed bridges be named for each of the sons that they have lost. They are:

#### World War I

James Bennet  
William M. Jones  
Steve Green  
Lucian Platt  
Mathew Anderson  
W.H. Mumby  
John W. Jones

#### World War II

Patrick B. Burchett  
Norman D. Osbourne  
Leonard F. Olson

#### Vietnam

David Henry Elisovsky  
David Allen Lape  
Warren Allen Paulsen  
Michael Dean Banta

The City of Cordova has also requested that the bridge over the Eyak River be named after Marie Smith Jones. Marie Smith Jones was an Eyak elder who worked tirelessly to preserve the Eyak language. She left behind one of the most comprehensive records of any aboriginal language that exists today.

Naming these bridges after some of Alaska's finest residents is the least we can do to thank them for their service and their sacrifice. I urge your support of HB 246.

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 05-11-23**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, SUPPORTING NAMING FOURTEEN OF THE BRIDGES ALONG THE COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY AFTER VETERANS FROM CORDOVA WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION IN WWI, WWII AND THE VIETNAM WAR AND NAMING THE EYAK RIVER BRIDGE AFTER MARIE SMITH JONES, THE LAST FULL-BLOODED EYAK AND THE LAST NATIVE SPEAKER OF THE EYAK LANGUAGE, WHO DIED IN 2008.**

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova, wishes to support naming the following fourteen bridges recognized by their mile posts along the Copper River Highway after the 14 men whose names are listed beside each bridge mile post designation and naming the Eyak River Bridge at Mile 5.7 after Marie Smith Jones; and

BRIDGE NUMBER	NAME	MILE POST	HONORED PERSON TO BE NAMED AFTER
381	EYAK RIVER	5.7	Marie Smith Jones
348	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 1	7.5	Michael Dean Banta
349	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 2	7.6	
350	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 3	8.1	Warren Allen Paulsen
351	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 4	8.5	
352	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 5	9.2	David Alen Lape
406	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 6	9.5	
407	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 7	9.7	David Henry Elisovsky
408	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 8	10	
409	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 9	10.4	Leonard F. Olson
410	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 10	10.8	
411	SCOTT GLACIER NO. 11	11	Norman D. Osborne
230	SHERIDAN GLACIER NO. 3	14.8	
367	SHERIDAN GLACIER E CHANL	16.3	Patrick A. Burchett
395	ALGANIK SLOUGH	22.3	
4026	SALMON CREEK CULVERTS	23.9	
331	COPPER RIVER (FLAG PT WST)	26.7	John W. Jones
1187	COPPER RIVER (FLAG PT E)	26.9	W.H. Mumby
332	COPPER RIVER (RND ISLAND)	27.6	Matthew Anderson
333	COPPER DELTA	33.7	
334	COPPER DELTA	34.6	Lucian Platt
336	COPPER DELTA	35.6	
339	COPPER DELTA	36.2	Steve Green
340	COPPER DELTA	36.5	
342	COPPER DELTA	37	William M. Jones
344	COPPER DELTA	37.6	
345	COPPER DELTA	37.9	James Bennett
206	MILLION DOLLAR BRIDGE	48.6	

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cordova, wishes to honor these brave men for their honor, duty and loyalty to their City, State and Country; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cordova, in support of naming these bridges, wishes to immortalize these fine men, as inspirations to present and future Cordovans and Alaskans; and

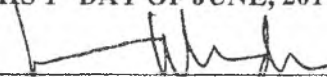
**WHEREAS**, the City of Cordova, in support of naming the Eyak River Bridge after Marie Smith Jones, wishes to immortalize her and her invaluable impact on so many Alaska Natives, Cordovans and Alaskans by helping to preserve her heritage for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, does hereby support naming these above listed bridges after our honored Cordovan Veterans killed in action; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska does hereby support appropriately naming the Eyak River Bridge after Marie Smith Jones a woman who left behind a comprehensive record of the now-extinct Eyak language; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Cordova will forward this Resolution upon its passage to the Alaska State Legislature for final action in naming these bridges.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2011.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Kallander, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk



**AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS  
COMMISSION**



# **Leonard F. Olson**



**Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army**

**Service # 39199039**

**328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry  
Division**

**Entered the Service from: Washington**

**Died: 25-Apr-45**

**Buried at: Plot E Row 5 Grave 15**

**Cambridge American Cemetery**

**Cambridge, England**

**Awards: Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf  
Clusters**

## World War I

### **James Bennett:**

Born on April 7, 1892 in Canada – died on June 29, 1918, Company C, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineers Railway Regiment; formerly a Copper River and Northwest Railway Engineer.

