

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2004

Source
HR 7

House
Resolve No.
7



Dedicating the House Resources Committee Room of the Alaska State Capitol to the late Representative Ramona L. Barnes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS former State Representative Ramona L. Barnes exemplified Alaska's pioneer spirit and was proof of the American dream; and

WHEREAS the late Representative Barnes lived her life in dedicated public service, from community organizations and national clubs, to taking her place on the Elmendorf Air Force Base School Board, to becoming the longest serving woman legislator in Alaska state history; and

WHEREAS Representative Barnes was the first woman to hold every legislative leadership position, from majority leader, minority leader, and minority whip, to becoming the first female speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS Ramona L. Barnes never accepted limitations, using her will to make a way, using strategic thought to make a plan, and using relationships to make it happen; and

WHEREAS Representative Barnes believed strongly in self-reliance, hard work, and helping others help themselves, and modeled these beliefs throughout her life; and

WHEREAS Representative Barnes was a prominent leader in development of the state's natural resources, job creation, Alaska's judicial system, innovative programs related to the Department of Corrections, and in promoting the "Last Frontier"; and

WHEREAS Ramona L. Barnes, as speaker of the House of Representatives, took an extraordinary class of freshman legislators and transformed them into leaders in the legislative tradition; and

WHEREAS Representative Barnes respected the dignity of each of the offices to which she was elected, honoring the traditions and elevating the status of each position, often redefining what it meant to hold that title; and

WHEREAS Representative Barnes thoroughly knew legislative rules and legislative procedures, and used that knowledge effectively to promote or prevent passage of legislation, to encourage people, and to shape debate on public issues; and

WHEREAS Ramona L. Barnes impressed heads of state and touched the hearts of Alaskans as she made her personal and political journey from the tiny town of Pikeville, Tennessee, to the speaker's podium of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives that the House Resources Committee Room, currently Room 124 of the Alaska State Capitol, is dedicated to Representative Ramona L. Barnes, whose outstanding service as a member of the body spanned two decades; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a bronze plaque shall be placed on or near the door of the room celebrating her legislative leadership achievements bearing the following inscription:

THE RAMONA L. BARNES COMMITTEE ROOM

The Ramona L. Barnes Committee Room memorializes the dedication of former Representative Ramona L. Barnes, who served for two decades as a member of the Alaska House of Representatives, as Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Leader, and Majority Leader of the body, and as Speaker of the House of Representatives during the Eighteenth State Legislature (1993 -

1994), the first woman to be elected by her colleagues to that position. As a member of the House of Representatives, Representative Barnes strongly supported the development of the state's resources and the creation of jobs, the Alaska Court System, innovative programs for corrections, and promoting the "Last Frontier." Her colleagues remember Representative Barnes as exceptionally knowledgeable of legislative rules and procedures, as a person who used that knowledge effectively in debate on public issues, as someone who respected the dignity of each of the leadership positions she held, honoring the traditions and elevating the status of each of them, and as a member who always upheld the traditions of the Alaska House of Representatives as an institution.

A COPY of this resolution shall be presented to the family of the late Ramona L. Barnes, former Alaska State Representative.