

# Municipality of Anchorage Alaska

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the 1964 Alaskan earthquake struck without warning in Southcentral Alaska on Good Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5:36 P.M., with an epicenter in Prince William Sound and a seismic magnitude of 9.2 that lasted four minutes, and was the second most powerful earthquake ever recorded on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, it was caused by the Pacific Rim northern tectonic plate thrusting and shifting, causing massive coastal land destruction, and with the subsequent tsunami, it destroyed or severely damaged many communities in Southcentral Alaska, and affected areas of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and even Hawaii and Japan, and with additional tsunamis and aftershocks, caused over 130 deaths\* and property damage estimated at \$2.26 billion;\* and

**WHEREAS**, the shaking caused Cook Inlet's underlain strata layers of blue clay to liquefy, causing large land masses beneath Anchorage's residential areas to break up and slide into the ocean and areas of downtown to collapse, causing mass destruction and casualties; and

**WHEREAS**, Anchorage is now a modern city of over 300,000 people, with high-rise buildings, residential developments, an international airport, ocean port, a joint military base, hospitals, universities, sports facilities, fine arts centers and utility and transportation infrastructures, and a severe earthquake today would cause catastrophic destruction of life and property, and impact the economy, health, safety and wellbeing of residents of Anchorage and all of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Southcentral Alaska will be continually threatened by hazards of earthquakes and residents need to remain **alert** of the devastating dangers, have an **emergency plan**, a **disaster kit** and **be prepared** for the next monster quake.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dan Sullivan, Mayor of Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby declare March 27, 2014, as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

## ***THE GREAT ALASKAN EARTHQUAKE***

**AND** join all local residents in understanding that a catastrophic quake can strike unannounced at any moment, and being ready, knowing it's not "if," but "when."



  
MAYOR