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A farewell to Richard A. Guthrie.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

During the final days of the 1976 election campaign, Richard A. Guthrie died quietly in Bellingham, Washington.

Rich was born in Lewistown, Montana in 1939 and graduated from the University of Montana with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education in 1961 and 1968, respectively. During the 1960's he taught music and supervised music programs in secondary schools, first in his native state, later in Oregon and Washington, capping this career as a department head in the Spokane public school system.

Rich came to Alaska in 1969, not to teach music, but to try some other line of work. That summer he put in a dusty stint at a Southeastern sawmill. Arriving in Juneau that fall, Rich took the first open job, which happened to be in the State mail room, and quickly moved through jobs in various agencies to Budget and Management. Here he had his first assignments dealing with the Legislature.

In his July 1971 application for employment as a legislative analyst, Rich cited two personal objectives in seeking the job. He saw the Legislature as somewhat disadvantaged in the budget process and wanted to do what he could to "reestablish a more realistic 'balance of power' between the legislative and executive branches in matters of fiscal importance." He also planned to use his background and experience to provide "more comprehensive and 'common sense' analyses." Those of us who worked with him and knew him well during his five years of legislative service know he achieved the latter; the other will take time.

It is not appropriate to discuss Rich separately from his family or the family from the community--they were all closely joined. Rich and his wife Bonnie gave up teaching as a career but spent countless hours on local school music programs. Church music was enriched with their talent. And those who saw and heard will never forget the joyous Guthrie family musicals that graced Juneau's stage.

Rich was a fine person, devoted to his work, his family, his community--to life in general. We cannot help but wish he could have been with us longer. But that was not to be and thus the condolences of the Legislature and the staff are respectfully extended to Mrs. Bonnie Jean Guthrie, son Tod and daughter Jodi, all of Juneau.