

HB

247

<TARGET><BILL>HB 247</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
247</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/1/12

FURTHER: Rules

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/10/12

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 247

HB 247-ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD DAY

"An Act establishing July 30 each year as Alaska National Guard Day."

and recommends:

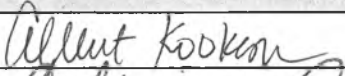
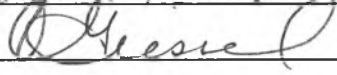
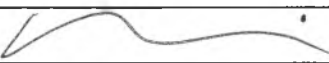
- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
ADM			✓	1
MVA			✓	2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Kookesh	✓			
	Giessel	✓			
CHAIR: 	Wielechowski	✓			

Alaska State Legislature



Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Energy Special Committee
Joint Armed Services Special Committee
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Administration
Corrections
Military and Veterans' Affairs

A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 31 Anchorage

E-Mail: Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us

Session:
Alaska State Capitol #108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931
Fax: (907) 465-4316
Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:
716 W. 4th Ave., #650
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205
Fax: (907) 269-0207

Feb 2, 2012

To: Sen. Bill Wielechowski, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

Fr: Representative Bob Lynn


Re: HB 247 (Version 27-LS0982\A)

I am requesting a hearing for HB 247, "*An Act establishing July 30 each year as Alaska National Guard Day,*" at your earliest convenience.

I have attached a sponsor statement, a copy of the current version of the bill, and other supporting documentation. HB 247 passed recently on the House Floor 39-0 and has 23 co-sponsors. Any questions or concerns can be directed to my staffer, Mike Sica, at 465-4965 or mike_sica@legis.state.ak.us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Representative Bob Lynn

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Energy Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Administration
Corrections
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A Communication From

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Fax: (907) 269-0207

House Bill 247 "Alaska National Guard Day"

"An Act establishing July 30 each year as Alaska National Guard Day"

House Bill 247 establishes Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 each year to honor the men and women of our Alaska National Guard for their tremendous bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to our communities, to our state, and to our nation.

Since its authorization on July 30, 1948, the Alaska National Guard has grown, changed and modernized to help in its role of protecting life and property both at home and abroad.

The Alaska National Guard (AKNG or The Guard) has a unique dual mission with both federal and state responsibilities and is the military arm of the Governor. In times of emergency, the guard stands ready to immediately respond when the Governor calls for help with local or state-wide emergencies. In addition, the President of the United States can activate the Alaska National Guard to participate in Federal missions. For example many of our Alaska Guard units have deployed to support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places. Sadly, many have given their lives as well.

The Alaska National Guard soldiers and airmen always stand ready to protect the citizens of this state and have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. It's important to set aside a day each year to honor them.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 247, an appropriate bill number that reflects the Guard's 24-7 service to Alaska.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HB 247
 Fiscal Note Number 1
 (H) Publish Date 1/25/12

Identifier (file name) HB247-DOA-FAC-1-21-12 Dept. Affected Administration
 Title Alaska National Guard Day Appropriation General Services
 Allocation Facilities
 Sponsor Representatives Lynn, Thompson, Saddler
 Requester House Military and Veterans Affairs OMB Component Number 2429

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY13	FY13					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF						
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)						
1037	GF/MH (UGF)						
1178	temp code (UGF)						
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by Vern Jones, Director
 Division Division of General Services
 Approved by John Cramer, Deputy Commissioner
 Department of Administration

Phone 465-5684
 Date/Time 1/20/12 10:00 a.m.
 Date 1/21/2012

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 247

Analysis

The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HB 247
 Fiscal Note Number 2
 (H) Publish Date 1/25/12

Identifier (file name) HB247-MVA-CO-1-20-12 Dept. Affected Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs
 Title Alaska National Guard Day Appropriation Military and Veterans Affairs
 Allocation National Guard Military Headquarters
 Sponsor Rep LYNN, THOMPSON, SADDLER, Fairclough, Costello
 Requester (H) Military and Veterans Affairs Committee OMB Component Number 2135

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS								
Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

CHANGE IN REVENUES								

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by McHugh Pierre, Deputy Commissioner
 Division Deputy Commissioner, DMVA
 Approved by Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus
Commissioner, DMVA

Phone (907) 428-6003
 Date/Time 1/21/12 12:00 PM
 Date 1/21/2012

FISCAL NOTE #2

**STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 247

Analysis

This bill establishes July 30 each year as Alaska National Guard Day.

