

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24(STA) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/10/99

Offered: 5/5/99

Sponsor(s): SENATOR TAYLOR

REPRESENTATIVE Harris

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Kosovo conflict and to Alaskans serving in the military forces in
2 the area of the conflict.

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

4 WHEREAS Slobodan Milosevic has embarked upon a policy of ethnic cleansing of
5 Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia; and

6 WHEREAS the actions of the Serbian military forces are a humanitarian disaster in
7 the making and are not acceptable in the civilized world; and

8 WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States are currently participating in the
9 campaign against Serbian forces in Kosovo to stop the ethnic cleansing activities; and

10 WHEREAS many of the United States troops that will be sent to the Balkans will be
11 pulled away from civilian lives at great personal sacrifice; and

12 WHEREAS the Allied troops will be expected to endure many uncertainties and
13 hardships caused by separation from their loved ones for months while stationed in the harsh
14 conditions of the Balkan region; and

15 WHEREAS the tremendous humanitarian effort being taken by the Allied military
16 force is an enormous service to mankind; and

1 **WHEREAS** members of our military forces are performing their mission with great
2 dispatch, exemplifying the high degree of dedication, professionalism, and training that
3 underlines the technological and strategic superiority of our military strength; and

4 **WHEREAS** many of our United States troops are in danger, and the media reports that
5 the public must be prepared to accept the possibility that there will be United States casualties;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** Alaskans in the military services have been called on to participate in the
8 Kosovo conflict and are likely to be called on to serve there in increasing numbers; and

9 **WHEREAS** these Alaskans are and will be serving in the interest of the United States
10 with dedication, honor, and commitment;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature

12 (1) commends the bravery and dedication of Alaska's military personnel and
13 of all men and women who are serving in the Kosovo conflict; and

14 (2) applauds the extraordinary job being done by the United States and Allied
15 military forces in saving lives by setting up tents and establishing refugee camps; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Alaska State Legislature express
17 their heartfelt concern for the safety of United States military personnel in the conflict, and
18 of the refugees who are fleeing Kosovo, and, therefore, urge President Clinton and the
19 Congress to use whatever means available to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible
20 and in a manner that will help secure a just and lasting peace in the region; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
22 Legislative Council to direct the Legislative Affairs Agency to send the following message
23 to all Alaskans and military personnel stationed in Alaska who are serving in the United States
24 armed forces in the Kosovo conflict: "The members of the Alaska State Legislature thank you
25 heartily for your efforts in stopping the barbaric actions of Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo and
26 for laying a foundation for a just and lasting peace in the region. We commend your bravery
27 and dedication. We wish you a safe and speedy return home."

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
29 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
30 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
31 Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the

1 Honorable William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
2 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
3 Representative; Brigadier General Dean Cash, Commanding General, U.S. Army, Alaska;
4 Brigadier General Phillip Oates, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard; and Colonel
5 George Cannelos, Director, Alaska Air National Guard.