

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative
Resolve No.
9



Dedicating the House Finance Committee Room in the Alaska State Capitol to the late Representative Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams.

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

WHEREAS Representative Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams was elected by his constituents from House District 37 to the House of Representatives in 1980 during the Twelfth Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams was elected by his colleagues as sole chair of the House Finance Committee in the Second Regular Session of the Twelfth Alaska State Legislature and continued in that role for the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Alaska State Legislatures under both Republican and Democratic leadership; and

WHEREAS the operating and capital budgets that Representative Adams crafted reflected a balance between urban and rural areas of the state, led to the reopening of Mount Edgecumbe as a state boarding school, and increased funding for all school districts in the state; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams strove to improve the lives of people in rural areas of the state by funding water and sewer projects; Representative Adams also implemented the power cost equalization program and fought hard to convince the Alaska State Legislature to

establish an endowment to fund power cost equalization in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams was elected to the Senate in 1988 and served on the Senate Finance Committee until his retirement at the end of the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature in 2000; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams' knowledge of legislative rules resulted in efficient, timely, and prompt committee meetings, with all members receiving budget and bill information in advance; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams' leadership in financially tumultuous times contributed to keeping the state's economy and government on a path to solvency, while protecting and growing the Alaska permanent fund; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams' personal relationships with colleagues on both sides of the aisle enabled him to lead the House of Representatives and the Senate to positive resolution of contentious issues; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams was an astute lawmaker and a master at understanding politics and state finances; Representative Adams chaired the House Finance Committee during his eight-year term in the House of Representatives, served 18 years on the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, and served 12 years on the Operating Budget Conference Committee; he also served on other key committees that helped protect subsistence and bring needed infrastructure and social services to rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legislative service, Representative Adams held other positions as president of Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation and executive vice president of NANA Regional Corporation; he also served on numerous boards, including the Alaska Airlines Advisory Board, Arctic Power, Mount Edgecumbe's advisory board, and NANA Regional Corporation; and

WHEREAS, although Representative Adams led a very public life, he was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather for whom family was the highest priority; he often organized subsistence hunting and fishing trips, during which he passed down traditional Inupiaq skills to his children; whether dipnetting at the mouth of the Kenai River, caribou hunting outside Kotzebue, or visiting the fish wheel at Chitina, he made certain that his wife, children, and grandchildren knew they were loved and that they came first and foremost in his life; and

WHEREAS Representative Adams was a benevolent man who kept cash in his

vehicle to give to those in need, provided meals to those who were hungry, gave boxes of turkeys to Beans Cafe at Christmas, and gave money for gifts to the Friends Church, and recipients of his generosity often never knew where the gifts came from; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the Alaska State Legislature in 2000, Representative Adams worked as an advisor to the Northwest Arctic Borough and North Slope Borough until 2003, at which time he began a career as a lobbyist with a focus on representing rural and Alaska Native interests; he again provided a powerful voice in Juneau and Washington, D.C., drawing on his years of legislative experience; he brought the same passion to lobbying that he had as a legislator, always saying that the individuals he represented were not his clients, they were his people; he tirelessly promoted the continued successes of Mount Edgecumbe High School because of the valuable opportunities the school provides to develop relationships between talented young Alaska Native people;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the House Finance Committee Room, currently Room 519 of the Capitol, be dedicated to Representative Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams for his exemplary service as a member of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the House Finance Committee for more than 20 years; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a bronze plaque shall be placed on or near the door of the room celebrating Representative Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams' legislative achievements, dedication, and service to the legislature and the House Finance Committee, bearing the following inscription:

THE ALBERT "AL" P. SIKKIAGRUK ADAMS COMMITTEE ROOM

The Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams Committee Room memorializes the dedication and service of Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams, who served as a member of the House of Representatives and as the last sole Chair of the House Finance Committee during the Twelfth through Fifteenth Alaska State Legislatures. He served in the Senate as a member of the Senate Finance Committee during the Sixteenth through Nineteenth Alaska State Legislatures.

A COPY of this resolution shall be presented to the family of the late Representative

Albert "Al" P. Sikkiagruk Adams.