There is no fiscal impact of this bill.

HB 247 TESTIMONY

**To: Alaska House Military and Veterans Affairs Special
Committee**

January 24, 2012

Comments by: Lt Gen (AKNG retired) Craig E. Campbell

I would like to start by thanking Representatives Lynn, Thompson, Saddler, Fairclough, and Costello for co-sponsoring this legislation.

The National Guard is the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions. Recognition of the National Guard by the Alaska Legislature, with a specific date to honor the Alaska National Guard, acknowledges the unique characteristic of the National Guard as being both a federal and state organization, primarily established to be under the control of a State's Governor. Please let me explain.

The National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies in North America. First organized by decree of the Massachusetts Bay Colony General Court on Dec 13, 1636, the militias were responsible for their own defense. The militia, now National Guard, has been in continuous operation since that date, celebrating our 375th anniversary last year.

The National Guard is the only military service in the United States with both a federal and state dual role. Following independence, the authors of the Constitution empowered Congress to "provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia." However, recognizing the militia's state role, the Founding Fathers reserved the appointment of officers and training of the militia to the states, with the Governor being the civilian leader of the militia, except when mobilized by the President for federal service. Today's National Guard remains that dual State-Federal force.

In 1947, Congress formally established the National Guard Bureau and the “National Guard” was recognized in lieu of state militia’s formally in 1948.

Today all 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia have National Guard organizations, divided into both Army and Air National Guard units. The total number of personnel serving in the National Guard of the United States currently exceeds 500,000.

In Alaska, Governor Gruening initiated the formal actions to establish a National Guard for the Territory of Alaska in 1939. By September 1941, with the advent of World War II and the invasion of United States territory in Hawaii and Alaska, the federal government established the 297th Infantry Battalion, Alaska National Guard. Governor Gruening had achieved his goal.

However, in response to the threat of invasion during World War II, Governor Gruening further authorized the establishment of the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG). Nearly 6,600 individuals, mostly men and mostly Alaska natives, volunteered for the ATG. It is noteworthy to mention that the ATG served without pay or benefits, and in 1947, when the ATG was disbanded, the members were discharged without formal military recognition. In 2000, Senator Ted Stevens introduced a bill recognizing the service of the ATG to the United States and directing federal “Honorable Discharge Certificates” be issued to all who honorably served. In October 2004, the first Honorable Discharge Certificate was issued to former ATG member Sam Herman.

Following World War II, and the establishment of the United States Air Force as a separate branch of the service, replacing the Army Air Corps, the Air National Guard was formed. In 1952, the first Air National Guard unit was formed in Alaska, marking this year as the 60th anniversary for the Alaska Air National Guard.

Today, there are over 4,000 proud men and women serving in the Alaska Army and Air National Guard. These citizen-warriors are predominantly part-time warriors, who also are civilian members of

our communities. They are all volunteers. Since 2003, members of the Alaska National Guard have deployed numerous times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and many other countries in the Middle East. Additionally, the Alaska National Guard has deployed to Kosovo, the Horn of Africa, Pakistan, Kyrgystan, as well as conducting humanitarian missions to Haiti, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, and other countries throughout the world. Most notably, was the 2005 response of the Alaska National Guard to the southeast states in response to Hurricane Katrina, where Alaska Guardsman and women were on the ground within hours after the storm's destruction. They saved lives and provided essential services to a devastated people.

And here in Alaska, your Alaska National Guard has routinely responded to floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, and village freeze-ups, saving lives and preserving property. They conduct Operations Santa Claus, bringing holiday cheer to the children of rural villages, and they conduct Arctic Care missions to villages, offering essential dental care and treatment to Alaskans in need. Serving our state and serving our nation, the core value of the Alaska National Guard.

