

Submitted by: Mayor Begich and
Assemblymembers Fairclough, Kendall, Shamborg
Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Traini, Tremaine,
Van Etten, Von Gemmingen, and Whittle
Prepared by: Department of Assembly
For reading: April 20, 2004

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 4-20-04 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2004-110

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HONORING AND
COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY BY JOANN BANTZ**

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz has been an Anchorage resident for 57 years, having arrived in Alaska in 1947 with her parents, Ed and Bernice Bantz and two year old sister Janet, after a six week trip over the newly opened Alaska Highway; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz is a product and shining example of Alaska's great educational system and Ms. Bantz' life's work is a testament and tribute itself to the quality and commitment of the early Anchorage teachers who touched her life through public education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bantz completed 1st through 12th grades within the Anchorage public schools, she then earned her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education in 1963 from Alaska Methodist University and her Masters of Arts with emphasis in reading in 1978 from University of Alaska Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz began teaching fourth grade in 1963 at her alma mater North Star Elementary (1963-65), and went on to teach all grade levels at Mt. View Elementary (1966-67), North Star Elementary (1967-69), Ocean View Elementary (1969-79), Abbott Loop Elementary (1979-91); and Bowman Elementary (1991-04 and beyond); and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz discovered the Open Optional philosophy of education which she realized was her calling while at Abbott Loop Elementary in 1979 and, in 1991, she moved with the Optional program to Bowman Elementary School and went on to develop and sculpture a family oriented educational program based on a partnership of child, parent and teacher where she continues to teach first/second grades with her team teacher Minoo Minaei at the Willard L. Bowman Open Optional Program; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz is a woman of faith and gentle determination who believes in the dignity and professionalism of teachers in the Anchorage School District; is dedicated to her profession of teaching quality education based upon a philosophy and belief in the goodness of all people; and has devoted her life to Anchorage children through creating an atmosphere for learning during the first years of a child's educational journey, based on that underlying belief and faith; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz has demonstrated this belief and philosophy through her commitment to and as an advocate for public Schools through her love of teaching and the education of our children in a rich and safe environment that fosters family and community involvement and develops curiosity, love of learning, self esteem, respect for others, good citizenship and commitment to the larger community. In addition to her professional teaching career, Ms. Bantz is a community and social activist through her work in her church, Trinity Presbyterian, and through the Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, where she served two terms as president; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Bantz has contributed her heart and time to new and successive generations of Alaskans over the past forty years and has earned our highest tribute and appreciation and may she know in what high esteem we hold her.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves:

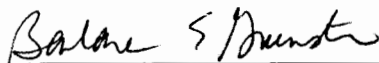
Section 1: That the Anchorage Assembly honors and commemorates the contributions to our community by Jo Ann Bantz on the forty year anniversary of dedicated and inspiring teaching in the public schools within the Anchorage School District.

Section 2: That a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to her husband Tim Connolly and daughters Francine and Desree as reflection of our esteem for her years of commitment and contributions to our children and future generations Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 20th day of April, 2004.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk

