

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY CHAIR OSSIANDER,  
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS BIRCH, CLAMAN,  
COFFEY, DRUMMOND, FLYNN,  
GRAY-JACKSON, GUTIERREZ, JOHNSTON,  
SELKREGG, AND STARR

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office  
For reading: September 29, 2009

CLERK'S OFFICE

**APPROVED**

Date: 9-29-09

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2009-240**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING AND  
REMEMBERING GEORGE M. SULLIVAN, THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE'S  
FIRST MAYOR, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC SERVICE AND RICH LEGACY.**

WHEREAS, on the evening of September 23, 2009, surrounded by his family, George M. Sullivan, Anchorage's first and longest serving mayor, passed away at home at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Alaskan and born on March 31, 1922, George M. Sullivan grew up in Valdez, graduated from Valdez High School, and served in the U.S. Army in the Aleutian Islands during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after the war, George M. Sullivan met and married Margaret Eagan Sullivan of Fairbanks, his wife for nearly six decades until her passing in 2007, raising nine children, and loving 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, George M. Sullivan served as a U.S. Deputy Marshal in Nenana, and after moving the family to Fairbanks in 1952, was elected to the Fairbanks City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the family moved to Anchorage where George M. Sullivan was appointed to the Alaska House of Representatives in 1964, and elected to the Anchorage City Council a year later; and

WHEREAS, George M. Sullivan became mayor of the City of Anchorage in 1967 and nurtured a vision for a better, more efficient, and unified city and borough government; and

WHEREAS, when the City of Anchorage and the Anchorage Borough unified under a new Home Rule municipal charter in 1975, George M. Sullivan was elected the first mayor of the newly formed Municipality of Anchorage, and re-elected for a second term, the maximum service allowed under the charter; and

WHEREAS, as Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage, George M. Sullivan spearheaded the "Project 80s" campaign to beautify and to preserve historic sites and provide for public facilities including the Performing Arts Center, the Egan Civic and Convention Center, and the Sullivan Sports Arena which now bears his name; and

WHEREAS, at the invitation of Mayor George M. Sullivan, Pope John Paul II came to Anchorage, addressed more than 40,000 members of our diverse community on the Delaney Park Strip in February 1981, the Mayor also ensuring that Pope John Paul II was granted his wish to ride a dog-sled; and

1 WHEREAS, as City Mayor and as the Municipality of Anchorage's first Mayor,  
2 George M. Sullivan was known for his straight talk and the personal attention he gave to  
3 matters big and small, that effected the day-to-day lives of Anchorage residents; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, following his 14-year tenure as the top official for the City of Anchorage  
6 and the Municipality of Anchorage, Mayor George M. Sullivan remained active within the  
7 community, especially with respect to the Anchorage Senior Activity Center; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, in 2003, retired Mayor George M. Sullivan served on the Anchorage  
10 Senior Activity Center Expansion Committee, leading efforts to raise \$2.5 Million for the  
11 expansion project, and spoke at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for the Anchorage Senior  
12 Activity Center; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2009, although declining in health, George M. Sullivan was  
15 able to attend on stage, as both father and first Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage, the  
16 swearing-in of his son, Daniel A. Sullivan, as the Municipality of Anchorage's current mayor;  
17 and  
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19 WHEREAS, Governor Sean Parnell recently described Mayor George M. Sullivan as  
20 "one of Alaska's most beloved leaders"; and  
21


22 WHEREAS, Mayor George M. Sullivan's breadth of influence in Alaska, depth of  
23 service to Anchorage, and treasured family legacy will endure;  
24

25 NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZES AND HONORS:

26  
27 **GEORGE M. SULLIVAN**

28  
29 for his leadership, public service, and rich legacy to our diverse communities, to Anchorage,  
30 and to our state.  
31

32 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
33 September, 2009.  
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36  
37   
38 Chair

39 ATTEST:

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42 Municipal Clerk  
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