

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR DYSON

Introduced: 1/18/12

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing August 4, 2012, as Raoul Wallenberg Remembrance Day.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Raoul Wallenberg was born in Sweden on August 4, 1912, to Swedish
4 Christian parents; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1935, Raoul Wallenberg graduated from the University of Michigan
6 in Ann Arbor, completing a five-year program in architectural design in three years; and

7 **WHEREAS** Raoul Wallenberg returned to Sweden, where he began a career as a
8 businessman and later became a Swedish diplomat; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1944, during World War II, the United States was at war with and did
10 not have diplomatic relations with Hungary; and

11 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull requested the cooperation
12 of Sweden, a neutral nation, in protecting the lives of 750,000 Hungarian Jews facing
13 extermination at the hands of the Nazis; and

14 **WHEREAS**, at the request of the United States, Raoul Wallenberg, in his official
15 capacity as a Swedish diplomat, agreed to act in Hungary to protect Jews and victims of the
16 Nazis; and

1 **WHEREAS**, with extraordinary courage and total disregard for the constant danger to
2 himself, Raoul Wallenberg, as a young diplomat, outdueled Nazi Lieutenant Colonel Adolf
3 Eichmann in Budapest, Hungary, and, from July through December 1944, Wallenberg
4 miraculously saved more than 100,000 innocent men, women, and children from the Nazi
5 death camps; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when the Nazi regime fell and the Soviets liberated Budapest, Raoul
7 Wallenberg then endured tragic imprisonment and death in a Soviet Gulag under Communist
8 dictator Josef Stalin's directives and in violation of Wallenberg's diplomatic immunity and
9 international law; and

10 **WHEREAS** the late United States Congressman Tom Lantos, who was rescued by
11 Wallenberg in Budapest, served for several years as economic adviser and chief of staff to
12 former Alaska Congressman Mike Gravel; and

13 **WHEREAS** history has revealed that heroic acts of salvation were rare during the
14 massacre of millions of innocent human beings during World War II; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, Congress proclaimed Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of
16 the United States and President Ronald Reagan signed and awarded the honor; and

17 **WHEREAS** the year 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's birth;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims August 4, 2012, to be
19 Raoul Wallenberg Remembrance Day in honor of the courage of Raoul Wallenberg, whose
20 life demonstrated moral courage and love in the face of incomprehensible evil and showed
21 that one person can make a difference.