

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (June – Dec.)
716 West 4TH Avenue, Suite 600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128



Session: (Jan. – May)
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HARRIS

Sponsor Statement House Concurrent Resolution 16

Requesting the Governor to proclaim September 7, 2009, as Senator Daniel Inouye Day.

House Concurrent Resolution 16 honors United States Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii by respectfully asking the governor to proclaim September 7, 2009 – the senator's 85th birthday – as Senator Daniel Inouye Day.

This is to recognize him for his tireless, selfless service to the country in general and to Alaska in particular. It is aimed at showing this state's gratitude for his help on a range of issues important to our state such as opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development, supporting a national missile defense system, opposing a plan to shut down Eielson Air Force Base, and helping to approve reparations for Aleuts who, along with Japanese-Americans, had suffered when forcibly placed in federal internment camps during World War II.

Senator Daniel Inouye stands as the largest figure in public life in the history of the State of Hawaii, having held elective office since before Hawaii attained statehood in 1959. He has received many military decorations for valor, culminating with the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism as a member of the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II in which he lost his right arm

In Alaska, Senator Inouye is famous for his close friendship with former Senator Ted Stevens. Each refers to the other as his brother. When shown a copy of this resolution, Senator Stevens summarized it best why it is worth having a Senator Daniel Inouye Day in Alaska. He issued the following statement:

“When you honor Senator Daniel Inouye, you honor a true friend of Alaska. Dan is a close friend I worked closely with for forty years. We were two new Senators serving two new off-shore states. Senator Inouye is a distinguished American who earned his Congressional Medal of Honor the hard way! It is my privilege to call him my brother – we continue to be close friends.”