

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

Introduced: 1/30/06

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the recognition of January 29 as Thomas Paine Day.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine was a principal leader in America for independence and
4 liberty, was the peer of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John
5 Adams, James Madison, and James Monroe, and was one of the founding inspirers of the
6 United States of America; and

7 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine, in his classic and influential essay, "Common Sense,"
8 raised the call for independence from Britain and for a democratic form of government based
9 on equal rights for all and set the blueprint for the establishment of our constitution, bill of
10 rights, and law; and

11 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine supported the American Revolution through his
12 inspirational series of tracts entitled "The American Crisis," through his personal service in
13 the army and in government office, and by the unparalleled contribution of his personal funds;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine was among the earliest writers publicly to denounce
16 slavery and other human rights abuse, to advocate equal rights for women, to petition for

1 improved wages and conditions for workers, to propound universal free education for all boys
2 and girls, and to call for government financial support for the needy and the elderly; and

3 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine, in his abundant writings, opposed not only political
4 tyranny but also tyranny over thought and expression; and

5 **WHEREAS** Thomas Paine's reasoned yet passionate writing set the course of
6 America for democracy, and his life and work continue to inspire peoples the world over who
7 seek liberty and democracy;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives designates January 29, the
9 anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine, as Thomas Paine Day, in honor of Thomas Paine's
10 indelible contributions to liberty, democracy, and civic engagement; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives urges the citizens and
12 residents of the state to take note of this day named in honor of this visionary thinker, Thomas
13 Paine, who was central to the establishment of our nation, the man who was English by birth,
14 French by proclamation, and American by choice.