

# STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

1993

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Legislative  
Resolve No.  
8



Requesting the United States Air Force to rename Shemya Air Force Base to Eareckson Air Force Base.

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

**WHEREAS** Shemya Air Force Base is the only air force base in Alaska without a dedicated name; and

**WHEREAS** Major William O. Eareckson arrived in Alaska when his squadron was deployed to Elmendorf Field in April 1941 before the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Japan, served in Alaska until after the recapture of Attu Island and Kiska Island in 1943, and was promoted to Colonel while serving in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** Colonel Eareckson was a military leader and active combatant in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II; and

**WHEREAS** Colonel Eareckson received numerous decorations for his service in Alaska, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal, the Navy Cross, and the Purple Heart; and

**WHEREAS**, after leaving Alaska, Colonel Eareckson participated in battles in the Pacific Theater to recapture Tarawa, Kwajalein, Palau, Hollandia, and Guam during World

War II, served in Korea during the Korean War, and received additional decorations for this service; and

**WHEREAS** Colonel Eareckson's devotion to his duty and men was unflinching, his leadership inspiring, his courage unailing, and his pride in his service and in his country was a way of life; and

**WHEREAS** the 50th Anniversary of the landing of U.S. troops on Shemya Island in the Aleutian Islands is May 28, 1993;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the dedication of Shemya Air Force Base as Eareckson Air Force Base; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Department of the Air Force to approve the renaming of Shemya Air Force Base as Eareckson Air Force Base.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Les Aspin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense; the Honorable Michael B. Donley, Acting Secretary of the Air Force; the Commanding Officer, Shemya Air Force Base, U.S. Air Force; 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.