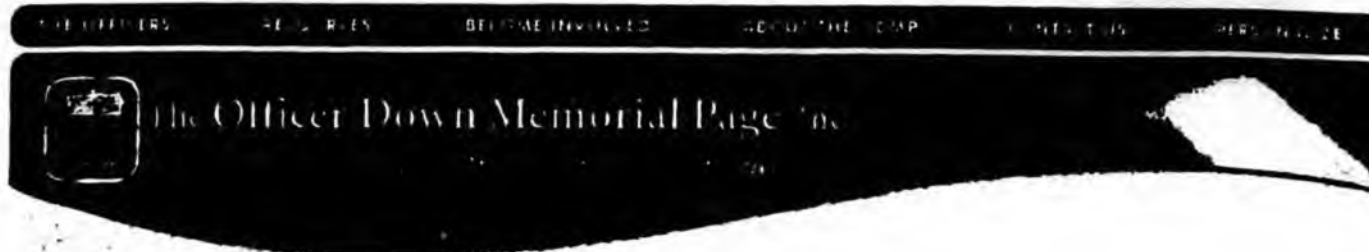


ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SSTA 12757



The Officer Down Memorial Page Remembers . . .



Patrol Officer John Kevin Lamm

Fairbanks Police Department
Alaska
End of Watch: Thursday, January 1, 1998

Biographical Info
Age: 26
Tour of Duty: 3 years
Badge Number: 338



Incident Details
Cause of Death: Gunfire
Date of Incident: Thursday, January 1, 1998
Weapon Used: Rifle; AR-15
Suspect Info: Committed suicide

Officer Lamm was shot and killed after responding to check on a suicidal man with two other officers. As they were making entry to the house they were fired upon with an AR-15 rifle which had been converted to 7.62x39. One of the other officers was immediately struck in the head and wounded.

Officer Lamm immediately took cover behind a nearby couch and returned fire, drawing the suspect's attention away from his two partners. He was fatally wounded while giving his two partners a chance to escape the apartment.

After a 90 minute standoff the tactical team entered the residence and found the suspect dead from a self inflicted gunshot wound.

Officer Lamm had served with the agency for 3 years. He is survived by his wife, whom he had married only 12 days prior to his murder, son, parents, and two brothers.

- » [View this officer's Reflections](#)
- » [Leave a Reflection](#)
- » [List all officers from this agency](#)
- » [Update this memorial](#)
- » [Printer friendly view](#)

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USER GROUPS – AIRPORT RANGE

Fairbanks International Airport Fire/Police
Fairbanks Police Department
North Pole Police Department
University of Alaska Police Department
Alaska Defense Force
Alaska Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Alaska National Guard
Alaska Railroad Police
Alaska State Parks
Alaska State Troopers
Fairbanks Correctional Center
State and Local Police (SERT) Special Emergency Response Teams
Tanana Valley Community College interior law enforcement academy

Alaska International Defensive Pistol Association
Tanana Valley Sportsman Association
Golden Heart Shootist Association

Doyon/Alyeska Security
Securitas Security Services USA Inc
Loomis Fargo & Company

Bureau of Land Management
Drug Enforcement Administration
Fort Wainwright Military, Federal Police and CID
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internal Revenue Service
Transportation Security Administration
US Customs & Border Protection
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Federal Probation
US Geological Survey
US Marshals Service

Rep Ramras

GARY WILKEN
SENATOR
Fairbanks



State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1102
Tel: 451-3201 (from Fbks)
Tel: (907) 465-3709 (outside Fbks)
Fax: (907) 465-4714
www.akrepublicans.org/wilken
E-Mail: Senator.Gary.Wilken@legis.state.ak.us

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Palin,

As we convene the Twenty-Fifth Legislature and begin to prioritize the capital and infrastructure needs of Alaska, we are continuously reminded by our constituents that the core functions of government – public safety, in particular – deserve our utmost support and consideration.

Currently, the basic training needs of the men and women whom we hire to protect our lives and property are either not being met, or are in danger of being eliminated. Local, State, and Federal law enforcement personnel who reside in the Anchorage area do not have a dedicated outdoor shooting range in which to train. And in Fairbanks, the single outdoor law enforcement range which services over twenty-five departments, agencies, and user-groups is threatened with elimination due to Fairbanks International Airport expansion. Unlike Southeast Alaska, where a new outdoor shooting range was constructed in 2002 at the Department Public Safety training facility in Sitka, law enforcement officers in South Central and Interior Alaska do not have appropriate shooting facilities to conduct critically necessary training.

Both Anchorage and Fairbanks must have quality, controlled-access shooting range facilities for police qualification and training. We, the undersigned members of Alaska's Interior legislative delegation, strongly urge your support for these much-

Honorable Governor Palin

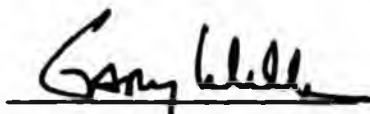
January 18, 2007

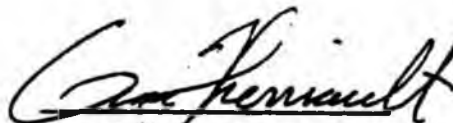
Page 2

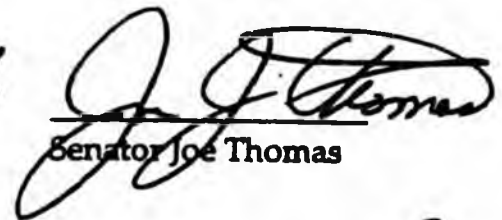
needed facilities and respectfully request that funding be included in your upcoming capital budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

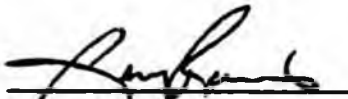
Sincerely,


Senator Gary Wilken

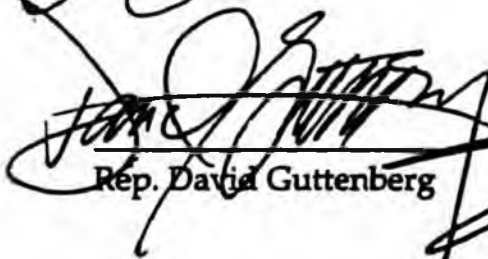

Senator Gene Therriault


Senator Joe Thomas


Rep. John Coghill, Jr.


