

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48 am S

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Amended: 5/5/06

Introduced: 5/4/06

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to establishing the Alaska Medal of Honor.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, in times of threats to our nation's security, the armed forces of the
4 United States stand ready to protect our nation; and

5 **WHEREAS** the armed forces of the United States also protect the lives and freedoms
6 of individuals from other nations who cannot fight for themselves; and

7 **WHEREAS** the armed forces of the United States, which are known for highly skilled
8 military personnel, unwavering patriotism, and undiminishing compassion for others, bravely
9 answered the call to fight for the citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as a central location of armed forces training and preparation, the state
11 has sent many members of the Alaska National Guard, the military reserves, the United States
12 Air Force, the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy,
13 the United States Coast Guard, and the United States Coast Guard Reserve who are state
14 residents or who were stationed in the state to protect the United States from terrorist groups
15 based in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in the course of active and unpredictable military duty, members of the

1 armed forces often become engaged in dangerous situations, endangering their own lives as
2 they act to protect innocent civilians; and

3 **WHEREAS** airmen, airwomen, soldiers, marines, and sailors who are state residents
4 or who were stationed in the state have served in some of the most dangerous areas of Iraq
5 and Afghanistan and have come into contact with opposing forces on a daily basis; and

6 **WHEREAS** many heroes who were residents of the state or who were stationed in the
7 state have been killed in action, courageously sacrificing their lives to protect the lives of
8 Americans and of foreign citizens; and

9 **WHEREAS** the people of the state are grateful to and saddened by the loss of those
10 members of the armed forces who have been killed in action, and stand by the surviving
11 family members in support; and

12 **WHEREAS** the members of the armed forces who have been killed in action will be
13 forever remembered as heroes who sacrificed their lives so others could be free from acts of
14 terrorism;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the legislature establish an
16 Alaska Medal of Honor that may be awarded to residents of the state and those who were
17 stationed in the state who have been killed in action; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska Medal of
19 Honor be awarded to residents of the state or those who were stationed in the state who have
20 been killed in action while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; and be
21 it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a recipient of the Alaska Medal of Honor be a resident
23 of the state or have served in the state as a member of the Alaska National Guard, the United
24 States regular armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, or the United States armed forces
25 reserves at the time the combat fatality occurred; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Armed Services Committee, in conjunction
27 with the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and the commanding officer of
28 Alaska Command or their representatives, prepare and design the Alaska Medal of Honor;
29 and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Armed Services Committee prepare
31 legislation to be introduced and considered during the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature,

1 to provide for an Alaska Medal of Honor to help express the gratitude of the people of the
2 State of Alaska to the members of our armed forces who sacrificed their lives in defense of
3 our nation and its freedoms and to their loved ones; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Armed Services Committee, in conjunction
5 with the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and the commanding officer of
6 Alaska Command or their representatives, prepare and present guidelines for awarding the
7 Alaska Medal of Honor to the Alaska State Legislature for approval.