

Official Proclamation

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WHEREAS, the greatest asset of our nation, state and our community is its people, whose heritage reflects the diversity of the ethnic and cultural groups which have made significant contributions throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, individuals like Elizabeth Peratrovich have contributed to the diversity which has made this nation strong by fighting for equal rights of all Alaskans and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, as Grand Camp President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Elizabeth Peratrovich spearheaded the civil rights movement in Alaska by communicating her personal vision and providing crucial testimony that inspired and persuaded the Territorial Legislature to pass legislation designed to provide equality for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, after her speech, the galleries and some of the senators gave her rousing applause recognizing both her passion and support for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, due in large part to her moving testimony, the Legislature passed the Anti-discrimination Act of 1945 and, on February 16, 1945, Ernest Gruening, Governor of the Territory of Alaska, signed the legislation into law, which ensures the dignity and equality of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the passage of this first anti-discrimination bill in Alaska occurred nearly 20 years before the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the Alaska State Legislature passed a bill designating February 16th of each year as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day in Alaska, to honor and celebrate Elizabeth's proud influence on our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Kiffer, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, do hereby proclaim February 16, 2022 as

ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

and encourage all residents to recognize the great contribution Elizabeth Peratrovich made to the State of Alaska and its people by fighting for equality for all Alaskans, and to recognize the diversity in our community and honor those individuals who continue the work of Elizabeth Peratrovich every day to enhance understanding and appreciation among all the people of our community.

Signed this 3rd day of February, 2022

Dave Kiffer, Mayor

City of Ketchikan, Alaska