

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2014

Source
HJR 23

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
26



Proclaiming March 27, 2014, as Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, 50 years ago, on March 27, 1964, a 9.2 magnitude earthquake known as the Good Friday Earthquake rocked a 50,000-square-mile area of Southcentral Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Good Friday Earthquake was the largest earthquake in the history of North America; and

WHEREAS the Good Friday Earthquake caused a tragic loss of life, caused remarkable devastation, leveled entire communities, and endangered thousands of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS Governor William A. Egan immediately activated the Alaska Army National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard to deliver emergency supplies and medical care to affected Southcentral communities; and

WHEREAS firefighters, police officers, Alaska state troopers, members of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, medics, doctors, nurses, municipal workers, and many other emergency professionals selflessly served the state and their fellow Alaskans when they were needed most; and

WHEREAS, after the earthquake, the United States Army Corps of Engineers launched "Operation Helping Hand," a successful relief effort to restore essential roads, power, fuel, water, and communications systems before the onset of winter; and

WHEREAS members of the Alaska Army National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard provided invaluable assistance with security following the earthquake, allowing emergency rescue and disaster relief personnel to assist Alaskans with the task of recovering from the disaster; and

WHEREAS Major General Thomas P. Carroll, who was the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard at the time, was killed April 27, 1964, in an airplane crash after accompanying Governor William A. Egan to Valdez to survey the damage caused by the earthquake; also killed in the crash were the pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Norris, Sr., the co-pilot, Major James Rowe, and the flight engineer, Technical Sergeant Kenneth W. Ayers; and

WHEREAS, following the earthquake, thousands of Alaskans from all walks of life became first responders by helping to locate and treat injured Alaskans; and

WHEREAS citizens immediately began the process of rebuilding devastated communities; and

WHEREAS March 27, 2014, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Earthquake;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature remembers, recognizes, and honors the hard work and exemplary sacrifice of the thousands of military and national guard members, first responders, and citizens who came to the aid of Alaskans in the aftermath of the Good Friday Earthquake; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims March 27, 2014, as Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day.