Rep. Jay Ramras


Rep. Mike Kelly


Rep. David Guttenberg


Rep. Scott Kawasaki

Cc: Mr. Walt Monegan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Public Safety
Mr. Steve Thompson, Mayor, City of Fairbanks
Mr. Daniel Hoffman, Chief, City of Fairbanks Police Department

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB8-DPS-AST-2-9-07
 Bill Version: HB 8
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time : _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title "An Act naming the law enforcement training . . ." RDU Alaska State Troopers
 Component AST Detachments
 Sponsor Representative Ramras
 Requester House Transportation Committee Component No. 2325

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						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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 bill names the new law enforcement training facility (shooting range) near the Fairbanks airport the "J. Kevin Lamm Law Enforcement training Facility". J. Kevin Lamm was a Fairbanks Police Officer killed in the line of duty January 1, 1998.

There is no cost associated with this bill. All signage costs will be paid for by the Alaska Police Officers Association

Prepared by: Lt. Rodney Dial
 Division: Division of Alaska State Troopers
 Approved by: Commissioner Walt Monegan
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

Phone 907-247-4480
 Date/Time 2/9/07 1600
 Date 2/14/2007

HB

21

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799



Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris
Speaker of the House

Sponsor Statement **CSHB 21(STA) - Proper Disposal of the State Flag**

CSHB 21(STA) provides for the proper and respectful disposal of worn-out or damaged state flags in the same manner as the American flag and will revise flag language used from early statehood. Currently, the state of Alaska has no statutory provision allowing the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to include the Alaska state flag in their ceremonies for disposal of the American flag. If enacted, CSHB 21(STA) will provide statutory authority to allow state flags to be included in those ceremonies.

The Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags was approved through Resolution No.440 by the National Convention of The American Legion meeting in New York, New York, September 20-23, 1937, and has been an integral part of American Legion ritual since that date.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veteran's organization. It is a community-service organization that now numbers nearly 3 million in nearly 15,000 American Legion Post worldwide.

The VFW is a similar organization providing services for veterans of America's military who have served in a time of war

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion For God and Country

We associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Who We Are

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual help, war-time veterans organization. A community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members -- men and women -- in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments -- one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion's national headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, with additional offices in Washington, DC. In addition to thousands of volunteers serving in leadership and program implementation capacities in local communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a regular full-time staff of about 300 employees.

Continue

History of the Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags

The Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags was approved through Resolution No. 440, by the National Convention of The American Legion meeting in New York, New York, September 20-23, 1937, and has been an integral part of American Legion ritual since that date. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Americanism has been and should continue to be one of the major programs of The American Legion, and

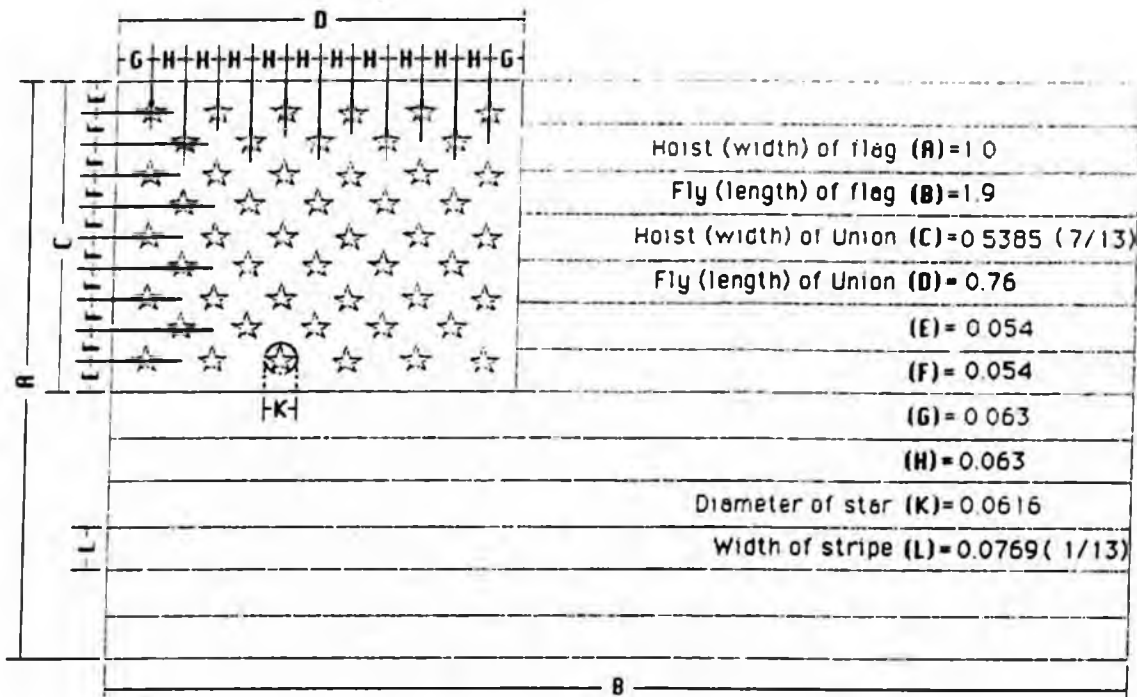
WHEREAS, The observance of proper respect for the Flag of our country and the education of our citizenry in the proper courtesies to be paid the Flag is an essential element of such Americanism program; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that Flags which have been used for the decoration of graves on Memorial Day be collected after such service, inspected, and worn and unserviceable Flags be condemned and properly destroyed; and

WHEREAS, The approved method of disposing of unserviceable Flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning, but no ritual for such destruction or ceremony in connection therewith has been adopted by The American Legion or included in its official manual of Ceremonies; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New York City, September 20-23, 1937, that the ritual submitted herewith be adopted for use by The American Legion and that it be made the official ceremony for the destruction of unserviceable American Flags and to be included as such in the Manual of Ceremonies, Revised of The American Legion.

Standard Proportions For The United States Flag



THE FLAG IS PRECISELY DEFINED BY LAW

On June 14, 1776, Congress made the following resolution: "The flag of the United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field..." Because Congress made no rule for the arrangement of the stars, they were displayed in different ways, most usually in a circle. As new states joined the Union, they demanded representation in the stars and stripes of the flag. In 1795 Congress voted to increase to 15 the number of stars and stripes. Legislation enacted in 1818 reestablished the number of stripes at 13 and instituted the policy, "That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the Union of the flag..."