I will conclude by again thanking members who have co-sponsored this legislation to recognize our valiant heroes serving, both present and past, in the Alaska National Guard. Our state and our nation could not do the wonderful things we do to protect and preserve our states and nation without the unselfish service of our National Guard. Thank you for taking the time to recognize their service by establishing July 30 of each year as "Alaska National Guard Day." Please pass this bill, HB 247.

Thank you



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2011
By: Lt. Bernie Kale

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Alaska Air National Guardsmen Deploy to Iraq

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – More than 30 Guardsmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing, based out of Eielson Air Force Base, will depart the United States today to begin a six-month deployment in Iraq.

The Guard members from the 168th Security Forces Squadron are finishing their pre-deployment training on air bases in Florida and Nevada to prepare them for situations they may face while at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.

"You always want more training," said Lt. Col. Jeff Elliot, 168th Security Forces Squadron commander. "While it's been strenuous, we are as prepared as can be and are ready to get our boots on the ground."

The primary mission of the deploying members will be to provide air base defense and entry control-point security.

"The security they are providing is vital to the accomplishment of the mission," said Col. Timothy O'Brien, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander, Alaska Air National Guard. "They have been training for this type of environment, and I am confident they will succeed."

The members left Alaska in early July to begin their training at Cheech Air Force Base, Nev., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Some of the pre-deployment training included battle drills, entry control-point training, weapons systems, land navigation and terrain reading.

"We are extremely proud of our Airmen," O'Brien said. "They are serving our country and representing the state of Alaska with honor."

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For Immediate Release
November 26, 2011
By Maj. Guy Hayes

Alaska Army National Guard unit deploying to Afghanistan

Cutlines:

111126-F-ZH346-001/002/004

A departure ceremony for family and friends to say goodbye to Alaska Army National Guardsmen of B Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment was held today at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. In Afghanistan, the Soldiers of the 1-143rd will provide Security Forces Operations (SECFOR) for Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT). The PRT operates in potentially dangerous areas to rebuild infrastructure, assist with agriculture, build wells and provide healthcare. Photo By Maj Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

111126-F-ZH346-005

Sen. Mark Begich speaks to Alaska Army National Guardsmen of B Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment today at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Begich also went around to shake the hand of every Soldier deploying to Afghanistan. Photo By Maj Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

111126-F-ZH346-006

Pfc. Coleman Wenke (left) smiles with his father Col. Scott Wenke, Alaska Air National Guard 176th Wing commander, following the deployment ceremony for B Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment today at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Pfc. Wenke is deploying for a year with the Soldiers of the 1-143rd to provide Security Forces Operations (SECFOR) for Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT). The PRT operates in potentially dangerous areas to rebuild infrastructure, assist with agriculture, build wells and provide healthcare. Photo By Maj Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2011

By: Maj. Guy Hayes

Alaska National Guard responding to Alaska community buried in snow

CAMP DENALI, Alaska— The Alaska National Guard is responding to personnel and equipment requests for support in Cordova after weeks of record snowfall have left the city covered in more than 18 feet of snow.

Personnel in the Alaska National Guard's Joint Operation Center are responding to a resource request from the State Emergency Operation Center to send more than 50 Guard members, supplies and equipment to Cordova Sunday, weather permitting, to provide much needed support.

"We have called upon the Alaska National Guard to help the community with emergency snow removal that will protect public buildings and residences," said John Madden, director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "Their ability to rapidly deploy large numbers of Guardsmen anywhere in state is a great resource."

Isolated off the state highway system and having the sea and airport as the only means of transportation in or out of the small Alaskan community, Cordova residents have worked hard to clear snow, including 42 inches in the most recent storm, but conditions continue to worsen, posing a serious safety issue to the citizens.

"Cordova is continuing their outstanding job responding to several weeks of intense snowfall," Madden said. "Cordova utilized all of their snow management resources to maintain emergency access, but now face a new round of storms that will bring heavy snow and perhaps rain."

