

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, persons aged 55 and over are a major community resource making up over 10% of the Bethel population and are likely to constitute a larger percent of the local population in future decades;

WHEREAS, most of the middle aged and older workers who are regularly employed have a wealth of experience, take pride in their work and are reliable and valued employees;

WHEREAS, a growing number of individuals 55 and over, being willing and able to work, are looking for employment opportunities or want to remain in the work force and should be encouraged to remain in or resume career roles that fully utilize their strengths, wisdom and skills;

WHEREAS, those unemployed older workers seeking jobs today represent the philosophies, ideas and work ethics that created our American way of life and who are now, after their 55th year, finding employers reluctant to hire them; and

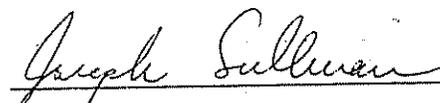
WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of Alaska are striving to overcome this reluctance and promote a more vital role in the job market for our senior citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, I Joe Sullivan, Mayor of Bethel, Alaska, in an effort to encourage the hiring of older workers, do hereby proclaim the week of March 10-16, 1985 as:

### "EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK"

in Bethel, and urge all employers in both the public and private sectors to consider fully the work skills and other important qualifications of persons 55 years and older when they hire new workers.

I further urge all employers to initiate additional employment opportunities through innovative jobs utilizing flex-time, job sharing, part-time or seasonal employment which may be more attuned to the lifestyles and needs of senior citizens. I ask public officials responsible for job recruitment and placement to intensify their efforts throughout the year to find suitable employment and training opportunities for our older workers in order that any person desiring to work past the usual retirement age may have the opportunity to do so.

  
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Joseph Sullivan, Mayor