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C. Radford
1/30/26

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

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

WHEREAS the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1776, a date that signifies the founding of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS the 56 patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence are John Adams, Samuel Adams, Josiah Bartlett, Carter Braxton, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, Abraham Clark, George Clymer, William Ellery, William Floyd, Benjamin Franklin, Elbridge Gerry, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, John Hancock, Benjamin Harrison, John Hart, Joseph Hewes, Thomas Heyward, Jr., William Hooper, Stephen Hopkins, Francis Hopkinson, Samuel Huntington, Thomas Jefferson, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lewis, Philip Livingston, Thomas Lynch, Jr., Thomas McKean, Arthur Middleton, Lewis Morris, Robert Morris, John Morton, Thomas Nelson, Jr., William Paca, Robert Treat Paine, John Penn, George Read, Ceasar Rodney, George Ross, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Edward Rutledge, Roger Sherman, James Smith, Richard Stockton, Thomas Stone, George Taylor,

Matthew Thornton, George Walton, William Whipple, William Williams, James Wilson, John Witherspoon, Oliver Wolcott, and George Wythe; and

WHEREAS the Declaration of Independence outlines the founding principles of the United States of America by declaring "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS the Declaration of Independence proclaimed timeless principles of profound significance to the history of the United States, including that all people are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that a government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS the United States was founded on the principle of federalism, which emphasizes a decentralized system of government in which powers are divided between national and state governments, and fosters liberty, accountability, and responsiveness to local communities; and

WHEREAS the founding of the United States initiated a journey toward forming "a more perfect Union," marked by historic achievements, struggles, and progress in realizing the nation's founding principles for all citizens; and

WHEREAS signing the Declaration of Independence was a critical part of the Revolutionary War, which ended when the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, and granted the United States of America independence from Great Britain; and

WHEREAS the state has played a significant role in the history of the United States by contributing to the nation's development, culture, economy, and defense through the efforts and sacrifices of the state's citizens; and

WHEREAS the semiquincentennial of the United States offers a unique opportunity for the people of the state to reflect on a shared history, honor the diverse contributions of the nation's citizens, and continually strive to create a more perfect union for future generations; and

WHEREAS commemorative activities across the state will provide educational opportunities, foster civic engagement, encourage community participation, and strengthen appreciation for the history, federalist principles, and foundational ideals on which both the

1 nation and this state were built; and

2 **WHEREAS** over the past 250 years there have been many efforts to expand the rights
3 of all citizens to uphold that self-evident truth, including ending slavery, expanding voting
4 rights to women and citizens of all races, expanding civil rights for all citizens, pursuing equal
5 rights by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, continuing efforts to respect and
6 acknowledge the Indigenous communities who, for thousands of years, have stewarded the
7 land that comprises the United States, and much more; and

8 **WHEREAS** July 4, 2026, will be the 250th anniversary of the signing of the
9 Declaration of Independence;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the 250th anniversary of
11 the Declaration of Independence and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United
12 States of America; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all citizens,
14 communities, educational institutions, civic organizations, and businesses in the state
15 to participate in commemorative events and activities that reflect on the nation's history,
16 celebrate the nation's achievements, and reaffirm a commitment to the ideals of liberty,
17 equality, federalism, and self-governance; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages educational
19 institutions across the state to enhance civics education to ensure that future generations
20 understand the importance of active civic participation and the principles of federalism and
21 self-governance that protect liberty and promote a responsive government.