

Alaska flags to be lowered in former legislator Niilo Koponen's honor

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FAIRBANKS - Gov. Sean Parnell has ordered state flags to be lowered to half-staff on Wednesday in memory of former state Rep. Niilo Koponen, who died Dec. 3 at the Fairbanks Pioneers' Home.

After homesteading on Chena Ridge and serving as a local teacher and principal, Koponen represented Fairbanks in the Alaska Legislature from 1983-1992. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and their five children.

Flags will be returned to full-staff on Thursday.