

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI**

**Introduced: 2/5/14**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative to construct an Alaska**  
2 **Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian veterans' monument in our nation's**  
3 **capital.**

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

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

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

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

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

15 **WHEREAS** 42,000 Native Americans served in the Vietnam Conflict, 90 percent of

1 whom enlisted voluntarily; and

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

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

6       **WHEREAS** the patriotism, sacrifice, and dedication to service exhibited by this  
7 population is not formally recognized in our nation's capital;

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the American Indian  
9 Veterans Memorial Initiative to construct an Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native  
10 Hawaiian veterans' monument in our nation's capital.

11       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
12 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
13 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
14 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; Stephen D.  
15 Bowers, Project Director, American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative; and the Honorable  
16 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
17 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.