

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1867, a treaty of cession was signed between Russia and the United States that placed this great land under the American flag, and henceforth Russian America became known as Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the year the treaty was signed, 23 indigenous languages were spoken throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, today Alaska school children come from families that speak over 90 languages; and

WHEREAS, our state is a living fabric of many cultures, with the strongest thread being our shared sense of community; and

WHEREAS, our society is strengthened by recognizing, respecting, and honoring Alaska's diversity of cultures that include those of the First Peoples and all who came to these shores to settle in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, we learn from history in all its complexity, and that by recognizing the experience of those who faced discrimination, prejudice, and indifference, we promote healing; and

WHEREAS, as citizens of the United States and the State of Alaska we enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty, which provide the opportunity and the duty to realize our shared aspirations of equality for all, equal justice under law, and a government of, by, and for the people.

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

The Alaska Year of History and Heritage

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to take the occasion of this 150th anniversary year to study, teach, reflect upon our past, and apply its lessons to a brighter, more inclusive future.

Dated: October 17, 2016



Bill Walker

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