STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation

by

Governor Sean Parnell

WHEREAS, Alaskans' safety is paramount and every life is precious, and in the time of a natural disaster, the greatest tragedy is the loss of life; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 1964 at 5:36pm, Southcentral Alaska was hit by the second largest earthquake in recorded history. The resulting destruction was enormous, and devastatingly impacted numerous Alaskan lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, the havoc wreaked by the magnitude 9.2 earthquake, as well as the subsequent landslides and colossal tsunamis, was and is still to this day, practically unparalleled. Over 120 Alaskans tragically lost their lives, and millions of dollars' worth (in 1964) of infrastructure was either damaged or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake's effects were heaviest in Anchorage, Chitina, Glennallen, Homer, Hope, Kasilof, Kenai, Kodiak, Moose Pass, Portage, Seldovia, Seward, Sterling, Valdez, Wasilla, and Whittier; however, the strength of the quake was so tremendous that it could be felt throughout the entire state and parts of Canada, and its associated water waves could be observed as far away as the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, we remember and recognize those whose lives were lost or affected by this devastating disaster, as well as the heroic first responders, servicemen, and volunteers who sacrificed their time, energy, and lives to aid in rescue and relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, we also acknowledge those geologists whose investigative work just after the event led to a new understanding of how and why seismic events occur, as well as the state-of-the-art, up-to-the-minute monitoring of seismic activity that helps individuals and communities become aware of, and prepare for, impending earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness kits, plans, and regular practices are important for families and individuals to best prepare for and handle a natural disaster or other emergency situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim March 27, 2014 as:

Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day

in Alaska, and on this 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake, encourage all Alaskans to educate themselves on earthquake safety practices, participate in commemorative activities; such as exhibits, conferences, and emergency response exercises planned in their communities, and remember those whose lives were lost that fateful day.

Dated: March 19, 2014

[Signature]

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the seal of the State of Alaska to be affixed to this proclamation.