

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at  
the Request of the Mayor

Prepared by: Office of the Mayor

For reading: February 12, 2008

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 2-12-08

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR 2008-23

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR MARK BEGICH  
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 283/SENATE BILL 216 - DESIGNATION OF THE ALASKA  
HIGHWAY AND A PORTION OF THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY AS THE "PURPLE  
HEART TRAIL."**

WHEREAS, Alaska House Bill (HB) 283 and Senate Bill (SB) 216 would designate the Alaska Highway from the Alaska-Canada border to Delta Junction and the Richardson Highway between Delta Junction and Fairbanks as the Purple Heart Trail; and

WHEREAS, HB 283 and SB 216 would required the Alaska Department of Transportation to erect and maintain appropriate signs at visitors centers, the terminus of the highways, pullouts, and at least one sign every 50 miles; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart presented this matter to the Municipal Military and Veterans Affairs Commission at its January 2008 meeting and the commission subsequently passed a resolution supporting this proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart is a congressionally chartered military organization and the nation's oldest military decoration; and

WHEREAS, over 1,800,000 men and women in the history of our nation have born the scars of our nation's conflicts and earned the Purple Heart medal; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia established the original Purple Heart Trail at Mt. Vernon and it runs the length of the Virginia Highway; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart Trail now extends across the nation, drawing attention to the accomplishments of the brave men and women who have served our nation and won this medal by stimulating conversations of travelers; and


WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway was completed during World War II by the US Army to serve as a supply route for the war effort is appropriate to be designated as part of the "Purple Heart Trail;" and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway serves as a gateway to the State of Alaska and serves thousands of visitors to our state each summer and would well serve the educational mission of the Purple Heart Trail.

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2 NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:  
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4 to support speedy passage of Alaska House Bill 283/Senate Bill 216 which would designate the  
5 Alaska Highway and a portion of the Richardson Highway as part of the "Purple Heart Trail."  
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7 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this 12<sup>th</sup> day of  
8 February, 2008.  
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Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk

# Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4431  
Fax: (907) 343-4499  
<http://www.muni.org>

*Mark Begich, Mayor*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 4, 2008

Representative Berta Gardner  
State Capitol, Room 422  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Representative Gardner:

The purpose of this letter is to express our unconditional support of the initiative of Chapter 593 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to secure Alaska's participation in the National Purple Heart Trail System. The idea of designating major highways as portions of a National Purple Heart Trail originated in Virginia in 1992. Since that time, the trail has extended with designations across much of the Lower 48.

The Interstate Highway System, seen as a tangible symbol of our freedom -- the ability to get up and go anywhere, anytime -- provides an opportunity for a visible and poignant reminder of the sacrifices of Americans who have shed blood to protect our freedom. For those states that participate in this trail system, a simple highway designation with appropriate signage does just that.

Given the significant military population in our Great State and the many thousands of veterans who make Alaska home, we see our participation in this program as both a fitting tribute to serving military and our veterans and as an important reminder of their service and sacrifice. To all who travel Alaska's stretch of the Purple Heart Trail, our participation in this designation program says we recognize the sacrifice, we care about those who do and have served our country and we remember freedom is not free.

We strongly encourage your support of this important initiative.

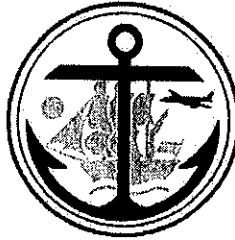
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory Miller".

Col. Gregory Miller (Ret)  
Chairman

Anchorage Military & Veterans Commission

# Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-4431  
Fax: (907) 343-4499  
<http://www.muni.org>

*Mark Begich, Mayor*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 4, 2008

Senator Johnny Ellis  
State Capitol, Room 9  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Senator Ellis:


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We strongly encourage your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

  
Col. Gregory Miller (Ret)  
Chairman  
Anchorage Military & Veterans Commission

**Content Information****Content ID :** 005983**Type:** AR\_AllOther - All Other Resolutions

**Title:** A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR  
MARK BEGICH SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 283/SENATE BILL 216 -  
DESIGNATION OF THE ALASKA HIGHWAY AND A PORTION OF THE  
RICHARDSON HIGHWAY AS THE "PURPLE HEART TRAIL."

**Author:** maglaquijp**Initiating  
Dept:** Mayor**Date  
Prepared:** 1/31/08 3:20 PM**Assembly  
Meeting  
Date:** 2/12/08

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ANCHORAGE  
CITY CLERK

**Workflow History**

<b>Workflow Name</b>	<b>Action Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>User</b>	<b>Security Group</b>	<b>Content ID</b>
AllOtherARWorkflow	1/31/08 3:22 PM	Checkin	maglaquijp	Public	005983
Mayor_SubWorkflow	1/31/08 3:26 PM	Approve	johnsonmf	Public	005983
MuniManager_SubWorkflow	2/1/08 10:22 AM	Checkin	maglaquijp	Public	005983
MuniManager_SubWorkflow	2/1/08 12:02 PM	Approve	abbottmk	Public	005983
MuniMgrCoord_SubWorkflow	2/1/08 1:23 PM	Approve	handysidehm	Public	005983