

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GIESSEL

Introduced: 1/26/18

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Dedicating the fourth floor Senate conference room of the Alaska State Capitol to the**
2 **late Senate President Jan Faiks.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Senate joins family, friends, and fellow Alaskans in
5 celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Jan Faiks; and

6 **WHEREAS** Senator Faiks was the first woman in the history of the United States to
7 be elected presiding officer of a state legislative body, serving as Senate President in 1987 and
8 1988; and

9 **WHEREAS**, looking far ahead into the state's future, Senator Faiks worked among a
10 key group of legislators to help create the constitutional budget reserve fund; and

11 **WHEREAS**, among her many accomplishments, Senator Faiks is credited with
12 bringing polish to the legislature by instituting a dress code and promoting other rules of
13 decorum; and

14 **WHEREAS** Jan Faiks, who was born on Long Island, New York, on November 17,
15 1945, moved to Alaska and earned her master's degree in counseling psychology from the
16 University of Alaska Anchorage, before using those acquired skills as both a counselor and a

1 teacher in the Anchorage School District from 1968 to 1978; and

2 **WHEREAS**, before running for elective office, Jan helped to organize the Anchorage
3 Women's Club Free Committee, a grassroots political advocacy effort that sought to improve
4 the state legislative process, uniform rules, and conference committee protocols;
5 recommendations made by the group were later adopted by the Alaska State Legislature; and

6 **WHEREAS** Senator Faiks was first elected to the Alaska State Senate in 1982 and
7 served two terms representing the Anchorage Hillside; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, Jan Faiks was diagnosed with brain cancer, and, upon her
9 passing at her home on Amelia Island, Florida, on April 10, 2017, the state lost a hard-
10 working and dedicated Alaskan; and

11 **WHEREAS** Senator Faiks was a pioneer for women in politics who made her mark
12 on the state's history; and

13 **WHEREAS** we mourn her passing;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the members of the Senate of the Thirtieth Alaska State
15 Legislature that the fourth floor Senate conference room, currently room 431 of the Alaska
16 State Capitol, be dedicated to Senator Jan Faiks, the first woman in the history of the United
17 States to be elected presiding officer of a state legislative body; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a bronze plaque shall be placed on or near the door of
19 the room, bearing the following inscription celebrating Senator Faiks' legislative
20 achievements, dedication, and service:

21 **THE JAN FAIKS CONFERENCE ROOM**

22 The Jan Faiks Conference Room memorializes the dedication and
23 service of Jan Faiks, who served as a member of the Alaska State Senate
24 during the Thirteenth through Sixteenth Alaska State Legislatures. The first
25 woman in the history of the United States to be elected presiding officer of a
26 state legislative body, Senator Faiks served as Senate President in 1987 and
27 1988. She was committed to the people of Alaska and looked far ahead into the
28 state's future, working among a key group of legislators to help create the
29 constitutional budget reserve fund. She is also credited with bringing polish to
30 the legislature by instituting a dress code and promoting other rules of
31 decorum. Senator Faiks was a pioneer for women in politics who made her

- 1 mark on Alaska's history.
- 2 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be presented to the family of the late Senator Jan
- 3 Faiks.