

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #168 (2001-2002)

January 14, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: GEORGE TAFT'S CONTRIBUTION TO ANCHORAGE SCHOOL
DISTRICT'S DRUG AWARENESS TRAINING

PERTINENT FACTS:

Mr. George Taft, Scientific Director of the State of Alaska Crime Lab, is retiring on January 31, after 15 years of service to the community and state.

In addition to his regular duties in the crime lab, Taft donated thousands of hours to Drug Awareness Training in the Anchorage School District. Approximately once a month Taft visited classrooms and gave anti-drug messages that were usually followed by in-depth tours in the crime lab. Once in the lab, students were taken to different areas where active examinations, such as fingerprint and hair analyses and gunpowder residue tests, were being performed.

Taft was dedicated to helping students learn not only about the concepts of forensics and their application to science, but more importantly, to help students understand the negative consequences to drugs and a criminal lifestyle.

Some of his additional voluntary activities included sponsoring a number of students for intern programs and specialized training, and serving as a resource for science teachers on the topic of forensics.

It is requested the School Board recognize George Taft for his invaluable contribution to students and teachers in the Anchorage School District.

CC/LW/CW

Prepared by: Cindy Wilsbach, Communications Specialist

Approved by: Larry Wiget, Executive Director, Public Affairs