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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Peter A. Micciche

State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2828 Fax 465-4779

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 29, 2014

To: Senator Fred Dyson
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Senator Peter Micciche

Handwritten signature of Peter A. Micciche in black ink.

RE: SCR 10 Hearing Request

Please schedule a hearing on the following resolution in the Senate State Affairs Committee as soon as possible:

SCR 10-GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE REMEMBRANCE DAY

I have included the following backup information:

SCR 10
Sponsor Statement

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mindy Rowland in my office at 465-4989.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2828
Fax: (907) 465-4779
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



INTERIM ADDRESSES:
145 Main St. Loop #226
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: (907) 283-7996

270 W. Pioneer Ave.
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907) 235-0690

SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SCR 10 Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day

DISTRICT O

Anchor Point

Clam Gulch

Cohoe

Diamond Ridge

Fox River

Fritz Creek

Funny River

Halibut Cove

Happy Valley

Homer

Kachemak City

Kachemak Selo

Kalifornsky

Kasilof

Kenai

Nikolaevsk

Ninilchik

Razdolna

Ridgeway

Seldovia

Soldotna

Voznesenka

The Great Alaska Earthquake (also known as the Good Friday Earthquake and the 1964 Alaska Earthquake) was a monumental event in our state's history. This March 27th marks the 50th anniversary of that event. It is important to recognize the brave and tenacious Alaskans who came to each other's aid, who persevered and who rebuilt homes, schools, and even entire communities. It is also an important time to reflect on those who lost their lives for no other reason than for being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Analyses of the earthquake and tsunamis almost appear to dismiss the overall impact on the state, citing the low death count in comparison to other earthquakes that have hit densely populated areas. However, the effect of the losses of those family and community members, as well as the destruction in many communities was tremendous. Snow still covered much of the ground, subsistence supplies were low and many people were left homeless and with only the clothes on their backs. With sizable distances between affected areas and with the limited road connections disrupted, reaching the survivors and delivering aid was a sizeable undertaking.

In spite of this, Alaskans rallied together to quickly recover and rebuild. Within moments of the cessation of the massive tremors, Governor Egan deployed the entire Alaska National Guard and Alaska Air National Guard to evacuate stranded residents, deliver food and supplies and provide medical treatment.

Additionally, first responders of all professions sprang into action, in many instances before they were able to confirm the safety of their own family members. Doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers and others immediately arose to the challenges of their professions. Even ordinary Alaskans dove into assist wherever possible. The stories of heroism are numerous.

Support of this resolution commends those Alaskans who became an integral part of our history when they played their part in recreating their communities. It also acknowledges the innocent lives lost and the sorrow inflicted on their loved ones left behind.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**SEISMIC HAZARDS
SAFETY COMMISSION**

Department of Natural Resources
3354 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3707
Main: 907.451.5010
Fax: 907.451.5050

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-01

**DEDICATION OF 2014 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
1964 GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE**

WHEREAS, the March 27, 1964 Great Alaska magnitude 9.2 Earthquake was the largest earthquake every recorded in North America, second largest worldwide, and constitutes one of the major hallmarks in the history of Alaska statehood; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake and associated tsunami caused devastating damage to many coastal communities as well as economic effects extending across much of the State; and

WHEREAS, the year 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami; and

WHEREAS, numerous events including exhibits, national conferences, emergency response exercises, etc., are planned in many Alaska communities during 2014 to commemorate the earthquake (e.g. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Valdez, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Alaska is located in one of the most seismically active regions of North America and the State will continue to experience earthquakes resulting in damage and injury to the populace; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is critical to being prepared for the next earthquake,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission recommends and requests Governor Parnell dedicate the year 2014 in commemoration of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission on this 14th day of November 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scher".

Robert L. Scher, P.E.
Chair