

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker

WHEREAS, aviation is the primary statewide means of access for the 82 percent of Alaska's communities not connected to the contiguous road system. Aviation provides rural residents a vital link for travel, tourism, emergency and medical services, mail delivery, and shipment of goods; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has more private planes per capita than any other state in the union and, on average, Alaskans fly more than eight times as often as residents of other states; and

WHEREAS, the economic contribution of the aviation industry in Alaska generates over 47,000 jobs, \$3.5 Billion to the state economy annually, and 8 percent of Alaska's gross state product; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's airports have about five million passenger enplanements annually, and the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is ranked fifth in the world for cargo throughput; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's strategic location makes us a significant national asset and platform for military operations anywhere in the world, and is the home of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Bryant Airfield, Ladd Army Airfield at Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, Allen Army Airfield, and the Alaska National Air Guard. Alaska will also be the new home for two F-35 fighter squadrons; and

WHEREAS, aviation provides a significant contribution to the development of commerce, promoting a healthy economy and strong communities. Therefore, Alaska has a significant and vested interest in the continued vitality of aircraft operations, aircraft maintenance, flight training, community airports, backcountry airstrips, and general aviation across our great state; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all aviators and aviation professionals to continue to adhere to the highest safety standards and practices in aviation to protect the lives of Alaskans, workers, tourists, and the traveling public in our great state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as:

Aviation Appreciation Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to celebrate aviation at the numerous aviation gatherings held across our state this month, and to recognize the achievements of those who make aviation possible in the Last Frontier.

Dated: May 6, 2018



A blue ink signature of Bill Walker.

*Bill Walker, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*