

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by *Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, aviation is the primary statewide means of access and connection for Alaska's communities and economy – both to each other and to our nation and the world. Aviation often provides the only practical means of all-season access and the primary mode of transportation for travel, medical services, mail delivery, shipment of goods, and tourism for the 82 percent of Alaska's communities not connected to the contiguous road system; 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. Alaska is currently home to 749 registered airports and seaplane bases, supporting 9,346 registered aircraft utilized by 7,853 active pilots; and

WHEREAS, the aviation industry in Anchorage generates over 15,000 jobs (one out of every ten), and over 1,900 jobs (one out of every 20) in Fairbanks, having combined direct annual payroll of nearly \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, United States military aviation plays an important role in aviation development in Alaska and contributes greatly to our national security, search and rescue missions, and economy. Eielson Air Force Base has the fourth longest military runway in the U.S., and Eielson AFB and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson both support the international RED-FLAG simulated combat training exercise; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has significant interest in the continued vitality of aircraft operations, aircraft maintenance, flight training, community airports, backcountry airstrips, and aviation organizations; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all Alaskans to continue to adhere to the highest safety standards and practices in aviation to protect the lives of Alaskans and visitors to our great state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as:

Aviation Appreciation Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to celebrate aviation as a unique resource in our state and to recognize the achievements of those who make aviation possible in the Last Frontier.

Dated: August 24, 2017



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.