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Governor Sean Parnell  
STATE OF ALASKA

April 9, 2010

Dear Attendees,

As you gather today to celebrate the retirement and accomplishments of Gary Danielson, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for his many years of service to Alaska's visitor industry. His contributions have made our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Gary spent a significant portion of his 44 years in the travel industry working on behalf of Alaskan companies. In addition to his many years at the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad, Gary held leadership positions with the Skagway City Council, Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, Southeast Alaska Tourism Council, Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, Alaska Visitors Association, and Yukon Visitors Association.

Additionally, Gary worked at the State of Alaska's Division of Tourism between 1979 and 1985. His responsibilities included administering the tourism development grant program and conducting the trade and consumer travel shows.

I would also like to recognize the leadership and commitment from Gary and other White Pass and Yukon Route employees in our recent efforts to reverse the considerable and unprecedented declines in Alaska visitation. Our collective presence at Cruise Shipping Miami several weeks ago sent a strong message to cruise industry leaders that we value their business. We have also made considerable progress on legislation that will make Alaska more visible in the marketplace and more affordable for visitors.

Gary's legacy is evident in the tens of thousands of people employed directly and indirectly in Alaska's travel and hospitality industry. On behalf of Alaskans, I thank Gary for his steadfast dedication to enhancing our great state. Congratulations and best wishes in your retirement!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell  
Governor