

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-55

SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING NOT TO EXCEED \$5,700 FROM COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION COMMISSION TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CHARTER AIRLINES FEES FOR VETERANS AND ALEUT EVACUEES TO ATTEND THE WW II COMMEMORATION EVENT

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska was a major donor for the 75TH Anniversary of the Bombing of Unalaska /Dutch Harbor and Aleut Evacuation; and

WHEREAS, this commemorative event was used to honor and acknowledge the surviving Veterans and Aleuts whose lives were forever changed from having experienced World War II in the Aleutians; and

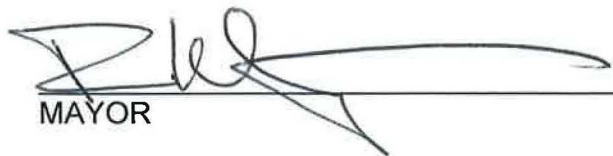
WHEREAS, the WWII Commemoration Commission had to expend more than budgeted funding for air travel for the surviving Veterans and Aleuts, by setting up charter flights due to lack of scheduled airline seats available to Unalaska from Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Ounalashka Corporation another major donor for the commemoration is also assisting with this funding shortfall that is facing the WWII Commission; and

WHEREAS, this event which was held on June 2nd-4th 2017 was a tremendous success, was well attended, and was a very moving experience for the Veterans, Aleut Evacuees and their families who attended; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council supports the additional funding request not to exceed \$5,700 from FY 18 Council Contingency line item to the WWII Commission to cover the additional cost of airline charters fees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL, THIS 22nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2017.


MAYOR

ATTEST


CITY CLERK



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Members, Erin Reinders, Acting City Manager,

From: Frank V Kelty, Mayor

Date: August 13, 2017

RE: Consideration by the Unalaska City Council for additional funding to the WWII 75TH Anniversary Commemoration Commission not to exceed \$5,700 to cover the additional cost of charter airline fees, from the FY 18 Council Contingency line item.

SUMMARY:

The 75th WWII Commemoration Commission had a budget shortfall due to the high cost funding chartered airline flights from Anchorage and St Paul Island for the surviving Veterans and Aleuts, due to lack of scheduled airline seats available to Unalaska from Anchorage.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

The Council has previously funded \$40,000 from FY 17 Council Contingency for the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Unalaska/ Dutch Harbor and Aleut Evacuation Commemoration event which was held June 2nd -4th 2017.

BACKGROUND:

The bombing of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor on June 3–4, 1942 and the evacuation and relocation of the Aleuts people of the Aleutian Islands forever changed the lives of those who experienced World War II in the Aleutians. To honor and acknowledge the surviving Veterans and Aleuts, and those who went before them, we are planning a three-day commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Dutch Harbor and Aleut evacuation, to be held in Unalaska June 2-4, 2017.

The WWII Planning Commission for the event is led by the National Park Service and the Unalashka Corporation, with strong involvement by the City of Unalaska, Museum of the Aleutians, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Alaska Veterans Museum, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, and the Aleut Corporation.

During the 3 day Commemoration events presented included a memorial ceremony, historical presentations, personal stories, a mess hall meal and traditional Aleut foods luncheon, and flyovers by historical WWII aircraft. This Commemoration of a little-recognized part of history is significant and educational not only for those connected to World War II in the Aleutians, but for a much broader international public.

DISCUSSION:

I would hope the Unalaska City Council would support the additional funding request of \$5,700. The Ounalashka Corporation, another major donor for the commemoration is also assisting with providing additional funding for the shortfall that is facing the WWII Commission. The WWII Commission worked very hard for 5 months, in the planning of this event. It's a shame that this event took place at the same time that seafood industry personal were flying in to Unalaska for the start of the Pollock B season, which lead to a shortage of commercial airline seats on Pen Air forcing the need to have charter flights involved to get the Veterans, Aleut Evacuees and their families to Unalaska. This event allowed us to showcase the community, attending dignitaries which included Senator Murkowski, Governor Walker, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, and the Canadian Counsel General from Seattle attended the commemoration.

MAYORS RECOMMENDATION: I support this donation of \$5,700 from the FY 18 Council contingency line to cover the additional charter airline cost. The event which was held on June 2nd-4th 2017 was a tremendous success, was well attended, and was a very moving experience for the Veterans, Aleut Evacuees and their families who attended.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Funding Resolution No 2017-55 .