### **William M. Jones:**

Born on March 1, 1895 in Remsen, NY. Died on July 25, 1918  
Buried in Remsen, NY Accidental death on troop train in France  
Company C, Thirty first Engineers; formerly a Copper River and Northwest locomotive fireman

### **Steve Green:**

Born on July 22, 1894 in Russia. Died October 22, 1918 at Camp Dodge  
Died from influenza at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Formerly a Copper River and Northwest Railway longshoreman. Company C, 14<sup>th</sup> infantry

### **Lucian Platt:**

Born on January 28, 1892 in Baltimore Maryland  
Died on October 9, 1918 in Camp Humphreys, VA from pneumonia  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. US Army; formerly a shift boss at Coffey, Mine, Kennecott Copper Company

### **Matthew Anderson:**

Born on March 18, 1892 in Denmark  
Died on October 28, 1918; formerly a fisherman (no more detail)

### **W.H. Mumby:**

Died in action in October/early November 1918 (no details)

### **John W. Jones:**

Born on November 22, 1893 in Remsen NY  
Died on November 3, 1918 at Argonne Forest, France in battle  
Buried in Remsen NY. Marine Corps. Formerly a Copper River and Northwest Railway transportation checker

## **World War II**

### **Patrick A. Burchett:**

Born on December 19, 1921 in Cordova

Died in April 1945 accidental death in a motor vehicle accident in Asiatic Area.

Staff Sergeant; Army Air Force; Son of Jerry Allen

### **Norman D. Osborne:**

Born on September 1, 1921 in Cordova

Died on April 13, 1945 in Okinawa; Private U.S. Army

Son of Ben and Andrine Osborne

### **Leonard F. Olson**

Died April 25, 1945 in Luxembourg from wounds received in action on January 6, 1945

Sgt. 328<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division, Son of Leander Olson

## **Vietnam**

### **David Henry Elisovsky:**

Born on July 24, 1947.

Died January 23, 1966 in Vietnam from sniper fire.

Sergeant 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; First Brigade

Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm Awarded posthumously

Son of Mrs. Olga Anderson

### **David Alen Lape:**

Born on September 28, 1911

Died November 27, 1967 in Vietnam, mortar attack.

Warrant Officer, Army Reserve

Son of Kelly and Violet Lape

### **Warren Allen Paulsen:**

Born on August 10, 1944; Died June 24, 1969 in Vietnam

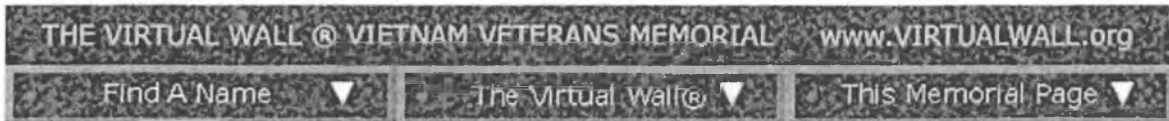
Boatswain 'S Mate Navy; son of George and Lucy Paulsen (living in Valdez at the time of his death)

### **Michael Dean Banta**

Born on October 5, 1949; Died October 2, 1970 in Vietnam

Private Company H. Infantry Rangers, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

