

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHENAULT, Stevens

Introduced: 4/12/01

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the erection of monuments in Alaska, Russia, and Canada to commemorate**
2 **the World War II lend-lease program between the United States and the Union of Soviet**
3 **Socialist Republics.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt expressed a desire for close
6 collaboration with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Germany and its allies, the
7 common enemies of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

8 **WHEREAS** the federal Lend-Lease Act was enacted during World War II and
9 designated Alaska as the exchange point for war materials between the United States and the
10 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1942 to 1945; and

11 **WHEREAS**, under the lend-lease program, nearly 8,000 aircraft hauling tons of
12 materials and supplies were flown nearly 9,000 miles from Great Falls, Montana, across
13 Canada and Alaska to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with major stops in Edmonton
14 and Whitehorse, Canada, at the Army's Ladd Field in Fairbanks, Alaska, now known as Fort
15 Wainwright, in Galena and Nome in Alaska, and in Yakutsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Novosibirsk in

1 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

2 **WHEREAS** many Alaska citizens worked together with Soviet citizens on the
3 cooperative program, and soldiers and their families from both countries made considerable
4 sacrifices to serve their countries; and

5 **WHEREAS** the cooperative lend-lease program demonstrated that two nations could
6 compromise their views, cultural values, and principles enough to achieve a common,
7 mutually beneficial goal; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Alaska-Siberia Research Center plans to erect bronze monuments in
9 Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia, and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease
10 program; and

11 **WHEREAS** this project will contribute to the further understanding of Russian-
12 American relations and will provide new data on the World War II period in Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** the proposed monuments will demonstrate the strategic and social
14 importance of Alaska then and today and will seek to preserve the memories of those Alaska
15 citizens who shaped and participated in the lend-lease program; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Alaska-Siberia Research Center will be a recipient of funds for the
17 project and will be responsible for all financial and technical aspects of the project;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska-Siberia
19 Research Center project of erecting monuments in Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia,
20 and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease program between the United States and the
21 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics during World War II.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Vladimir Putin, President,
23 Russian Federation; to the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; to the
24 Honorable Anthony Principi, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and to the
25 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
26 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.