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| Introduced by: | Dunne |
| Date: | 01/21/20 |
| Action: | Adopted |
| Vote: | 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent |

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM COMMENDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND
COMMITMENTS OF GARY THOMAS**

- WHEREAS,** with the sudden passing of Gary Thomas on January 14, 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Borough including the town of Homer and outlying areas, have lost a pillar of the community; and
- WHEREAS,** with his arrival in Homer in 1979 Gary immediately joined the Homer Volunteer Fire Department and, with 40 years of service, was the town's longest serving volunteer firefighter; and
- WHEREAS,** in his service to the outlying areas, in 2009 Gary joined the newly formed Kachemak Emergency Services Area (KESA) as a volunteer and, while there, organized many events and trained numerous firefighters and other volunteers at KESA, Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Services Area and many other Emergency Management Services (EMS) agencies, making his last call to service as Captain; and
- WHEREAS,** as a Fire Investigator, Gary was a leader in bringing the Multi Agency Fire Investigation Team (MAFIT) to our area; and
- WHEREAS,** Gary was instrumental in the founding of local public radio station KBBI where he soon became General Manager and also served as volunteer there for many years; and
- WHEREAS,** he served as Business Manager and then Publisher of our local community newspaper, the Homer News; and
- WHEREAS,** as the go-to local emcee and auctioneer, he hosted annual fundraisers for the Pratt Museum, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Hospice of Homer, Kachemak Board of Realtors, South Peninsula Women's Services, Dancing Bears and many others, including private fundraisers for people in need; and
- WHEREAS,** his long involvement in Rotary Club International led him to become a principal organizer for the annual Rotary Health Fair in Homer providing services to over 1,000 community members each year; and

WHEREAS, he played a key role on the Grants Committee of the Homer Foundation, helping distribute community funds to worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, Gary served on several Borough boards and committees including the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Road Service Area Board; and

WHEREAS, Gary will be remembered as an incredibly generous man, a mediator, a voice of reason and a dedicated father, grandfather and husband. He was the epitome of selfless service to our community and his volunteerism and community service have made the Kenai Peninsula Borough a better, safer and more harmonious place to live. Gary Thomas will be missed deeply and widely by his family and community; and

WHEREAS, All who knew him are grieving his sudden and unexpected death;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:


SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Gary Thomas and joins his community in mourning the loss of this extraordinary human who gave so much to our world by shaping our spirit and nurturing our potential.

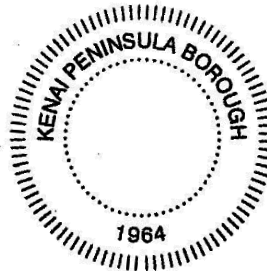
SECTION 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

ATTEST:


Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President



Yes: Bjorkman, Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Dunne, Hibbert, Johnson, Cooper

No: None

Absent: Smalley