

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

2008

Source
CSHJR 38(STA)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
49



Recognizing the State of Israel on the 60th anniversary of its founding.

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

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel; and

WHEREAS the United States was the first nation to recognize the new state; and

WHEREAS the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel was the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established 3,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, participants, under the leadership of Theodor Herzl, affirmed the desire to establish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel; and

WHEREAS the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a Jewish homeland followed the slaughter during World War II of more than 6,000,000 Jews in what is now known as the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern State of Israel has forged a new and dynamic society and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural,

and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of wars, terrorism, international ostracism, and economic boycotts; and

WHEREAS the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic democratic political system that embraces freedom of speech; a free press; free, fair, and open elections; the rule of law; and other democratic principles and practices; and

WHEREAS, at great social and financial costs, Israel has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from around the world and integrated them into Israeli society; and

WHEREAS Alaska shares a special connection to Israel because Alaska Airlines participated in the rescue of 40,000 Yemenite Jews by flying thousands of them from Yemen to Tel Aviv during 1948 and 1949; and

WHEREAS, for 60 years, the United States and Israel have maintained a strong and special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS the American people share an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East in the face of war, terrorism, isolation, and hostility from beyond and within their borders; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States and Israel for more than a half-century; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable David Akov, Consul General of Israel to the Pacific

Northwest; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.