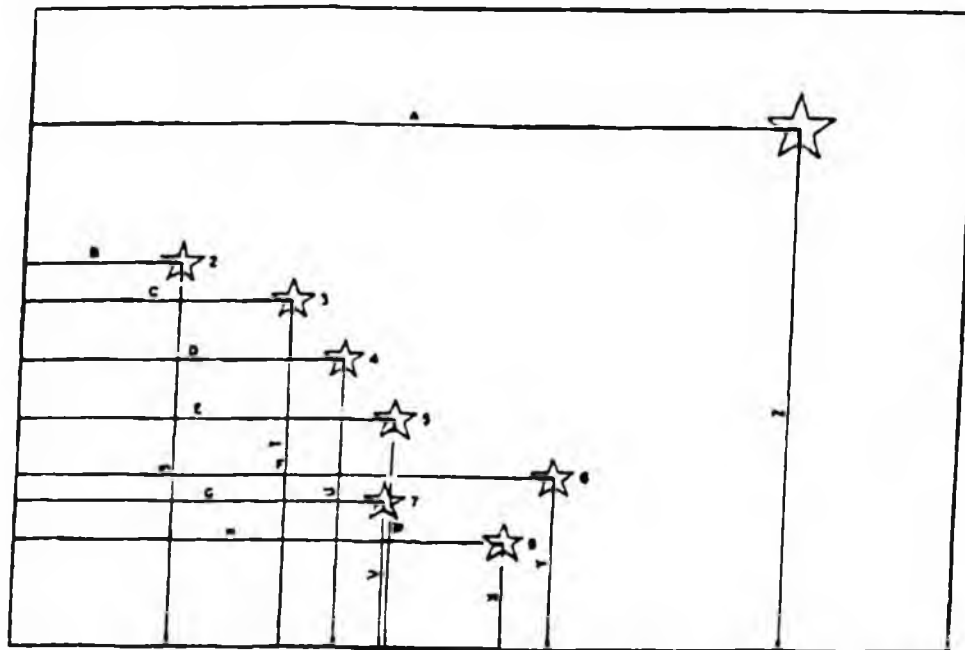
An executive order issued by President William Howard Taft on Oct. 29, 1912, fixed the overall width and length of the U.S. flag, known technically as the hoist and fly, respectively, in a ratio of 1: 1.9. The thirteen stripes were fixed at equal width. The hoist of the blue field containing the stars was fixed at seven-thirteenths of the overall hoist, that is, as extending from the top of the flag to the bottom of the seventh stripe. The fly of the blue field was fixed at a tiny fraction over three-fourths the overall hoist. The diameter of each star was established as a minute fraction under one-sixteenth of the overall hoist.

"The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternating red and White; and the union of the flag shall be forty eight stars, white in a blue field. " 61 Stat. 642, July 30, 1947, ch. 389, 4 U.S.C.A.1. **This describes the civil flag of the United States, as it is to be flown in the District of Columbia, its enclaves and overseas on ships and embassies.**

Currently, the Flag of the united States of America is defined as :

The American Flag of Peace of the united States of America is described as red, white and blue, with thirteen alternating red and white horizontal stripes, and a blue field (union) with 50 stars, one to represent each of the several States. The Flag is proportional, (1 X 1.9) . This proportion is easily determined by measuring the length (fly) and dividing by the measurement of the width (hoist). The length divided by the width should be very nearly 1.9. If the flag is not to the correct 1 X 1.9 proportion, it is not an official Title 4 U.S.C. 1, 2 American Flag of Peace of the united States of America.

Title 4 U.S.C. 1, 2 and Presidential Executive Order 10834, found in the Federal Register at Vol. 24. No. 166, P.6365 - 6367.



STATE PROPORTIONS AND SIZE

HOIST (WIDTH VERT.) 1.000
 FLY (LENGTH HORZ) 1.416
 DIAM. LARGE STAR .104
 DIAM. SMALL STARS .062

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Z	B	S	C	T	D	U
E	W	F	Y	G	V	H	X
1.158	.818	.229	.604	.396	.542	.479	.463
.563	.360	.813	.271	.552	.229	.740	.167

Sec. 44.09.020. State flag.

The design of the official flag is eight gold stars in a field of blue, so selected for its simplicity, its originality, and its symbolism. The blue, one of the national colors, typifies the evening sky, the blue of the sea and of mountain lakes, and of wild flowers that grow in Alaskan soil, the gold being significant of the wealth that lies hidden in Alaska's hills and streams.

The stars, seven of which form the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear, the most conspicuous constellation in the northern sky, contains the stars which form the "Dipper," including the "Pointers" which point toward the eighth star in the flag, Polaris, the North Star, the ever constant star for the mariner, the explorer, hunter, trapper, prospector, woodsman, and the surveyor. For Alaska the northernmost star in the galaxy of stars and which at some future time will take its place as the forty-ninth star in the national emblem.

The flag of the Territory of Alaska is the official flag of the state. The standard proportions and size graphically delineated herein shall be used in the manufacture of the official flag of Alaska. The stars shall be the color of natural yellow gold and the field of blue shall be of the same shade of blue used in the official manufacture of the national emblem of the United States. The design, standard proportions, and size are as follows:

REFER TO THE BOOK FOR THE PROPER FORM

Sec. 44.09.030. Display of flags.

(a) The official flag of the state shall be displayed with the flag of the United States only from sunrise to sunset, or between the hours designated by proper authority. However, the flag may be displayed after sunset upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.

(b) The flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Alaska shall be displayed daily, weather permitting, in the following places:

(1) on or near the main administration building of every institution under the authority or control of the state government;

(2) in or near every schoolhouse during school days.



should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

§176. Respect for flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- (a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- (b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- (c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- (d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- (e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- (f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- (g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- (h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- (i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- (j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- (k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

§177. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Aliens should stand at attention. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

§178. Modification of rules and customs by President

Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable, and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.

§179. Design for service flag; persons entitled to display flag

The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to approve a design for a service flag, which flag may be displayed in a window of the place of residence of persons who are members of the immediate family of a person

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
605 228 6071

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1987

Dear Ms. Butcher:

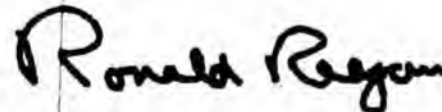
Congratulations on your outstanding victory in the 1987 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. You can be proud of your second consecutive triumph in what, I understand, is aptly called "The Last Great Race on Earth." Writing you at the end of the Iditarod is getting to be a habit.