With more snow and rain expected, avalanche danger remains very high in Cordova and some buildings have collapsed due to heavy snow loads. This makes the Alaska National Guard the right resource to assist the citizens of Alaska during this emergency.

"Alaska has significant challenges and the National Guard has the manpower skill and equipment to meet those demands and quickly respond in support of civilian authorities when called upon," said Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "Our Soldiers and Airmen will move forward and support the people of



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2011

By: Maj. Guy Hayes

Alaska Air National Guard to provide rescue support for Hurricane Irene

CAMP DENALI, Alaska- The Alaska Air National Guard is ramping up this afternoon to send crews and equipment to Charleston, W. Va. to provide search and rescue assets in response to Hurricane Irene.

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III flown by members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron are currently scheduled to depart Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday with approximately 45 personnel from the 176th Wing for a two week deployment.

"We are sending two Pave Hawk helicopters with four flight crews, eight 'Guardian Angels' and 20 maintenance and support personnel to support the mission," said Lt. Col. Blake Gettys, 176th Wing Operations Group commander, Alaska Air National Guard. "We'll also be working with Guardian Angels from Kentucky and special tactics squadron personnel from Portland."

The C-17 is expected to depart Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at 10 a.m. with the goal to be on the ground ready to support rescue operations by Sunday.

"We are prepared and committed to support our fellow Americans in their time of need," said Governor Sean Parnell. "Our Alaska National Guardsmen are unparalleled in their experience in saving lives and they are the perfect choice to assist civilian authorities during this potential national emergency. As Alaskans we understand what it's like to live through disasters, so when called upon, we will be ready to aid communities and Governors of states that need our support."

The Alaska Air National Guard supported relief efforts in 2008 following hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike in the Gulf Coast region saving 16 lives, while flying 22 missions during a 16-day deployment.

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Media: If you are interested in attending the departure, please contact Maj. Guy Hayes at 382-5189.



Press Release

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2011

By: Master Sgt. Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska National Guard brings Operation Santa Claus to Wales

WALES, Alaska – Santa, Mrs. Claus and 35 helpers brought Operation Santa Claus and holiday cheer on an Alaska National Guard C-130 to the small, remote Alaska village of Wales Dec. 9.

The Alaska Air National Guard C-130 landed on the village's airstrip and was warmly greeted by community members on snowmachines. The temperature, in the teens, was chilly but not cold by Wales' standards.

Operation Santa Claus volunteers and community members quickly off-loaded boxes from the aircraft and onto sleds tied to the snowmachines for the mile ride to the Wales school.

"It's a great time of year and unique way for us to get out and support Alaska citizens," said Col. Mike Bridges, director of logistics for the Alaska Army National Guard. "I've probably been on at least 20 Operation Santa Claus trips and each one is a special experience."

While boxes were unpacked in the school's gym, members of Alaska Brass, a brass and percussion ensemble from the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific, began to play festive holiday tunes while the gym filled with nearly everyone from the village.

Following the festive music, a prayer of thanks was given by Alaska Air National Guard Chaplain Brian Musselman before a warm meal, made and donated by Pentagon North, Inc. of Anchorage, was served.

To the delight of everyone, ice cream sundaes were also provided by Tastee Freez, while village youth performed a dance for the audience and their guests.

And then the moment everyone was waiting for, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived.

"I enjoy visiting with the elders and veterans of the community, while they see their kids interact with Santa Claus," Bridges said. "It's a great time for everyone involved."

One by one, each child had a chance to visit Santa and receive a gift. They were also given a new backpack filled with a couple of pieces of fresh fruit, books, a toothbrush and other incidentals.

"This event was incredible," said Roxie Quick, the Wales School principal. "It was a great way to show the children a lesson in sharing and about the volunteer spirit."

###

Relevant Statutes

HB 247 Alaska National Guard Day

Article 02. DESIGNATED DAYS OF HONOR

Sec. 44.12.030. Wickersham Day.

