

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

HCS SJR 32(F.T.)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

14



Relating to a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Russian discovery of Alaska.

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

WHEREAS the year 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of the European discovery of Alaska by an expedition commanded by Vitus Bering; and

WHEREAS the first documented landing of a European on Alaska soil took place at Kayak Island in the Gulf of Alaska, 65 miles southeast of Cordova; and

WHEREAS the first documented European to set foot on Alaska soil was the naturalist, Georg Wilhelm Steller; and

WHEREAS this event, undertaken through sponsorship by the Russian government, stands as one of the earliest episodes in Alaska's recorded history; and

WHEREAS the Bering Expedition Landing Site is on the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska recognizes its Russian heritage and wishes to build on the foundation of understanding brought about by the recent interchanges between Alaska residents, Alaska's indigenous peoples, and its Soviet neighbors and to promote cooperative exchanges in the areas of trade, tourism, and traditional culture; and

WHEREAS the goodwill and cultural and historical exchanges that may take place in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Russian landing in Alaska will help build strong Alaska-Soviet ties;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is encouraged to develop a bilateral celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Russian discovery of Alaska with Governor Kobets of Magadan, Soviet Union; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the celebration will take place in 1991 to commemorate the first Russian landing in Alaska at Kayak Island.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Nikolai Ivanoich Kashtikan, First Secretary, Chukotka District Communist Party, Soviet Union; Honorable Vyacheslav I. Kobets, Governor of Magadan Territory, Soviet Union; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.