

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

2004

Source
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Senate
Resolve No.
4



Relating to commemoration of Senator Frank R. Ferguson and other distinguished Senators.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS Frank R. Parraq Ferguson served in both the Alaska State House of Representatives and the Alaska State Senate during a legislative career that spanned 16 years; and

WHEREAS, during his political career, his accomplishments were numerous and led to major improvements in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS he was one of the principal legislators establishing a statewide telecommunications system that included direct telephone communications in all rural communities; and

WHEREAS he led the effort to establish the rural educational attendance area education system that allowed rural children to be educated at home in their own communities; and

WHEREAS he helped establish the University of Alaska's rural educational system; and

WHEREAS he led the effort to establish the rural housing assistance loan program, which paved the way for commercial lending in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS he helped establish the delivery of state health care and social services through contracting with the Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS he helped establish a village public safety officer program and supported search and rescue, emergency medical services, and trail staking in rural communities; and

WHEREAS he helped bring airport lighting to rural village airports so that life-safety and other essential services could be delivered during the long, dark winter months; and

WHEREAS he helped establish a lower cost rural energy program that included the bulk fuel loan program, power cost equalization, and many alternative energy projects; and

WHEREAS he helped establish the village health aide program and rural clinics; and

WHEREAS he helped establish revenue sharing for rural villages and unincorporated municipalities; and

WHEREAS he helped establish the Kotzebue and Barrow courthouses; and

WHEREAS he was a principal negotiator in establishing the Alaska permanent fund and its current earnings distribution system and was a key figure in oil taxation methodology; and

WHEREAS he was a principal legislator in marshalling the state's financial investment in the port and road facilities for the Red Dog Mine and local hire; and

WHEREAS he was known for being a consummate dealmaker with a keen ability to close the session during the days when there was no limit on the length of the session; and

WHEREAS his contributions to this state are many and are attributable to his ability to bring diverse people together for the common good of the state; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Senate has had a significant role in the rich history of the state and the progress of its citizens through the individual and collective achievements of its members; and

WHEREAS other Senators also merit special recognition for past accomplishments;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that a commemorative panel be established at a prominent place inside the Capitol for the listing of Senators who are specially recognized posthumously by resolution of the Alaska State Senate for the value of their contributions to the Alaska State Legislature and the people of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a compilation of the accomplishments of the Senators listed on the commemorative panel be kept on file in the Capitol; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the name of Frank R. Ferguson be displayed on the Commemorative Panel of Distinguished Senators.