

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TAYLOR

Introduced: 4/21/99

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the Kosovo conflict and to Alaskans serving in the military forces in**
2 **the area of the conflict.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Slobodan Milosevic has embarked upon a policy of ethnic cleansing of
5 Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia; and

6 **WHEREAS** the actions of the Serbian military forces are a humanitarian disaster in
7 the making and are not acceptable in the civilized world; and

8 **WHEREAS** the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has called upon the
9 Allied Forces to mount a military campaign to stop this inhumane treatment of Kosovo
10 Albanians; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States, as a member of NATO, has mobilized members of our
12 armed forces to the Balkan region to participate in the campaign against Serbian forces in
13 Kosovo to stop the ethnic cleansing activities; and

14 **WHEREAS** many of the United States troops that will be sent to the Balkans will be
15 pulled away from civilian lives at great personal sacrifice; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Allied troops will be expected to endure many uncertainties and

1 hardships caused by separation from their loved ones for months while stationed in the harsh
2 conditions of the Balkan region; and

3 **WHEREAS** the tremendous humanitarian effort being taken by the Allied military
4 force is an enormous service to mankind; and

5 **WHEREAS** members of our military forces are performing their mission with great
6 dispatch, exemplifying the high degree of dedication, professionalism, and training that
7 underlines the technological and strategic superiority of our military strength; and

8 **WHEREAS** many of our United States troops are in danger, and the media reports that
9 the public must be prepared to accept the possibility that there will be United States casualties;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** three members of the United States armed forces have been captured, and
12 efforts to obtain their releases have not yet been successful; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaskans in the military services have been called on to participate in the
14 Kosovo conflict and are likely to be called on to serve there in increasing numbers; and

15 **WHEREAS** these Alaskans are and will be serving in the interest of the United States
16 with dedication, honor, and commitment;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature

18 (1) commends the bravery and dedication of Alaska's military personnel and
19 of all men and women who are serving in the Kosovo conflict; and

20 (2) applauds the extraordinary job being done by the United States and Allied
21 military forces in saving lives by setting up tents and establishing refugee camps; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Alaska State Legislature express
23 their heartfelt concern for the safety of United States military personnel, of the military
24 personnel of NATO countries involved in the conflict, and of the refugees who are fleeing
25 Kosovo, and, therefore, urge President Clinton and the Congress to use whatever means
26 available to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible and in a manner that will help
27 secure a just and lasting peace in the region; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
29 Legislative Council to direct the Legislative Affairs Agency to send the following message
30 to all Alaskans and military personnel stationed in Alaska who are serving in the United States
31 armed forces in the Kosovo conflict: "The members of the Alaska State Legislature thank you

1 heartily for your efforts in stopping the barbaric actions of Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo and
2 for laying a foundation for a just and lasting peace in the region. We commend your bravery
3 and dedication. We wish you a safe and speedy return home."

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
5 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
6 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
7 Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
8 Honorable William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
9 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
10 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.