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RESOLUTION NO. 1

In honor of Bill Vaudrin.

BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

The Alaska State Commission for Human Rights notes with deepest sympathy the death of its past Executive Director, Bill Vaudrin.

During the two years he served the Commission, Mr. Vaudrin led the agency through the most rapid period of growth of its ten-year history. He realized that the resources of Federal VISTA volunteers could demonstrate to the State the value of a full-time legal and professional staff.

The three-year VISTA commitment which he recommended to the Commission bore fruit almost immediately with legislative funding of a professional staff worker in Southeastern Alaska. Shortly thereafter, a legal position in the Department of Law and professional investigator position began to receive legislative endorsement.

His most visible public accomplishment was his vigorous support of Native concerns, particularly in Rural Alaska. He led the agency to its continuing concern that it not be exclusively a city-oriented bureaucracy which ignored the very real social problems in the State's rural areas.

Mr. Vaudrin was strongly committed to the principle that active enforcement of the Human Rights Law would yield the important social changes that law mandates.

On the national level, he served on the Board of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. At several of its national meetings and regional conferences, his influence significantly broadened the thinking of the organization to concern for non-Black minority group members.

More than any other thing, perhaps, what will be missed is the energy, dedication and enthusiasm Mr. Vaudrin brought to his work. Speaking with him for even a few minutes was often an exciting and inspiring experience. A bright star has dimmed in our universe, but our memory will prevent that light from ever being extinguished.