

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1993

Source
CSHJR 21(JUD)

Legislative
Resolve No.
7



Honoring Thurgood Marshall, 1908 - 1993.

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

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall was committed to the belief that the United States Constitution protects the rights of all Americans; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall devoted his life to protecting the civil rights of individuals and was a tireless leader in the legal battle to eliminate racial discrimination and promote human rights and equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall graduated with honors from Howard University Law School in 1933; and

WHEREAS, as a lawyer, Thurgood Marshall took the lead in challenging whites-only primary elections and explicit racial discrimination in housing; and

WHEREAS, during his 25 years as legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Thurgood Marshall won 29 of the 32 cases that he argued before the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall's most famous case, while legal counsel for the NAACP, was the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* school desegregation

case in which a unanimous United States Supreme Court "outlawed" racial segregation in public education and overruled the outmoded doctrine that allowed "separate but equal" education for black children in public schools; and

WHEREAS the appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the United States Supreme Court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967 followed a successful legal career as a civil rights attorney, court of appeals judge, and United States Solicitor General; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American to serve on the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall served 24 years on the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, as a Justice on the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall sought to protect people from governmental infringement of their rights to fair and equal treatment under the law, free speech, due process, and privacy; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall supported affirmative action programs, legal protections for criminal defendants and the poor, and the rights of women; and

WHEREAS President Bill Clinton has said of Thurgood Marshall, "Every American should be grateful for the contributions he has made as an advocate and as a justice of the United States Supreme Court."; and

WHEREAS Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor also said of Thurgood Marshall, "We've lost a true American hero. He left behind a legacy of hope of racial equality."; and

WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall died January 24, 1993;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature joins the Nation in mourning the passing of Thurgood Marshall; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature salutes and honors Thurgood Marshall, a great American, and hopes that his life will be an inspiration to all Americans to strive against injustice and discrimination wherever they are found.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mrs. Cecilia Suyat Marshall; and the Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice, United States Supreme Court.