

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 1/28/04**  
**Referred: Rules**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Dedicating the House Resources Committee Room of the Alaska State Capitol to the late**  
2 **Representative Ramona L. Barnes.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** former State Representative Ramona L. Barnes exemplified Alaska's  
5 pioneer spirit and was proof of the American dream; and

6 **WHEREAS** the late Representative Barnes lived her life in dedicated public service,  
7 from community organizations and national clubs, to taking her place on the Elmendorf Air  
8 Force Base School Board, to becoming the longest serving woman legislator in Alaska state  
9 history; and

10 **WHEREAS** Representative Barnes was the first woman to hold every legislative  
11 leadership position, from majority leader, minority leader, and minority whip, to becoming  
12 the first female speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature of the State of Alaska;  
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** Ramona L. Barnes never accepted limitations, using her will to make a  
15 way, using strategic thought to make a plan, and using relationships to make it happen; and

16 **WHEREAS** Representative Barnes believed strongly in self-reliance, hard work, and

1 helping others help themselves, and modeled these beliefs throughout her life; and

2 **WHEREAS** Representative Barnes was a prominent leader in development of the  
3 state's natural resources, job creation, Alaska's judicial system, innovative programs related to  
4 the Department of Corrections, and in promoting the "Last Frontier"; and

5 **WHEREAS** Ramona L. Barnes, as speaker of the House of Representatives, took an  
6 extraordinary class of freshman legislators and transformed them into leaders in the legislative  
7 tradition; and

8 **WHEREAS** Representative Barnes respected the dignity of each of the offices to  
9 which she was elected, honoring the traditions and elevating the status of each position, often  
10 redefining what it meant to hold that title; and

11 **WHEREAS** Representative Barnes thoroughly knew legislative rules and legislative  
12 procedures, and used that knowledge effectively to promote or prevent passage of legislation,  
13 to encourage people, and to shape debate on public issues; and

14 **WHEREAS** Ramona L. Barnes impressed heads of state and touched the hearts of  
15 Alaskans as she made her personal and political journey from the tiny town of Pikeville,  
16 Tennessee, to the speaker's podium of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the  
17 State of Alaska;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives that the House Resources  
19 Committee Room, currently Room 124 of the Alaska State Capitol, is dedicated to  
20 Representative Ramona L. Barnes, whose outstanding service as a member of the body  
21 spanned two decades; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a bronze plaque shall be placed on or near the door of  
23 the room celebrating her legislative leadership achievements bearing the following  
24 inscription:

25 **THE RAMONA L. BARNES COMMITTEE ROOM**

26 The Ramona L. Barnes Committee Room memorializes the dedication  
27 of former Representative Ramona L. Barnes, who served for two decades as a  
28 member of the Alaska House of Representatives, as Assistant Minority Leader,  
29 Minority Leader, and Majority Leader of the body, and as Speaker of the  
30 House of Representatives during the Eighteenth State Legislature (1993 -  
31 1994), the first woman to be elected by her colleagues to that position. As a

1 member of the House of Representatives, Representative Barnes strongly  
2 supported the development of the state's resources and the creation of jobs, the  
3 Alaska Court System, innovative programs for corrections, and promoting the  
4 "Last Frontier." Her colleagues remember Representative Barnes as  
5 exceptionally knowledgeable of legislative rules and procedures, as a person  
6 who used that knowledge effectively in debate on public issues, as someone  
7 who respected the dignity of each of the leadership positions she held,  
8 honoring the traditions and elevating the status of each of them, and as a  
9 member who always upheld the traditions of the Alaska House of  
10 Representatives as an institution.

11 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be presented to the family of the late Ramona L.  
12 Barnes, former Alaska State Representative.