

RESOLUTION 2018-1

TITLE: GRACE E. MERKES

PURPOSE: TO COMMEND GRACE E. MERKES FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE STATE OF ALASKA'S CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND,

WHEREAS, THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ESTABLISHED BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE IN 1963, IS ONE OF THE FIRST ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ESTABLISHED IN THE NATION; AND,

WHEREAS, GRACE E. MERKES BEGAN HER TENURE AS COMMISSIONER OF THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FEBRUARY 2003 AND WILL RETIRE IN MARCH 2018; AND,

WHEREAS, COMMISSIONER MERKES SERVED THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER, VOLUNTEERING HER TIME AND KNOWLEDGE FOR 15 YEARS OF PASSIONATE COMMITMENT AND DILIGENT WORK TO MAKE THE STATE OF ALASKA AND OUR NATION MORE JUST, FAIR, AND EQUITABLE; AND,

WHEREAS, COMMISSIONER MERKES SERVED AS CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIR AND ALWAYS PARLIAMENTARIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE, GUIDING THE COMMISSION WITH HER LEADERSHIP AND DEVOTION; AND,

WHEREAS, COMMISSIONER MERKES HAS BROADLY SERVED HER COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF ALASKA THROUGH HER REPRESENTATION ON THE KENAI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY FOR MORE THAN 17 YEARS, INCLUDING SERVING AS PRESIDING OFFICER, HER TENURE ON THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION AND HER CONTINUING SERVICE ON THE COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL AS WELL AS A MYRIAD OF OTHER VOLUNTEER EFFORTS THAT MAKE HER COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE; AND

WHEREAS, HER WISE AND GRACIOUS COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE MISSION OF ELIMINATING AND PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION FOR ALL ALASKANS;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ALASKA STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HEREBY COMMEND GRACE E. MERKES FOR HER YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE GREAT STATE OF ALASKA IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EXTEND THEIR COLLABORATIVE BEST WISHES FOR MS. MERKES' FUTURE ENDEAVORS.