

News Release

DATE: April 12, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Stephenie Wheeler, 907-265-2671; cell 382-3327

Alaska Railroad chooses Alaskan transportation artist to create exclusive gift for 35+ year retirees *Special painting to commemorate history shared by long-time railroaders*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) recently selected highly regarded Alaskan transportation artist Bob Thompson to create an original painting as the basis for a limited edition print to be given as a gift to railroad employees who retire with 35 or more years of service.



Since the late 1990s, ARRC has honored long-time retirees with an exclusive signed, matted and framed giclée print depicting a scene that underscores a long and rich railroad history shared by employees with decades of service. Renowned artist Byron Birdsall created the first two retiree prints, and now Thompson picks up the mantle with plans to create artwork highlighting the 557 steam locomotive and the history-rich Nenana area. Located approximately mid-way between the railroad's south end (Seward) and north end (Fairbanks), Nenana is where President Harding drove the golden spike to complete the Alaska Railroad in 1923.

"Bob is remarkably talented and has an excellent understanding of the Alaska Railroad," said External Affairs Director Tim Sullivan. "He demonstrates an exceptional attention to detail and perspective in his work especially in his historic Alaskan aviation scenes. We look forward to seeing his vision unfold in the months to come."

Thompson is owner of Art of Alaska, a local business that features the art of Thompson and partner John Hume. Having lived in Alaska since 1967, Thompson's love of art and Alaska have been present since early childhood. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Arizona State University in 1984 and has been involved in the arts thereafter. Thompson's work is displayed across the country from Alaska to Washington, D.C. For more information about Thompson, visit the Art of Alaska website, <https://www.theartofalaska.com>, or Thompson's Art of Alaska Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheArtofAlaska/>

- end -

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. People needing special assistance (including language) to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity should contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - dial 7 11 from inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate forms.