August 24 is designated Wickersham Day in honor of James Wickersham, and is the occasion for school assemblies with appropriate programs, and other suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public in general.

Sec. 44.12.040. Anthony J. Dimond Day.

November 30 is designated Anthony J. Dimond Day in honor of "Tony" Dimond, and shall be observed by appropriate school assemblies and programs, and other suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public at large.

Sec. 44.12.045. Martin Luther King Day. [Repealed, Sec. 3 ch 109 SLA 1989].

Repealed or Renumbered

Sec. 44.12.050. Ernest Gruening Day.

Ernest Gruening Day is established on February 6 of each year to honor Ernest Gruening, doctor, editor, and statesman, for a lifetime of service to the territory and state of Alaska and the nation. Ernest Gruening Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.055. Bob Bartlett Day.

Bob Bartlett Day is established on April 20 of each year to honor E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, the "architect of Alaska statehood," for a lifetime of public service to Alaska and the nation. Bob Bartlett Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.060. William A. Egan Day.

William A. Egan Day is established on October 8 of each year to honor William "Bill" Egan, the first governor of the state of Alaska, for a lifetime of service to the territory and state of Alaska. William A. Egan Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.065. Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day is established on February 16 of each year to honor Elizabeth Peratrovich, past Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, for her courageous, unceasing efforts to eliminate discrimination and bring about equal rights in Alaska. Elizabeth Peratrovich Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.066. Susan Butcher Day.

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

Sec. 44.12.067. Ted Stevens Day.

Ted Stevens Day is established on the fourth Saturday of July each year to honor Theodore F. "Ted" Stevens, whose long record of public service includes 40 years as a United States senator from Alaska, for his service to the state and the nation. Ted Stevens Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.070. Alaska Flag Day.

Alaska Flag Day is established on July 9 of each year to honor the creation of the design of the official flag of the state by Benny Benson and its importance as a symbol of the state. Alaska Flag Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.072. Alaska Day of Prayer.

The Alaska Day of Prayer is established on the first Thursday in May each year as an opportunity for residents of all faiths to join in united prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, to ask divine guidance for our leaders, and to bring wholeness to the citizens of our state and our nation.

Sec. 44.12.075. Family day and family preservation month.

Family Day is established on May 1 of each year to celebrate the institution of the family. The month of May each year is established as Preservation of the

Family Month to encourage the preservation of the institution of the family. Family Day and Preservation of the Family Month may be observed by suitable observances by families, such as a family discussion of the role of families, the rights and responsibilities of children and parents, and appropriate methods for the resolution of violent feelings in family conflict, and by exercises by civic groups and the public. In observance of Family Preservation Month, the Department of Health and Social Services shall encourage the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Alaska families.

Sec. 44.12.076. Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Days.

(a) Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day is established on April 9 of each year to recognize and honor all former prisoners of war (POWs) from our nation's wars who have returned home. These POWs repeatedly demonstrated their devotion to duty, honor, and country, despite enduring captivity and sometimes brutal treatment by their captors. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day, and the POW/MIA flag shall be flown that day at sites identified by the governor. Former POW Recognition Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

(b) Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day is established on the third Friday of September each year to honor all prisoners of war (POWs) and those missing in action (MIAs), unaccounted for from all our nation's wars or who died in captivity. These POWs and MIAs repeatedly demonstrated their devotion to duty, honor, and country, despite enduring captivity and sometimes brutal treatment by their captors. The fate of those unaccounted for and missing in action from our nation's wars causes considerable uncertainty for their families, friends, fellow soldiers, and veterans. This day is also an occasion for Alaskans to remember our country's enormous responsibility to do everything possible to account for those still missing in action. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day, and the POW/MIA flag shall be flown that day at sites identified by the governor. POW and MIA Recognition Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.078. Women Veterans Day.

Women Veterans Day is established on November 9 of each year to acknowledge and commemorate the sacrifices endured and valor displayed by American women veterans and to recognize their increasing role in the military. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate Women Veterans Day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.080. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is established on December 7 of each year to commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and to honor the individuals who died as a result of the attack. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day and shall direct that the Alaska flag be flown at half-mast on that day. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.083. Alaska Territorial Guard Day.

