



## **“AMERICA NEEDS EIELSON” PRESENTERS:**

### **UNITED STATES SENATOR TED STEVENS**

Senator Ted Stevens has served Alaskans in the U.S. Senate since 1968. His tenure makes him the fourth most senior member among his colleagues. As President Pro Tempore, Stevens is third in the line of succession for the Presidency. He currently chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and has previously chaired the Appropriations, Governmental Affairs, Rules and Ethics Committees.

Stevens was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. During World War II he served his country as a pilot supporting the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force. He received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Air Medals, and the Yuan Hai medal awarded by the Republic of China. Following the war he graduated from UCLA and Harvard Law School. In the early 1950s he moved to Alaska to practice law. In 1953 he was appointed U.S. Attorney in Fairbanks.

He transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1956 to work as legislative counsel and then as an assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. In 1960, he was appointed Solicitor of the Department of the Interior by President Eisenhower. While in Washington, Stevens worked successfully for Alaska's and Hawaii's admissions to the Union.

Stevens returned to Alaska to practice law in Anchorage and in 1964 he was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives. Following the death of Senator E.L. Bob Bartlett in December of 1968, then Governor Walter J. Hickel appointed Stevens to fill the vacancy.

### **UNITED STATES SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI**

Lisa Murkowski is the first Alaska-born Senator to serve the state and she became just the 33rd woman to serve in the U.S. Senate since its founding in 1789.

A member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Murkowski chairs its subcommittee on Water and Power, and serves on its subcommittees on Energy, and Public Lands and Forests. She is also a member of the Foreign Relations, Indian Affairs and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Prior to serving in the U.S. Senate, Murkowski was elected to three terms in the Alaska State House of Representatives and was selected as House Majority Leader.

### **STATE OF ALASKA GOVERNOR FRANK H. MURKOWSKI**

Frank H. Murkowski was elected Alaska's 10th Governor in 2002. No stranger to elected office, Murkowski spent the prior 22 years in the U.S. Senate where he served as chairman of the Energy Committee. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee he also chaired the Subcommittee on Pacific and East Asian Affairs.

Murkowski was raised in Ketchikan. He graduated from Seattle University majoring in economics. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard after which he began a banking career with National Bank of Alaska. He also served Governor Walter J. Hickel as commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. In 1971, he became president of the Alaska National Bank in Fairbanks.

Murkowski has been active in state and local community affairs for years. He served as president of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and Alaska Bankers Association and serves as a member of Young Presidents Organizations, Elks, American Legion, and Pioneers of Alaska.

### **STATE OF ALASKA SENATOR GARY R. WILKEN**

Senator Gary Wilken represents District E (downtown Fairbanks) in the Alaska State Legislature, an office he has held since 1996. He has been a member of the Senate Finance Committee since 1999, serving as co-chair since 2003. He has also chaired the Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee.

Wilken is a 50 year resident of Alaska making his living as a wholesale food distributor. He is a graduate of Oregon State University earning his MBA in 1970. Among his many community service activities Wilken has served on the Alaska Council on Economic Education, chaired the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and presided over the Fairbanks Rotary Club.

Wilken is a past recipient of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Community Service award and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Business Leader of the Year award. He is also a member of the Oregon State University Sports Hall of Fame.

### **MAJOR GENERAL MARK R. HAMILTON (U.S. ARMY, RET.)**

After 31 years of service to his country, Mark Hamilton signed on to serve as the 12th President of the University of Alaska statewide system, a position he has held since 1998. Hamilton retired from military duty as a Major General with the U.S. Army. His final assignment placed him in charge of Army recruiting during the memorable "Be All You Can Be" campaign.

Hamilton earned a B.S. degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, followed by a master's degree in English Literature from Florida State University. He is also a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College in Virginia, and the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania. During his military career he was twice assigned to Alaska.

Hamilton is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal and the Joint Distinguished Service Medal. In 1993 ABC news anchor Peter Jennings featured Hamilton as a "Person of the Week" highlighting his negotiations with Somalia warlords.

### **GENERAL PATRICK K. GAMBLE (USAF, RET.)**

Pat Gamble serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Alaska Railroad Corporation, a position he has held since 2001. Prior to accepting his current position, Gamble retired as a four star General from the United States Air Force. His military career took him to many duty stations around the country and the world, including a combat flying tour in Vietnam.

In 1996 Gamble commanded the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region at Elmendorf AFB. At the time of his retirement Gamble served as the top Air Force commander in the pacific region and was responsible for operations, planning, and budgeting of fourteen military installations with 41,000 employees and 400 aircraft.

A member of the Corps of Cadets and a 1967 graduate of Texas A&M University in mathematics, Gamble earned his MBA at Auburn University in 1978. He is the recipient of several awards and decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal, both with oak leaf cluster.

# **AMERICA NEEDS EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE**

**Base Realignment and Closure Commission**

**Regional Hearing**

**Fairbanks, Alaska**

**June 15, 2005**

# PROGRAM

## Call to Order

*Jim Dodson, Task Force Chairman*

## Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

*Ben Eielson High School Students*

## Invocation

*Pastor Murray Richmond, University Community Presbyterian Church*

## National Anthem

*Amanda McDonald*

## Opening Remarks

*Commissioner Philip Coyle, Regional Hearing Chairman*

## Administering of the Oath

*Rumu Sarkar, Federal Designated Officer, BRAC Commission*

## Welcome

*Governor Frank Murkowski*

## Presentation – America Needs Eielson Air Force Base

*U.S. Senator Ted Stevens*

*U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski*

*Alaska State Senator Gary Wilken*

*Major General Mark Hamilton (U.S. Army, Ret.)*

*General Patrick Gamble (USAF, Ret.)*

## Closing Statement

*Commissioner Philip Coyle*

## Retiring of Colors

*Ben Eielson High School Students*

***Please turn cell phones off.***

***Due to a significant time constraint, please hold applause until end.***

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## **BRAC INFORMATION**

"BRAC" is an acronym that stands for Base Realignment and Closure. It is the congressionally authorized process the Department of Defense uses to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business.

The BRAC Commission is an independent body responsible for reviewing the Secretary of Defense's recommendations. The commission will furnish the report of its findings and its own suggestions to the President and to the American public on September 8, 2005.

The commission can change the Department of Defense's recommendations if it finds that the Secretary of Defense deviated substantially from the force structure plan and/or selection criteria.

**Share your thoughts with the BRAC Commission:**

[www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov)

2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission

2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600

Arlington, VA 22202

# **WELCOME BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSIONERS**

## **THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI-CHAIRMAN**

Recently served as Vice President of Pfizer Corporation and is a decorated Vietnam War veteran. Mr. Principi was nominated to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs by President George W. Bush on December 29, 2000, and was confirmed by the Senate on January 23, 2001. He once served as a Republican chief counsel for the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. He also has been a top official with defense contractor Lockheed Martin. Mr. Principi is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy. He later commanded a River Patrol Unit in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Mr. Principi earned his law degree from Seton Hall University in 1975, and was assigned to the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps in San Diego, California. In 1980, he was transferred to Washington as a legislative counsel for the Department of the Navy.

## **THE HONORABLE JAMES H. BILBRAY**

Primary area of practice is government relations and administrative law. Former Congressman Bilbray received his B.A. in Government and Public Administration from the American University in Washington, D.C. in 1962, and his JD from the Washington College of Law in 1964. He is a Nevada native, and prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1987, was a Nevada State Senator, where he served as Chairman of the Taxation Committee and was a member of the Judiciary Committee. During his four terms in the U.S. Congress, he served as Chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Taxation, Tourism and Procurement. He was also a member of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees. He joined the firm of Kummer Kaempfer Bonner & Renshaw as Of Counsel in 1996, where he specialized in dealing with local, state and federal issues. In 2001, he received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Nevada Las Vegas for his extensive contributions to the State and U.S. government.

## **THE HONORABLE PHILIP COYLE**

Philip Coyle is a Senior Advisor to the President of the Center for Defense Information and a defense consultant. Formerly the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation, (1994-2001), Mr. Coyle is a recognized expert on U.S. and worldwide military research, development and testing. During the 1995 BRAC, he served as the Co-Chairman of the DoD Joint Cross-Service Group for Test and Evaluation. Prior to serving at the Pentagon, Mr. Coyle served as Laboratory Associate Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and as Deputy to the Laboratory Director. During the Carter Administration, Mr. Coyle served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy. With more than 40 years of experience in testing and test-related matters, he was selected by Aviation Week magazine as one of its "Laurels" honorees for 2000, a select group of people recognized for outstanding contributions in the aerospace field.

## **THE HONORABLE JAMES V. HANSEN**

Former U.S. Representative from Utah, Congressman Hansen was elected to the 97th Congress and to the 10 succeeding terms (January 3, 1981 to January 3, 2003). Congressman Hansen did not seek re-election to the 108th Congress in 2002. During the 105th Congress, he served as Chairman on the Standards and Official Conduct Committee. During the 107th Congress, he served as Chairman of the Committee of Resources. He served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1955. He also served as a member of the Farmington, Utah, City Council from 1960 to 1972. He then was elected to the Utah State House of Representatives from 1973 to 1980, and served as Speaker of the House, 1979-1980.