

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION # 25-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, RENAMING THE VALDEZ CONTAINER TERMINAL AS THE "RYAN J. SONTAG VALDEZ CONTAINER TERMINAL"

WHEREAS, Ryan J. Sontag was born in Valdez and remained a lifelong resident and servant of the community, with deep ties to Dayville, Old Town, and New Town Valdez; and

WHEREAS, following service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, Mr. Sontag returned to Valdez and played a vital role in the reconstruction of the city's port infrastructure after the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake working alongside his father, Herman Sontag, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a temporary dock critical to restoring maritime access; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sontag's worked long hours unloading pipe during the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System construction and his many years as a tugboat captain helped sustain the port infrastructure vital to Valdez's economy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sontag played a critical role in managing operations at the Valdez Container Terminal during the Exxon Valdez oil spill response, one of the most demanding times in Alaska's maritime history, and demonstrated leadership, commitment, and calm under pressure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sontag worked for more than 30 years at the Valdez Container Terminal for North Star Terminal and Stevedore Company, earning the respect of his peers, the maritime industry, and the broader Valdez community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his maritime work, Mr. Sontag served the as a long-time member of the Transportation Commission and was elected to City Council, further contributing to local civic life and governance; and

WHEREAS, the Ports and Harbors Commission recommends renaming of the Valdez Container Terminal as the "Ryan J. Sontag Valdez Container Terminal" to honor Mr. Sontag and to create a meaningful and enduring tribute to his service and legacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The Valdez Container Terminal shall hereby be officially renamed the “Ryan J. Sontag Valdez Container Terminal,” in recognition of Mr. Sontag’s lifelong dedication to the City of Valdez, its port operations, and the maritime industry.

Section 2. The City Manager is directed to oversee the implementation of appropriate signage, recognition, and public communication regarding this renaming, and to coordinate with the Sontag family for any commemorative events or installations.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 19th day of August, 2025.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk