

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

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Legislative  
Resolve No.

64



Designating a year of friendship with Finland.

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

WHEREAS the first Finnish settlers arrived in North America in 1638 and, with other Nordic settlers, established the colony of New Sweden in what is now the State of Delaware; and

WHEREAS many of the settlers of New Sweden were either natives of Finland or natives of Sweden who spoke Finnish; and

WHEREAS approximately 700,000 Americans of Finnish descent are now living in the United States; and

WHEREAS the contributions of Americans of Finnish descent to American history, culture, and technology have been continuous and substantial; and

WHEREAS the Finnish community in Alaska has contributed to our history; and

WHEREAS the Chief Manager of Alaska from 1840 - 1845, Arvid Adolf Etolin and his wife, made significant social changes to Alaska by establishing a forty-bed hospital, a public library, the first Lutheran Church on the Pacific Coast and the first boarding school for Native girls; and

WHEREAS other prominent Finns were Captain John Hampus Furuhejm, Alaska's 13th Chief Manager, William Alex Stolt, who served as Mayor of Anchorage during World War II, and the last Acting Governor of the Territory of Alaska, Waino Hendrickson, and Jalmar Kerttula, as well as many other distinguished members of the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS The Alaska-Finland Trade and Information Council was

formed in 1984 to promote trade, commerce, and the exchange of information between Alaska and Finland; and

WHEREAS the 99th Congress of the United States adopted Public Law 99602 which designated 1988 as the National Year of Friendship with Finland;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates 1988 as the "Year of Friendship with Finland" in the state and calls upon the people of the state to recognize the importance of the Finnish people to the State of Alaska with appropriate ceremonies and activities.