



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in the early evening hours of Friday, March 27, 1964, the original Valdez town site, 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 town site 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 town site; 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 56 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, Jeremy O’Neil, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 27, 2020 as

EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Jeremy O’Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk