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### RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW -- (Senate - May 07, 2012)

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Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President. I wish to recognize one of our Nation's literary magazines, the Alaska Quarterly Review. This quiet giant in the Alaska arts scene has earned numerous accolades and high praise. Today I

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want to specifically recognize the magazine for reaching its 30-year anniversary and for its continued literary excellence.

Since the magazine's birth at the Anchorage campus of the University of Alaska in 1982, the Alaska Quarterly Review has served as an instrument to give voice to Alaska writers and poets as well as also publishing excellent material from non-Alaskan authors. In other words, while it is firmly rooted in Alaska, it has maintained a national perspective, bridging the distance between the literary centers across the country and Alaska. This balanced presentation of views over the years has earned the Review local, regional, national, and even international recognition.

The founding editor of the Review, Mr. Ronald Spatz, envisioned the Review as a way to break through stereotypes and present Alaska to the greater literary community as a partner. With the Review under his direction for three decades, he has also continued his focus on publishing new and emerging writers. After 30 years of hard work at the Review, each issue still contains the same labor of love and excitement from edition to edition.

Advances in technology have turned publishing on its head, but the Review has remained both a faithful forum for conventional work and an outlet for work that challenges accepted forms and modes of expression. It has established itself as distinctly Alaskan because it is strongly influenced by the place, the people, and the cultural traditions, without ever being restricted by its geographical location. The magazine's body of work is eclectic.

Through its stories, oral histories, folk tales, and poems, the literary magazine seeks to portray Alaska's rich and diverse Native cultures. It pays tribute to the Native language speakers and tradition bearers that keep their cultures alive through their stories and through their words. Over the years Alaskans have learned that one of the best ways to protect the social fabric of Native Alaskans is to protect their culture, thus maintaining their pride in their history and their heritage. In this vein, Ronald Spatz has published stories in Eyak, Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Alutiq, Central Yup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yup'ik, Inupiaq, and Dena'ina. The Review has done much to preserve the culture and history of Alaska and her people.

To help commemorate these achievements and reaching the 30-year benchmark, the Review is producing an ambitious photojournalism collection in their spring/summer issue. The collection, called "Liberty and Justice (For All): A Global Photo Mosaic," pays tribute to photojournalists Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros, who died in Libya in 2011. The biannual publication will also feature a special section in the fall/winter edition in the form of 60 poems by 60 different poets.

Alaska, and America, is far richer because of the Alaska Quarterly Review. I commend it and its contributors for its many achievements, as well as the University of Alaska board of regents and the leadership of the University of Alaska Anchorage for its support of the publication. It has taken a tremendous commitment to academic and artistic excellence to continue publication these 30 years. Again, congratulations to the Alaska Quarterly Review for reaching 30 years of continued literary excellence.

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