



Alaska State Legislature

1967

Source:

SJR 29

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the National Cemetery System.

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

WHEREAS figures compiled by the Department of Defense for the fiscal year 1966 show that of the 4,873 servicemen who lost lives in the fight for freedom in Vietnam during the period, 873 or 20.4 per cent were buried in national cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, although one in five were actually interred in national cemeteries, many more would probably have also been buried in a national cemetery had there been available space near the home of next of kin; and

WHEREAS over the past three years there has been a determined effort on the part of some federal agencies to sharply curtail or do away altogether with any further provision for national cemeteries; and

WHEREAS present day burial expenses are sufficiently high without placing on the veteran's and serviceman's dependent the added cost of purchasing a burial plot; and

WHEREAS the burial allowances of the Veterans Administration and that provided under Social Security are far too meager to provide for the last rites of most veterans and servicemen; and

WHEREAS it is perfectly evident that the present administration is determined to end the national cemetery system just as soon as present facilities are exhausted and this procedure is a rank departure from the long-time precedent that veterans who have served their nation in time of war are entitled to burial sites provided by the United States Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that we strongly urge the Congress of the United States to take such action as necessary to forestall the present plans of the Bureau of the Budget and the administration, and to oppose the position of the Department of Defense which supports the administration's policy of no further expansion of the national cemetery system, with the exception of the Arlington National Cemetery, as many national cemeteries have already exhausted available space and several others are scheduled for closing this year; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense be requested to establish an adequate and permanent national cemetery system to make national cemeteries available with burial spaces for all U.S. military servicemen and women who are entitled to the same, and wish to be interred there.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Carl Hayden, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Honorable John McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Charles L. Schultz, Director, Bureau of the Budget; and the Honorable E.L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U.S. Senators and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.