Son of Robert and Joanne Banta



## Michael Dean Banta

Private First Class

H CO, 75TH INFANTRY, 1ST CAV DIV, USARV

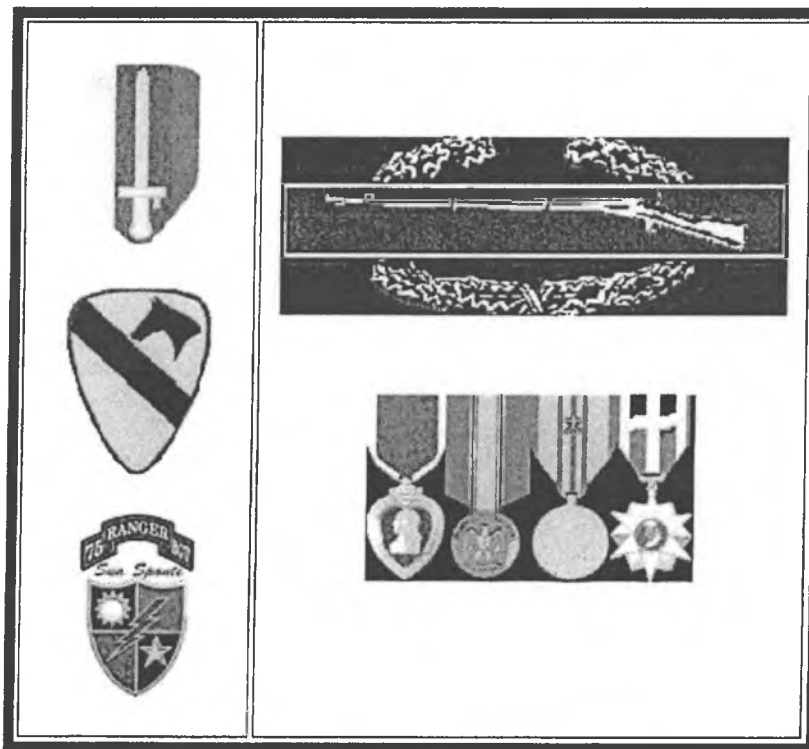
Army of the United States

Cordova, Alaska

October 05, 1949 to October 02, 1970

**MICHAEL D BANTA** is on the Wall at Panel 07W Line 105

See the [full profile](#) for Michael Banta



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## Warren Paulsen

Boatswain 3rd Class  
PBR-8141, RIVDIV 554, TF 116, USNAVFORV  
United States Navy  
Valdez, Alaska

August 10, 1944 to June 23, 1969

WARREN PAULSEN is on the Wall at Panel 21W Line 001  
See the full profile for Warren Paulsen



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## David Alen Lape

Warrant Officer

336TH AHC, 13TH AVN BN, 164TH AVN GROUP, 1ST AVIATION BDE, USARV

Army of the United States

Cordova, Alaska

September 28, 1944 to November 27, 1967

DAVID A LAPE is on the Wall at Panel 30E Line 097

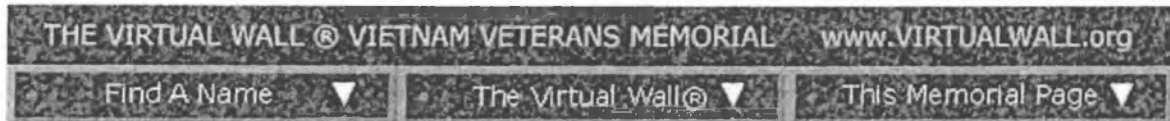
See the full profile for David Lape



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## David Henry Elisovsky

Sergeant

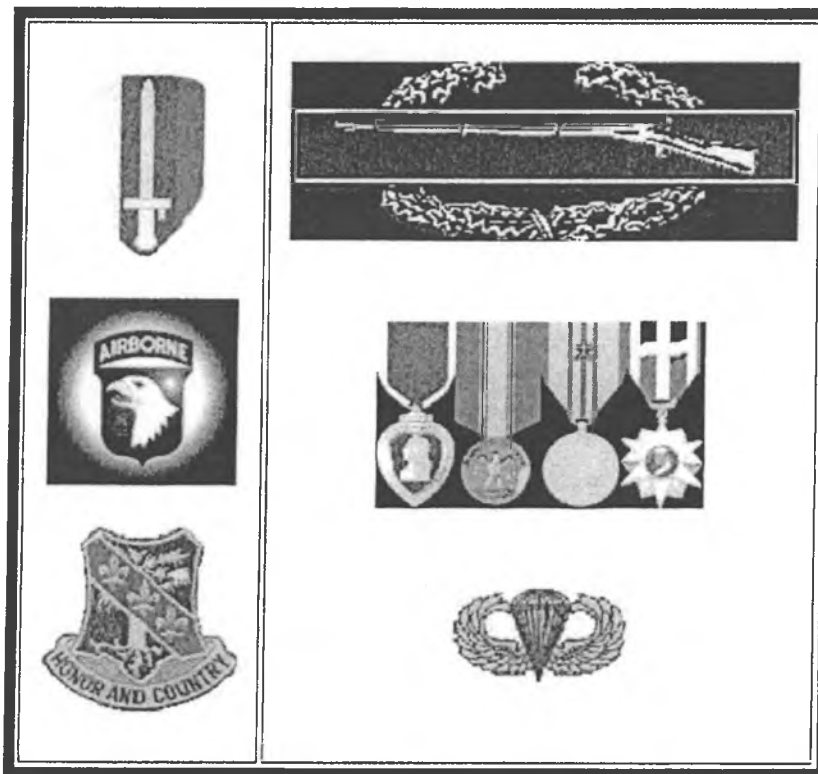
C CO, 2ND BN, 327TH INFANTRY, 101ST ABN DIV, USARV  
Army of the United States

Cordova, Alaska

July 24, 1947 to January 23, 1966

DAVID H ELISOVSKY is on the Wall at Panel 04E Line 083

See the full profile for David Elisovsky



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