Alaska State Legislature

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Standing Committees: Resources Transportation

Budget Subcommittees:

Natural Resources Corrections Public Safety Community & **Economic Development**

Sponsor Statement SB 231 Alaska Native Veterans Honor Bridge

At the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Nenana City Council, and the Nenana Village Council, I have introduced SB 231, an Act relating to the naming of the Alaska Native Veterans Honor Bridge. SB 231 names the bridge that spans the Tanana River at Nenana in honor of the many Alaska Native veterans who have served this state and country valiantly.

The bridge at milepost 305 of the George Parks Highway was chosen for this purpose due to its grand size and location. The south footing is on Municipality of Nenana land, the north footing is on Nenana Native Village land; thereby bridging the cultures, just as Alaska Native veterans have for countless generations.

Acknowledging that recognition of Alaska Native and American Indian veterans was long overdue, the Department of Defense held a ceremony in 1998 to honor them. Similarly, the Alaska Federation of Natives chose to honor Alaska Native veterans that same year by dedicating the annual convention to them, entitling it "In Service to Our Country".

Alaska Natives have an extremely high per capita record of service. They have protected our country, our shorelines, and defended freedom around the world. Their heroic service and sacrifice for this state and country are deserving of a monument dedicated in their honor.

Senate District R

Alatna Alcan Allakaket Aniak Arctic Village Big Delta Birch Creek Boundary Canyon Village Central Chalkvitsik Chenega bay Chicken Chistochina Chitina Chuathbaluk Coldfoot Copper Center Cordova Crooked Creek Dot Lake Dry Creek
Eagle
Eagle Village
Evansville Eyak Fort Greely Fort Yukon

Four Mile Road Gakona

Galena Georgetown Glennallen

Grayling

Healy Lake Holy Cross Hughes Huslia Kaltag Kenny Lake Koyukuk Lake Minchumina Lime Village Lower Kalskag Manley Hot Springs Marshall McCarthy McGrath Medfra Mendelfna Minto Nabesna Nenana Nikolai Nulato

Pilot Station Rampart Ruby Russian Mission Shageluk Silver Springs Slana Sleetmute Stevens Village Stony River Takotna Tanana Tatitlek Tazlina Telida Tetlin Tok

Upper Kalskag Valdez Whittier

Tolsona Tonsina Tuluksak Tyonek