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Begich Announces Selection of Cherry Blossom Princess

U.S. Sen. Mark Begich has selected Grace Abbott to represent Alaska as the state's princess in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. Each year as part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, each state is represented by a princess chosen by one of the state's U.S. Senators. Abbott, from Anchorage, will represent Alaska at the festival which is to be held March 26-April 10.

“With great poise, wit and charm, Grace will be an incredible ambassador for the state of Alaska,” Begich said. “As thousands come to Washington for this annual event, she will have the opportunity to represent us and tell the story of all Alaska has to offer.”

Abbott is a sophomore at George Washington University majoring in political science and Spanish. She volunteers for the Alzheimer's Association and is the Vice President of Philanthropy for the Sigma Kappa Sorority. In the summer she works in customer service for Rust's Flying Service in Anchorage.

“As a born and raised Alaskan, I am thrilled at every chance to talk about Alaska, its beauty and amazing people,” Abbott said. “I am honored Senator Begich selected me for this opportunity, and I look forward to the festival.”

The Cherry Blossom Princess attends all of the festival's events including the Lantern Lighting Ceremony, Congressional Reception, Grand Ball/Banquet, National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, and the Sakura Matsuri.

For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/hhqd>.

Attached is a photo of Sen. Begich and Grace.

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