

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

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

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 2/16/04

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to commemoration of Senator Frank R. Ferguson and other distinguished**
2 **Senators.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

4 **WHEREAS** Frank R. Parraq Ferguson served in both the Alaska State House of
5 Representatives and the Alaska State Senate during a legislative career that spanned 16 years;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, during his political career, his accomplishments were numerous and led
8 to major improvements in rural Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** he was one of the principal legislators establishing a statewide
10 telecommunications system that included direct telephone communications in all rural
11 communities; and

12 **WHEREAS** he led the effort to establish the rural educational attendance area
13 education system that allowed rural children to be educated at home in their own
14 communities; and

15 **WHEREAS** he helped establish University of Alaska's rural educational system; and

16 **WHEREAS** he led the effort to establish the rural housing assistance loan program,

1 which paved the way for commercial lending in rural Alaska; and

2 **WHEREAS** he helped establish the delivery of state health care and social services
3 through contracting with the Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations; and

4 **WHEREAS** he helped establish a village public safety officer program and supported
5 search and rescue, emergency medical services, and trail staking in rural communities; and

6 **WHEREAS** he helped bring airport lighting to rural village airports so that life-safety
7 and other essential services could be delivered during the long, dark winter months; and

8 **WHEREAS** he helped establish a lower cost rural energy program that included the
9 bulk fuel loan program, power cost equalization, and many alternative energy projects; and

10 **WHEREAS** he helped establish the village health aide program and rural clinics; and

11 **WHEREAS** he helped establish revenue sharing for rural villages and unincorporated
12 municipalities; and

13 **WHEREAS** he helped establish the Kotzebue and Barrow courthouses; and

14 **WHEREAS** he was a principal negotiator in establishing the Alaska permanent fund
15 and its current earnings distribution system and was a key figure in oil taxation methodology;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS** he was a principal legislator in marshalling the state's financial
18 investment in the port and road facilities for the Red Dog Mine and local hire; and

19 **WHEREAS** he was known for being a consummate dealmaker with a keen ability to
20 close the session during the days when there was no limit on the length of the session; and

21 **WHEREAS** his contributions to this state are many and are attributable to his ability
22 to bring diverse people together for the common good of the state;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Senate that a commemorative panel be
24 established on a prominent wall outside the Senate Finance Committee Room for the listing of
25 Senators who are specially recognized by the Alaska State Senate for the value of their
26 contributions to the Alaska State Legislature and the people of Alaska; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a compilation of the accomplishments of the Senators
28 listed on the commemorative panel be kept on file in the Capitol; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the name of Frank R. Ferguson be displayed on the
30 Commemorative Panel of Distinguished Senators.