

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, aviation plays a critical role in everyday life of Alaska's people and economy; citizens, businesses, industries, and government agencies depend on aviation, often as a primary mode of transportation for travel, medical services, shipment of goods, and tourism; 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 747 registered airports and seaplane bases, supporting 9,346 registered aircraft utilized by 7,933 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, Alaska's airports have about four and a half million passenger enplanements annually; and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is ranked second in North America for landed weight of cargo; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military aviation plays an important role in aviation development in Alaska and contributes greatly to our national security, search and rescue missions, and economy. The United States Air Force's recent decision to base two new squadrons of F-35s at Eielson Air Force Base will strengthen this relationship and ensure it continues long into the future; 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; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has significant and vested interest in the continued vitality of aircraft operations, aircraft maintenance, flight training, community airports, and aviation organizations across our great state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim September 2016 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 29, 2016



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