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

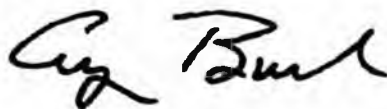
Dear Susan:

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

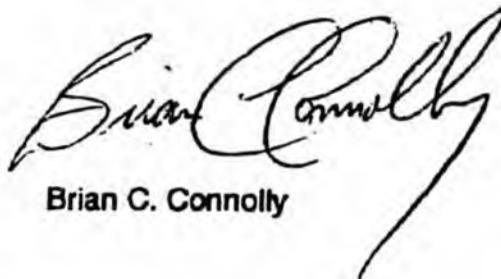
Page 2

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*

- MRS. TUI AHERN**
Prime Minister of Ireland
- SIR ROGER BANNISTER**
Olympic and World Legend
- HON. MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG**
Mayor of New York City
- HON. JIMMY CARTER**
39th President of the United States
- HON. WILLIAM J. CLINTON**
42nd President of the United States
- DR. FRANCIS S. COLLINS**
Human Genome Research
- HON. RICHARD M. DALEY**
Mayor of Chicago
- M. E. RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN**
Prime Minister of Turkey
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34th President of the United States
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U.S. Senate Majority Leader
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Chairman, Microsoft Corporation
- CARLOS GIMON**
President, Nissan Motor Co.
- HON. RODOLPH W. GIULIANI**
Mayor, Mayor of New York City
- DONALD E. GRAHAM**
Chairman, Washington Post Co.
- JAMES EARL JONES**
Nobel Prize Medal of Arts
- M. E. HAMID KARZAI**
President of Afghanistan
- CORETTA SCOTT KING**
Civil Rights Leader
- HON. HENRY A. KISSINGER**
Nobel Peace Prize
- 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 Peace Prize
- 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 Peace Prize
- M. E. VAIRA SIGI-FREIBERGA**
Prime Minister of Latvia
- MIMI WALLACE**
Actress
- DR. JAMES O. WATSON**
Geneticist
- LEE WITSEL**
Author, Peace Prize

WAYNE R. REYNOLDS
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

June 17, 2005

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

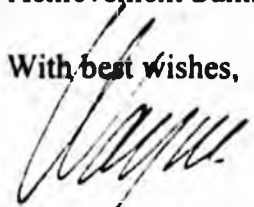
Dear Susan:

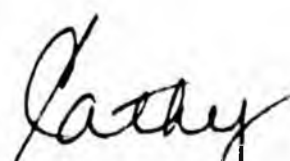
We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for your recent participation in the 2005 International Achievement Summit in New York City.

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 44th 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 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, Kerttula, 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
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 Fair (L) & Joseph of the South (R) in 1990

Chris Schmitt/Alaska Sled 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

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."



Susan Butcher mixes food for her dogs one summer.

Chris Schmitt/Alaska Sled LLC

During Iditarod 2006 Susan made her last visit to

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, 6th 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 Joe 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
310-994-1550

SUSAN L. RUDDY
2435 LAHONDA DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99517

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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FAX: (727) 942-1987

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75-5722 Kuakini Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-2119
Phone: (808) 329-0063
Email: kona@ironman.com

www.ironman.com

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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

HB

45

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/7/07

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 45(MLV)

HB 45 STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY & FUND

"An Act authorizing the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain Alaska veterans' cemeteries; and establishing the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:
 Same Title
 New Title

HOUSE BILL:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____

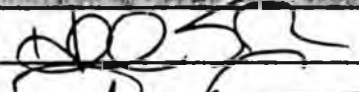
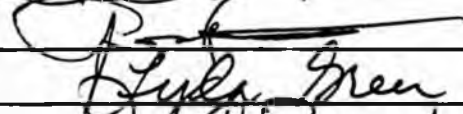
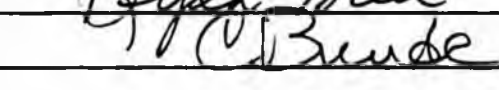
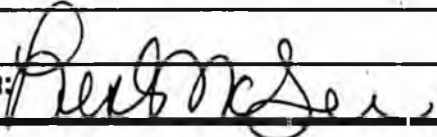
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
MVA			✓		
ADMN				✓	
ADMN				✓	

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	French	✓			
	Green	✓			
	Bunde	✓			
CHAIR: 	McBure	✓			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Sponsor

Statement

SESSION
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4557 Toll Free

INTERIM:
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Representative David Guttenberg

House Bill 45 - State Veterans' Cemetery

All Alaska veterans deserve access to a military cemetery that honors their service and recognizes their sacrifices while serving our country, usually under challenging conditions, and frequently in harm's way.

On a per capita basis, Alaska has more residents in active military service or who are veterans than all but one other state. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a total of 9,469 veterans reside in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The VA's long-term goal is to provide an operational veterans' cemetery within 75 miles of 90 percent of the veterans in the country. The nearest veterans' cemetery to Fairbanks is Fort Richardson National Cemetery, located 350 miles away in Anchorage. By the VA's own estimation, a facility in Fairbanks would greatly increase the number of veterans served by a veterans' cemetery.

Interior Alaska's veterans deserve a cemetery located in the Interior of the state. A state veterans' cemetery in the Interior would better serve the needs of veterans and their families, and provide a final resting place that is centrally located, honorable, and well maintained. An Interior veterans' cemetery will help families avoid the pain of burying a loved one far from home.

HB 45 seeks to establish a state cemetery similar to the Fort Richardson and Sitka National Cemeteries. It will provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid to rest with full military funeral honors, including uniformed pallbearers, rifle team, and ceremonial folding and presentation of the United States flag.

HB 45 authorizes the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain a state veterans' cemetery with funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State Cemetery Grants Program. Through this program, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs may be awarded up to 100% of allowable costs for design, construction, and operating equipment for an approved project. To date, the VA has awarded 152 grants totaling more than \$264 million to establish, expand, or improve 65 veterans' cemeteries in 35 states, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. There are now 65 operational cemeteries and four more under construction.

I urge you to support this legislation.

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

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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FAX (907) 465-2029
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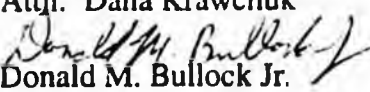
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Sectional summary of CSHB 45(MLV)
(Work Order No. 25-LS0230\C)

TO: Representative David Guttenberg
Attn: Dana Krawchuk

FROM: 
Donald M. Bullock Jr.
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Allows the legislature to appropriate a portion of the money received for special request plates commemorating Alaska veterans to the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund created in sec. 3 of the bill.

Section 2. Adds gifts, donations, and grants received by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs for veterans' cemeteries to the list of program receipts in AS 37.05.146(c) that are accounted for separately; appropriations from these program receipts are not made from the unrestricted general fund.

