SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis, McGuire, Coghill, Micciche, Egan, Stevens, Gardner, Olson, Costello, Stoltze, Meyer

REPRESENTATIVES Kawasaki, Muñoz, Tuck, Hughes, LeDoux, Herron, Colver, Gruenberg

Introduced: 1/21/15
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the construction by American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc., of an Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian veterans' monument in the nation's capital.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Native Americans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, have established a distinguished legacy within every branch of the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS Native Americans have fought in every war and conflict of the United States since the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS more than 12,000 Native Americans volunteered to serve in World War I, despite denial of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS the adaptation of indigenous languages by Native American code talkers was fundamental for strategic communications by the United States and its allies during World War I and World War II; and

WHEREAS 42,000 Native Americans served in the Vietnam Conflict, 90 percent of
whom enlisted voluntarily; and

WHEREAS 32 Native Americans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS the population of living Native American veterans exceeds 151,000 across the country, including 5,500 Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS the patriotism, sacrifice, and dedication to service exhibited by Native American veterans is not formally recognized in the nation's capital;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the construction by American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc., of an Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian veterans' monument in the nation's capital.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; Elizabeth Bates, Project Manager, American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc.; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.