Alaska Territorial Guard Day is established on October 18 of each year to acknowledge and commemorate the service of the members of the Alaska Territorial Guard in defense of Alaska and the United States during World War II. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate Alaska Territorial Guard Day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.085. Dutch Harbor Remembrance Day.

Dutch Harbor Remembrance Day is established on June 3 of each year to commemorate the attack on Dutch Harbor on June 3, 1942, and to honor the individuals who died as a result of the attack and those inhabitants of Attu and Kiska who fell into enemy hands three days later and were held captive in Japan until the end of World War II. On Dutch Harbor Remembrance Day the many servicemen who died in 1943 while recapturing Attu and Kiska from the Japanese are also honored for their diligent service to the United States and to the state. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate Dutch Harbor Remembrance Day and shall direct that the Alaska flag be flown at half-mast on that day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.090. Juneteenth Day.

Juneteenth Day is established on the third Saturday in June each year to commemorate the abolition of slavery throughout the United States and its territories in 1865. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day. On Juneteenth Day, citizens of the state are urged to reflect on the suffering endured by early African-Americans and to appreciate the unique freedom and equality enjoyed by all state citizens today.

Sec. 44.12.092. Alaska History Week.

The first week of March of each year is established as Alaska History Week to celebrate the contributions and experiences that comprise the past development of The Great Land. Alaska History Week may be observed by

school assemblies, programs, and other suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.095. Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day.

Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day is established on July 3 of each year to commemorate the victims of drunk driving. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.098. Avalanche Awareness Month.

The month of November each year is established as Avalanche Awareness Month. Avalanche Awareness Month may be observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of avalanche dangers, how to respond to avalanches, and the use of appropriate equipment in avalanche areas.

Sec. 44.12.100. Older Alaskans' Day.

The second Wednesday of September of each year is established as Older Alaskans' Day to honor residents of the state who are 60 years of age or older for the many contributions made by older Alaskans to the state. The day may be celebrated by public ceremonies and by quiet appreciation.

Sec. 44.12.105. Alaska Agriculture Day.

Alaska Agriculture Day is established on the first Tuesday in May each year in order to recognize the many contributions of the agricultural industry in Alaska. Alaska Agriculture Day may be observed by celebratory events, projects, and activities directed at or involving people of all ages to increase their awareness and appreciation of Alaska agriculture and agriculture in general.

Sec. 44.12.110. Marmot Day.

Marmot Day is established on February 2 of each year. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by school programs, the Alaska Zoo, civic groups, and the public.

Sec. 44.12.115. Purple Heart Day.

Purple Heart Day is established on August 7 of each year to honor recipients of the Purple Heart. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.118. Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month.

The month of May each year is established as Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month. Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Awareness Month may be observed by schools, community groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of the presence of motorcycles and motor scooters on roads and highways in the state and that remind motor vehicle drivers to be aware of the presence of motorcycles and motor scooters when driving.

Sec. 44.12.120. Alaska Public Gardens Day.

Alaska Public Gardens Day is established on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year to commemorate the state's public gardens and the role the gardens play in promoting environmental stewardship, the economy, a healthy food supply, education, plant conservation, recreation, and research.

Tentative Witness List

HB 247 Alaska National Guard Day By Rep. Bob Lynn Senate State Affairs Committee

Witnesses using toll free teleconference phone number:

Gen. Craig Campbell, retired Commissioner of Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and commanding general of Alaska National Guard
Contact: McHugh Pierre, 321-2179

Jennifer Gibbins, editor of Cordova Times
Phone: 907-424-7181
Email: editor@thecordovatimes.com

Witness at Cordova LIO:

Mark Lynch, city manager for city of Cordova
907-424-6200 (office), 907-253-6224 (cell)

Tim Joyce, former Mayor and PIO for snow emergency, City of Cordova
Contact: 907-253-5152 (cell), 907-424-7575 (home)

Contact: Mike Sica, 465-4965, Staff for Rep. Bob Lynn