Section 3. Creates the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund in the general fund; the fund is not exempt from the requirements of AS 37.07 (Executive Budget Act) and money in the fund is not dedicated for a specific purpose. Provides that the legislature may appropriate amounts from the fund to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs for the construction, operation, and maintenance of veterans' cemeteries established under sec. 4 of the bill. Appropriations to the veterans' cemetery fund do not lapse under AS 37.25.010, and the unexpended and unobligated balance of an appropriation from the fund lapses back into the fund.

Section 4. Authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish and maintain Alaska veterans' cemeteries in the state. Allows the department to accept gifts, donations, and grants for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the cemeteries; land received by the department is owned by the state. Requires the department to consult

Representative David Guttenberg

April 11, 2007

Page 2

with the Alaska Veterans' Advisory Council when adopting regulations for determining eligibility for burial in a state veterans' cemetery, receive the plot or interment allowance on behalf of the state, comply with all requirements for a state veterans' cemetery grant established by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, and apply for state veterans' cemetery grants from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs. Authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to adopt regulations, enter into agreements for the operation of veterans' cemeteries, and solicit gifts, donations, and grants in addition to grants from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs.

DMB:ljw
07-207.ljw

FAIRBANKS VETERANS CEMETERY WORKSHEET OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS¹

Demographic Factors	Data	Notes
Veterans in four areas	11,164	Fairbanks/North Star and 3 adjoining areas
Avg. annual death rate	149	2005-2026 VA figures
Usage factor	0.50	50% will choose cemetery
Dependents factor	1.50	1 dependent per 2 veterans
Annual burial rate	112	[Death rate x usage] x dependents factor
Graves per acre (gross)	600	Rule of thumb
Min. gravesites needed (20 yr.)	1,678	[Annual burials x 0.75] x 20
Min. burial acreage needed	2.79	One of four is a "second interment"
Gross acreage recommended	20.00 ²	Min. gravesites/600 see note below
Personnel Factors		Data
Admn. Workers (230 inter. Per FTE)	0.49	Based on NCA estimates
Field workers		Cumulative
Interments (250 per FTE)	0.45	Includes PT, temp., etc.
Gravesites (7,844.4 per FTE)	0.21	Rises over time
Acres Maint. (10.7 per FTE)	0.26	Burial acres used/developed acres may vary
Field Workers Subtotal	0.92	
Employees	1.41	Admn. & field workers
Cem. Director (GS 9--\$36.7 x 1.3 for fringes)	\$47,652.80	NCA Costs 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Employee (FTEE)
Equip. Operator (WG-8--\$28 x 1.3)	\$36,142.60	1.0 FTEE
Total Salary	\$83,795.40	
Operations Factors		Data
Utilities & communications	\$1,117.50	Phone, water, electricity, gas (\$400 x acres)
Supplies & materials	\$2,095.31	Fuel, fertilizer, etc. (\$750 x acres)
Contractual services	\$1,187.34	Janitorial, security, irrigation (\$425 x acres)
Subtotal	\$4,400.16	
Total Annual Operations \$88,195.56		
Maintenance and Repairs		extra
Equipment Replacement		extra

¹ The standard usage factor is 25% but we have increased the factor to 50% in this case because of the difficulty in projecting usage in this area. While 50% usage may be high, it would be better to estimate a higher number at this point rather than a lower number.

² The model assumes a suitable site with easily developed cemetery land. In this case, it would be better to acquire as large a parcel as possible in order to assure suitable land and the ability to buffer surrounding land uses. At least 20 acres should be considered.



BURIAL & MEMORIALS

State Cemetery Grants Program - General Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement VA's National Cemetery Administration.

The program assists states in providing gravesites for veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs.

Grants may be used only for the purpose of establishing, expanding or improving veterans cemeteries that are owned and operated by a state or U.S. territory. Aid can be granted only to states or U.S. territories. VA cannot provide grants to private organizations, counties, cities or other government agencies.

VA can now provide up to 100 percent of the development cost for an approved project. For establishment of new cemeteries, VA can provide for operating equipment. VA does not provide for acquisition of land. The value of the land cannot be considered as an "allowable cost" under the grant. States are solely responsible for acquisition of the necessary land. Any state ceasing to own or operate a cemetery established, expanded or improved through the use of grant funds, or using the funds for any other purpose than for which the grant was made will be liable for the total refund of all grants made for that cemetery. Federal funds can also be suspended or withdrawn for noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.



Massachusetts State Veterans Cemetery Agewam

Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to the standards and guidelines pertaining to site selection, planning and construction prescribed by VA. Cemeteries must be operated solely for the burial of service members who die on active duty, veterans, and their eligible spouses and dependent children. Any cemetery assisted by a VA grant must be maintained and operated according to the operational standards and measures of the National Cemetery Administration.

The administration, operation and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery is solely the responsibility of the state. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to pay a plot or interment allowance (not to exceed \$300) to a state for expenses incurred by the state in the burial of eligible veterans in a cemetery owned and operated by the state if the burial is performed at no cost to the veteran's next-of-kin. This benefit is administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the state must apply to VBA to receive it.

VA has awarded 152 grants totaling more than \$264 million to establish, expand or improve 65 veterans cemeteries in 35 states, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands.

There are 65 operational cemeteries and four more under construction.

A [list of state veterans cemeteries](#) is available.

[Español](#) | [VA Forms](#) | [Facilities Locator](#) | [Contact the VA](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
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[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Small Business Contacts](#) | [Site Map](#)
[USA.gov](#) | [White House](#) | [USA Freedom Corps](#)

Reviewed/Updated Date: January 3, 2007



BURIAL & MEMORIALS

Establishing a State Veterans Cemetery

Determine Need

Analyze existing service provided by national cemeteries and other state cemeteries. Consider service life of existing cemeteries. Provide data on veteran population, including age.

Investigate Availability of Suitable Land

Suitable land should be easily accessed by road, free of limitations such as rock, steep slopes and wetlands, uncompromised by incompatible land uses near by, and appropriate for cemetery use. Land already owned by the state, county or municipality is usually the best choice. The state must have title to the land.

Assess Impacts

Analyze possible negative environmental and historic preservation impacts the cemetery location may have. Can such limitations be overcome?

Encourage Support

Veterans service organizations should be informed of the project and be in support of an effort to establish a state veterans cemetery. Local governments should also be supportive. Ultimately, the state legislature must pass necessary legislation authorizing the state cemetery and appropriating funds for establishment and operation.

Complete Application

Apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs for federal assistance with a grant for establishing a state veterans cemetery. For forms and other guidance, see [QMB Grants Management](#) and the [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#).

[Español](#) | [VA Forms](#) | [Facilities Locator](#) | [Contact the VA](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
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Reviewed/Updated Date: September 13, 2006



BURIAL & MEMORIALS

State Grants Planning Model Overview

[Veterans Shrine Commitment](#)

[General Program Requirements](#)

[Project Design Requirements](#)

[Site Considerations - Site Selection Standards for a State Cemetery](#)

[Site Description and Site Analysis](#)

[Planning Process for Establishing State Cemeteries](#)



Phasing

Veterans Shrine Commitment

The appearance of state veterans cemeteries demonstrates to America's veterans that the nation appreciates their selfless service and the sacrifices they have made. Elevating the appearance of the cemeteries to shrine status signals the commitment to maintain our veterans' cemeteries at the highest standards forever. State veterans cemeteries help foster patriotism and preserve the nation's history.

Each visitor should depart feeling that the grounds, the gravesites and the environs of the state cemetery are a beautiful and awe-inspiring tribute to those who gave much to preserve the nation's freedom and way of life.

Each state cemetery exists as a veterans shrine and serves as an expression of the appreciation and respect of a grateful state and nation for the service and sacrifice of its veterans. Each cemetery provides an enduring memorial to their sacrifice as well as a dignified and respectful setting for their final rest.

To satisfy this requirement, pre-applications should include a written assurance that the state will maintain the cemetery according to VA National Cemetery Administration standards as established in 38 CFR Section 39.6(4).

General Program Requirements

In general, state cemetery projects should be built to create a sense of visual continuity with the site and reflect the tradition and heritage of the area. Cemetery buildings should not be isolated, preeminent elements of the cemetery. Buildings should blend with the site design and may be contemporary, single-story architectural structures found in the project region, or transitional, with a style reminiscent of historic state architecture. All buildings should be designed to reflect permanence and durability with minimum maintenance required. The overall design should consider human scale and privacy for visitors. A consistent architectural expression shall be maintained throughout the cemetery.

Cemetery master plans should be laid out in a looped circulation configuration. Loop configurations include roads that separate vehicular, pedestrian and maintenance traffic. Loop configurations also help define memorial areas but roads should not be used as boundaries to circumscribe the burial areas. The design should establish a strong sense of entry into the cemetery and create an interesting and dramatic sequence of spaces.

The development plan should be divided into phases, each consisting of an area approximating the burial need over a 10-year period. Construction of burial areas in latter phases should be programmed to be completed two years before actual need. This lead-time allows for the continuity of interment service.

Prior to construction, the site chosen should be evaluated for environmental impact and issues. Projects are required to support a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) indicating the project will not have an undue negative impact on the environment.

In general, cemetery plans should avoid lakes, greenhouses and bridges. Chapel buildings, whether freestanding or part of another structure, are not allowed under 38 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 39. The cost to build and maintain cemetery features of this nature is not supported by the State Cemetery Grants Program. Additionally, per the CFR, the grants program does not fund cemetery land costs or offsite utilities. Some current state cemeteries received land donations for their project.

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Project Design Requirements

The following is a list of the reference documents required for the design of the project.

- 38 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations), Part 39
- [Your State Contract Requirements \(A/E, Construction\)](#)
- State Cemetery Grants Program - Grant Information Kit July 2001
- A/E Submission Requirements; PG-18-15 Volume D June 1999

All cemetery designs must conform to all state and local codes and requirements.

Site Considerations

Site Selection Standards for a State Cemetery:

- **Proximity** - Locate the site as close as possible to the most densely populated location in the area under consideration. Not only actual distance, but travel time to the site must be considered.
- **Size** - Site acreage is sufficient to provide at least 20-40 years of gravesites based on state projected burial rate. More acreage is encouraged. The acreage required will depend on the burial method, gravesite yield, projected burial rates based on the state's estimated needs for at least 20 years, and the project site's proximity to other national and state cemeteries.
- **Shape** - Uniform boundaries, undivided by roads or easements, with generally square or rectangular shapes are desired. Irregularly shaped sites are more difficult to access and less efficient to design and develop.
- **Accessibility** - Site accessible by highway. Public transportation service is desirable but not required. Road quality of access streets should also be considered.

- **Utilities & Water** - Availability of public utilities (electricity, water, sewer, gas) is important. However, on-site septic systems and on-site potable water wells or ponds are acceptable. An adequate water supply for irrigation is of primary importance. Consider the availability of on-site or off-site recyclable water. The grant program does not fund off-site improvements such as water line extensions.
- **Surrounding Land Use** - Surrounding land should be free from noise or adverse environmental impact(s) (nuisance, landfills or hazardous waste sites). Consider the attractiveness and compatibility of adjacent land. Sites adjacent to visually objectionable, loud noise, high traffic, or other nuisance elements should be avoided. Both current and future projected land use are considered.
- **Soils** - Soils should be of a quality which will provide adequate topsoil for growing turf. The soil should have adequate stability for constructing roads and buildings and should be free from shallow-depth groundwater. The water table must be lower than the maximum proposed depth of burial. There should be no sub-surface obstructions or hazardous waste present. Site soil information is available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture (www.nrcs.usda.gov).
- **Topography** - Land should be relatively level to rolling terrain for areas to be developed. The grade of the site should be in the two to ten percent range. There should be sufficient slope to enable proper drainage of the site. Ravines, wetlands, lakes, streams, floodplains and sinkholes cannot be developed. If hilly land is used, access must not be cost prohibitive.
- **Aesthetics** - Existing site amenities such as pleasant views and quality vegetative cover are favorable.
- **Restrictions to Development** - The presence of elements such as cultural/historic/archaeological elements, utility easements, rights-of-way or mineral rights can hamper or legally prevent development. Presence of endangered species limits land development. Potential flood hazards must be avoided.
- **Site Suitability and Acceptability** - Consider the following tests and items to determine site suitability and acceptability: 1) Soil Borings and Test Pits, Perk Test (Septic Field Requirements), Soil Sample Analysis; 2) Well, Aquifer Level, Underground Water Quality Testing; 3) Historic and Archaeological Land Use Review; 4) Cultural Resources; 5) Flood Plains, Wetlands, and Endangered Species; 6) Land Use and Public Access; 7) Utilities; 8) Hazardous Waste; 9) Corrective Action Agreement.

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Site Description and Site Analysis

Per 38 CFR 39.8, the plan for a state cemetery requires a description of the site and its various elements. The description should explain specific development of the site, design concepts and include space and area requirements (space outline) for support facilities. The description should also include: proposed and existing burial acreage; available gravesites; total acreage and gravesites upon completion of the project; and the projected annual interment rates. (If the cemetery is to be developed in phases, each phase will be handled as a separate project.)

As part of the site selection process, NCA may provide states with demographic data from the [Future Burial Needs](#) report. This information will assist states in locating state veterans cemeteries in the most advantageous sites. Through its technical assistance program, NCA will assist State Directors of Veterans Affairs in answering related questions from other state officials.

Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to VA-prescribed standards and guidelines for site selection, planning and construction. Cemeteries must be operated solely for the interment of service members who die on active duty, eligible veterans and their spouses and minor children. The administration, operation and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery are solely the responsibility of the state. VA is authorized to pay a "plot allowance" of \$300 to a state for expenses incurred in the burial of an eligible veteran.

Planning Process for Establishing State Cemeteries

Using the Site Selection Standards listed above, states should identify several potential sites. Sites should be assessed for overall site potential, proximity to veterans in the state, topographical features, available acreage and the surrounding land use. Once the number of sites has been narrowed to the most favorable locations, consider the suitability of the land for development as a cemetery. The preferred site is then described in the pre-application for a grant. States have always been partners with the Federal government in providing for the needs of military veterans. The VA State Cemetery Grants Program (SCGP) assists the states in providing gravesites with grants used to establish, expand or improve veterans cemeteries owned and operated by the state.

Phasing

Cemeteries are constructed in phases based on the needs of the veteran population. The initial phase of construction should be based on a projected ten-year interment rate. Initial development of larger increments would unnecessarily increase state maintenance costs. This first phase includes the development and construction of the cemetery infrastructure as follows:

- Entry Features (including Avenue of Flags)
- Roads and Parking
- Avenue of Flags
- Assembly Area (Flag Location)
- Burial Areas and Burial Sections
- Committal Service Shelter
- Columbarium and In-Ground Cremation Burials
- Memorial Walk
- Administration Building
- Public Information Center (PIC)
- Public Restrooms
- Maintenance Building
- Service Yard
- Irrigation System
- Utility Distribution System
- Carillon Tower

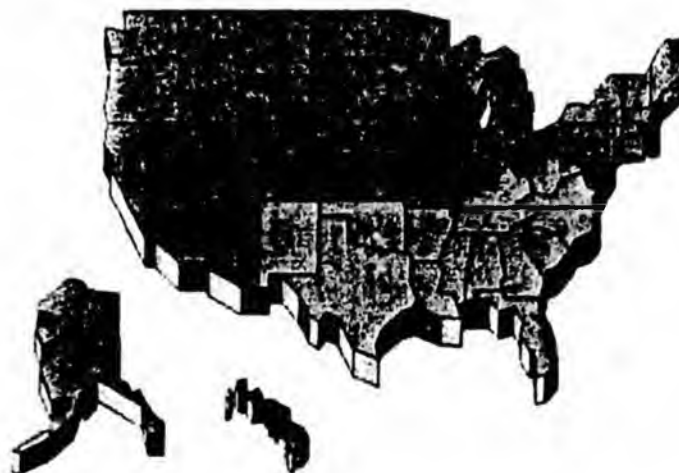
In subsequent phases cemeteries should look at burial needs for 10 years. Subsequent phases will include the build out of additional burial sections and continuation of the columbarium, as required. The additional phases will require the extension of roadways to access the planned burial sections. Initially, cemeteries are specifically designed with loop roads to easily accommodate additional phases. Planning for the second phase should start approximately six years after the cemetery opens.

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BURIAL & MEMORIALS

State Cemetery Grants Program/Grant Information Kit



[Applicant Eligibility](#) [Program History and Background](#) [Scope of the Program](#) [Availability of Funds](#) [Application Guidelines](#) [Application Content](#) [Selection Criteria](#) [Review Process](#)

Applicant Eligibility

1. State governments are eligible to receive grants to **establish, expand or improve** state veterans cemeteries. The term "state" means each of the several states, territories and possessions of the United States, including Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are also eligible to receive grants.
2. Counties, cities and other state subdivisions, including multi-agency organizations are not eligible for grants. Native American tribal governments and entities are not eligible to receive grants. Private organizations are not eligible to receive grants.
3. **Applicants must own the land** on which the cemetery is to be established. The state is responsible for the provision of land. Land may be purchased, transferred from another agency or donated.
4. Eligible applicants must provide assurance that they possess legislative authority and adequate appropriations to construct the project to be built with grant assistance.
5. Cemeteries must be operated solely for the interment of service members who die on active duty, veterans (as defined in Title 38, U.S. Code §101.(2)), and their spouses and minor children. States may impose residency requirements for eligibility but are encouraged not to.
6. Grants may only be awarded to establish, expand or improve state-owned veterans cemeteries. Grants may not be awarded for maintenance or repairs.

7. New cemeteries must be capable of providing at least 20 years of service.

Program History and Background

1. The federal government's system of national cemeteries was first established during the Civil War. The Army operated most of the cemeteries until 1973 when they were transferred to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Arlington National Cemetery is still operated by the Department of the Army. The National Park Service operates several historical national cemeteries such as Gettysburg and Vicksburg. An independent agency, the American Battle Monuments Commission, maintains cemeteries overseas for the dead of World War I and World War II. States have operated veterans cemeteries since the War with Mexico.
2. The VA State Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement VA's network of national cemeteries. Funds were first appropriated for the program in 1980. As originally authorized, VA provided 50 percent of the cost and states provided 50 percent. The value of the state land dedicated to the cemetery comprised up to half of the state's share.
3. The program assists states in providing gravesites in those areas where the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) cannot fully satisfy veterans' burial needs.
4. 4. Public Law 105-368, which went into effect in 1999, authorized VA to provide up to 100 percent of the development cost for an approved project. VA can now provide for operating equipment for establishment of new cemeteries. VA does not provide for acquisition of land.
5. The administration, operation and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery are solely the responsibility of the state.
6. VA is authorized to pay a "plot allowance" of \$300 to a state for expenses incurred in the burial of an eligible veteran without charge.
7. Federal statutes authorizing the program are codified at 38 U.S.C. § 2408. Regulations are at 38 C.F.R. Part 39.
8. The State Cemetery Grants Program is described in the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* under "State Cemetery Grants" at 64.203.

Scope of the Program

1. The State Cemetery Grants Program is intended to complement the service provided by the VA's system of veterans cemeteries operated by the National Cemetery Administration.
2. VA seeks to provide the service of a veterans cemetery within 75 miles of 90 percent of the veterans across the country. Data shows that a 75-mile radius defines the effective "service area" of a veterans cemetery.
3. Since 1973, VA has opened many new cemeteries, primarily in large metropolitan areas where veterans previously had no effective service. VA also works to expand existing national cemeteries to maintain current service. VA has more than doubled the acreage available in federal veterans cemeteries since 1973 and the burial rate at these cemeteries has also increased by more than 100 percent.
4. Smaller cities and rural areas located beyond the 75-mile service areas of these existing national cemeteries are ideal locations for state veterans cemeteries.

Availability of Funds

1. Federal funds are appropriated each year for the State Cemetery Grants Program. VA requested \$32 million in funding for FY 2004 (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004).
2. Appropriated funds are available until expended.
3. If a state that has received a grant under this program ceases to operate the cemetery as a veterans cemetery, the federal government is entitled to recover the total of all grants made under this program to that state.
4. Funds must be expended in accordance with applicable guidelines, including Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments."
5. All grant costs must be "necessary, reasonable" and allocable to the project for which funds have been requested.
6. When all requirements for Federal funding have been met, VA will award grants providing sufficient funds are available.
7. If sufficient funds are not available, VA will award funds according to the priority established (see "**Selection Criteria**").

Application Guidelines

1. A state seeking grant funding for a veterans cemetery project must apply to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with 38 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 39. The applicant must also conform with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, 38 CFR Part 43, known as the "Common Grants Management Rule."
2. The applicant must have clear legislative authority from the state to apply for the grant.
3. The applicant must have the funds necessary to begin design and planning work. Federal funds are awarded on the basis of the bids received for construction. **State funds are needed to prepare plans and specifications prior to bidding.** Once the successful bidder has been determined and VA has awarded the grant, the state may be reimbursed for allowable costs already incurred.
4. The applicant must provide written assurance that any cemetery established, expanded, or improved through a grant will be maintained and operated in accordance with the operational standards and measures of the National Cemetery Administration.
5. VA provides **no monetary assistance to operate state veterans cemeteries.** States must be aware of the commitment to operate the cemetery.
6. VA must receive applications by July 1 for projects to be funded in the next Federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).
7. Applications must be reviewed by the State "Single Point of Contact" under the Executive Order 12372 process.
8. Applications must be signed and dated by the authorized state representative, normally the director of

the state veterans affairs agency.

9. Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to VA-prescribed standards and guidelines for site selection, planning and construction.

Application Content

1. Standard forms approved by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must be used to apply for grants. All these forms are provided in the "State Cemetery Grants Program Guide, PG 40-1." They are also available on the OMB Grants Management website.

- o The basic application form is SF (Standard Form) 424, titled "Application for Federal Assistance," and known as the "face sheet."
- o The application must also include SF 424C, "Budget Information—Construction Programs."
- o The applicant must also submit SF 424D, "Assurances—Construction Programs."
- o The "Certificate of Compliance" with Federal drug-free workplace and debarment and suspension requirements is required.
- o In addition, the applicant must submit the "Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loan and Cooperative Agreements," which certifies that the applicant will not use grant funds for lobbying. If grant funds are to be used for lobbying, they must be disclosed on the "Disclosure" form.

The applicant must submit written assurance that it possesses authority to establish and operate a state veterans cemetery and that it will maintain the cemetery in accordance with VA standards.

2. For all projects expected to cost \$100,000 or more, the applicant must submit a pre-application. The pre-application is intended to:

- o Establish communication between the grantor agency (VA) and the applicant;
- o Determine the applicant's eligibility;
- o Determine how well the proposed project can compete with applications from others;
- o Discourage proposals that have little or no chance of being funded.

3. Pre-applications must include the following:

- o The location of the cemetery. A specific site may be designated during the review phase of the application, but the pre-application must designate the area to be served and the preferred location of the cemetery;
- o A design concept that describes the primary features to be included in the project and the number of gravesites to be provided. Standard features include items such as the entrance gate, administration building, committal service facility, flag plaza and assembly area;
- o A needs assessment that explains the need for the project to establish, expand or improve the veterans cemetery. This should be concise and quantitative to the degree possible.

Selection Criteria

1. Preapplications received by July 1, will be prioritized for funding in the following fiscal year.
2. Only preapplications which have met the requirements noted in the "Application Guidelines" and the "Application Content" sections will be prioritized. That is, applications must be properly completed on the appropriate forms. They must include the proper attachments and the applicant must have clear authority and adequate funding to begin the design process.
3. Preapplications meeting these basic requirements will be prioritized according to published criteria in the Program Guide, PG 40-1.
4. VA will rank the preapplications and announce priorities by August 15. VA will rank applications according to priority and the date on which the application was received.
5. Prioritization follows these rules:
 - o PRIORITY I - Projects needed to avoid disruption in burial service that would otherwise occur at existing veterans' cemeteries within 4 years of the date of the preapplication. Such projects would include phased expansion projects as well as improvement projects that are needed to continue interment operations.
 - o PRIORITY II - Projects for the establishment of new veterans' cemeteries.
 - o PRIORITY III - Planned phased developments prior to need.
 - o PRIORITY IV - Other improvement projects.

Within priority groups 1, 2 and 3, highest priority will be given to projects in geographical locations that would provide **service to the largest number** of unserved veterans as determined by VA. Within priority group 4, projects will be ranked in order based upon VA's determination of the relative importance and necessity to operate.

Review Process

1. In addition to the required forms, assurances, certifications and attachments, all projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. In many cases, especially with new cemeteries, the applicant will be required to perform an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine whether a more in-depth Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is required. The EA should progress toward a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI should be made available for public review and comment.
2. The National Historic Preservation Act requires VA to determine whether proposed projects will have any impact on historic or cultural resources. When a new cemetery is being established, it is normally necessary to perform an investigation of the site to determine whether any historic or cultural resources would be affected and, if so, what mitigation or protection may be afforded. The applicant then confers with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which renders an opinion of the project's impact. Depending on the opinion of the SHPO, VA may be able to approve the project.
3. Most states hire architect/engineer (A/E) firms to design major projects. In the case of major projects, including all establishment grants, VA requires a "pre-design conference" in which VA, state and A/E representatives meet to familiarize themselves with the site and VA design requirements.
4. VA requires a "master plan" for establishment of new cemeteries. The master plan should analyze the