

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2014**

**Source**  
SCR 17

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
49



Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska for \$7,200,000; urging Alaska communities to plan activities and events in 2017 to commemorate the Alaska Purchase; requesting that the Alaska Historical Commission coordinate events; and inviting Alaska communities, schools, universities, libraries, museums, businesses, civic and historical groups, and government agencies to participate in and support commemorative activities and events.

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

**WHEREAS** Alaskans traditionally commemorate and celebrate the Alaska Purchase with two official state holidays, Seward's Day on the last Monday in March and Alaska Day on October 18; and

**WHEREAS** 2017 will be the sesquicentennial of the 1867 Treaty of Purchase, which transferred from Russia to the United States the land that today is the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity for communities and individuals around the state to plan commemorative activities; and

**WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the Alaska Purchase, once decried as "Seward's Folly," with educational activities and commemorative events regarding the history of Alaska under the American flag; and

**WHEREAS** the anniversary is an opportunity to enhance efforts to preserve significant historical sites, papers, and artifacts and to recognize the leaders who made the Alaska Purchase possible; and

**WHEREAS** the anniversary provides a platform for a national discussion on Alaska's value to the nation, including the state's strategic importance in the defense of the nation, the importance of the state's resources, the state's importance to national and economic security interests, and the importance of the state's geographic location in the Arctic and strategic location in the North Pacific; and

**WHEREAS** the anniversary presents an opportunity to learn about the history of the state's Native people, before and after the Alaska Purchase, and to recognize that an understanding of the culture and heritage of the state's Native people is essential to an understanding of the state; and

**WHEREAS** a celebration to commemorate the anniversary provides an opportunity to review and encourage comprehensive research on the state's history;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the sesquicentennial of the Alaska Purchase and encourages all communities in the state to plan activities and events and engage in discussions to commemorate the anniversary; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature appreciates the leadership of the Alaska Historical Commission in coordinating events and seeking opportunities to bring new research to the attention of all Alaskans; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature invites Alaska communities, schools, universities, libraries, museums, businesses, civic and historical groups, and government agencies to participate in and support activities and events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.