

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SJR 66

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Requesting the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp to mark the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's voyage of discovery and the opening of Alaska to European contact.

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

WHEREAS 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of explorer Vitus Bering's discovery of Alaska and the opening of the state to European contact; and

WHEREAS during 1990 and 1991 two important museums in the Pacific Northwest, the Washington State Historical Society Museum and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, will jointly stage the premier exhibit of the record of Russian activity in North America, covering the Bering Strait to California; and

WHEREAS the exhibit, entitled "Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier," will open during the summer of 1990 in Tacoma, Washington, as one of the features of the Soviet-American Goodwill Games that will be staged in Seattle; and

WHEREAS in the fall the exhibit will travel to Anchorage where it will be displayed through March 1991 as part of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art's observance of Vitus Bering's voyage of discovery; and

WHEREAS the Anchorage Philatelic Society has chosen "The Age of Discovery and Exploration: Alaska's Russian Heritage" as the theme for its 39th Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) to be held in February 1991 in conjunction with the annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, and the exhibition will focus attention on the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's important voyage; and

WHEREAS there has not been a philatelic observance of Vitus Bering's contribution to the opening and development of Alaska since Denmark's issuance of three commemorative postage stamps in 1941 to mark the 200th anniversary of Bering's voyage into North

Pacific waters for the Russian czar and Bering's subsequent death; and

WHEREAS during the last decade there have been numerous postage stamp tributes to the contributions to the United States of emigrants from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, and Ireland, but there has not been a joint American-Danish or American-Russian commemorative stamp issued to commemorate the contributions of Danish or Russian emigrants to the United States; and

WHEREAS the last postage stamp that was issued jointly by the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was the Apollo-Soyuz commemorative stamp issued July 17, 1975, to mark the joint effort of the two nations in the exploration of space; and

WHEREAS it would be appropriate for a United States commemorative postage stamp to be issued jointly with Denmark and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to observe the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's notable voyage of discovery in 1741 and to recognize the unique contribution of Danish and Russian emigrants to the development of the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Postal Service to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp in 1991 to mark the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's discovery of Alaska and the opening of Alaska to European contact; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that a United States commemorative postage stamp be issued jointly and simultaneously with commemorative postage stamps issued by Denmark and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that, if the commemorative postage stamp is issued, the United States Postal Service hold the first-day-of-issue ceremonies for the stamp at Kodiak, Alaska, near the site of the first Russian settlement in Alaska at Old Harbor.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Anthony M. Frank, Postmaster General of the U.S. Postal Service; the United States Citizens Postage Stamp Advisory Committee; 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.