

Municipality of Anchorage Alaska

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, John Basilone, born in 1916 in Buffalo, New York to Salvatore and Dora Basilone, was reared and educated in Raritan, New Jersey where he gained local attention as a lightweight boxer; and

WHEREAS, John enlisted in the Army when he was 18 and served in the Philippines where he picked up the nickname "Manila John;" he was honorably discharged in 1937 but reenlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in July 1940 in anticipation of World War II; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 1942 although outnumbered, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone led his fellow marines of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division and fought valiantly, determined to keep their foothold of Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands; and

WHEREAS, credited by his men for his will to fight, the ability to inspire them and his great courage, Sergeant Basilone returned to the States to receive the nation's highest decoration, the *Congressional Medal of Honor*; and

WHEREAS, unsatisfied back home, Sergeant Basilone volunteered to return to combat ending up at Iwo Jima, where under heavy artillery fire on February 19, 1945 he and four others in his platoon died; and

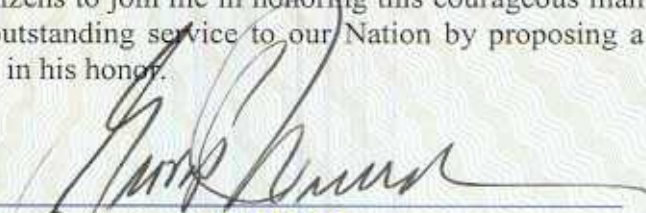
WHEREAS, because of his gallantry, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was posthumously awarded the *Navy Cross* and *Purple Heart* giving him the distinction of being the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive all three medals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Wuerch, Mayor of Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 19, 2003, as

"GUNNERY SERGEANT 'MANILA JOHN' BASILONE DAY"

in Anchorage, and ask all citizens to join me in honoring this courageous man and commend him for his outstanding service to our Nation by proposing a U.S. postage stamp be issued in his honor.




MAYOR