

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Michael Jenkins, michael.jenkins@searhc.org, (907) 463-6666 (Juneau, SEARHC Corporate Communications Director)
Charles Bingham, charles.bingham@searhc.org, (907) 966-8504 (Sitka, SEARHC Corporate Communications Specialist)

SEARHC clinics to recognize Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

JUNEAU, Feb. 8, 2008 — The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is proud to recognize the achievements of Alaska Native civil rights leader Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich during Elizabeth Peratrovich Day on Saturday, Feb. 16.

In recognition of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, SEARHC employees will honor all the Alaska Native women who work for SEARHC on Friday, Feb. 15.

It was Peratrovich's impassioned testimony before the Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1945 that led to the passage of an Anti-Discrimination Bill eliminating the blatant discrimination policies faced by Alaska Natives. Until the bill passed, many Alaska businesses wouldn't serve Natives and treated Natives as second-class citizens.

In 1988, the Alaska Legislature established Feb. 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, using the anniversary date of the bill's signing in 1945. It is a day set aside so Alaskan can pause to remember the former Grand Camp President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and honor her efforts to preserve equality and justice for all Alaskans of every race, creed and ethnic background.

It is important for SEARHC to serve its Alaska Native patients while we honor Elizabeth Peratrovich. All SEARHC health care facilities that normally are open on Saturdays will be open during regular business hours on Saturday, Feb. 16, so our Native patients can have access to the health care services they need.

###