



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in the early evening hours of Friday, March 27, 1964, the original Valdez townsite, home to about 800 persons was jolted, along with most of southcentral Alaska, by one of the most forceful earthquakes of this century; and,

WHEREAS, the earthquake—which lasted 5.5 minutes and measured 9.2 on the Richter scale—triggered submarine landslides causing substantial water disturbance in Port Valdez, inundating the community and destroying the City dock in Valdez, at which the Alaska Steamship Company vessel “Chena” was moored, unloading cargoes; and,

WHEREAS, the lives of 31 Valdezeans in the boat harbor or standing on the dock were taken when that structure collapsed and disappeared under the waters of Port Valdez; and,

WHEREAS, thereafter, either as a direct or indirect result of this natural disaster, a total of 38 persons lost their lives in Valdez, including the four-member crew of an Alaska Air National Guard airplane; and,

WHEREAS, the original Valdez townsite was subsequently condemned as unsuitable for continued use and the remaining residents of Valdez came together with assistance from local, state, and federal public officials to create a new townsite; and,

WHEREAS, the people of Chitina, Copper Center, Glennallen, Fairbanks and other Alaska communities responded immediately to the needs of Valdez in the highest tradition of compassion; and,

WHEREAS, in the intervening 53 years, the families and friends of those who perished have borne their sorrow quietly and with diminishing public awareness of their personal tragedies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ruth E. Knight, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim Monday, March 27, 2017 as

## EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

and urge citizens to pause and remember those former Valdezeans who lost their lives during the 1964 earthquake.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

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Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk