

BY MRS. FISCHER AND MESSRS.
KALAMARIDES, HAMMOND, FRANZ,
HOFFMAN, JOHNSON AND DEVEAU

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the proposed deactivation
6 of the 71st Air Rescue Squadron.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN FIRST
8 LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION ASSEMBLED:

9 WHEREAS, the 71st Air Rescue Squadron, stationed at Elmendorf
10 Air Force Base, Alaska, has been of immeasurable service and
11 value to the people of Alaska, both civilian and military; and

12 WHEREAS, it is proposed that this invaluable and essential
13 air rescue squadron be deactivated for economy reasons; and

14 WHEREAS, the need for this air rescue squadron in Alaska is
15 no less great, indeed greater, than ever before; and

16 WHEREAS, while Alaska is the flyingest state in the Union for
17 want of other means of transportation, it is also the most
18 hazardous state in which to fly because of its fierce and unpre-
19 dictable storms, its rugged mountains, and its singular meteoro-
20 logical and geophysical conditions which often cause complete
21 radio black-outs over large areas; and

22 WHEREAS, these hazards are multiplied by the absence of the
23 many safety facilities for flying in the other states, such as
24 beacon-lighted flyways, interlocking radio directional systems,
25 large numbers of emergency landing strips, ubiquitous roads for
26 rescue operations and guides to lost pilots; and

27 WHEREAS, these conditions demand not only that there be a
28 rescue force in being, but also that such a rescue force be
29 specially trained and of the highest caliber, such as the 71st

1 Air Rescue Squadron; and

2 WHEREAS, the deactivation of the 71st Air Rescue Squadron
3 will inevitably cause the mutilation and death of dozens of flyers
4 both military and civilian;

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska
6 in First Legislature, Second Session assembled, vigorously
7 opposes the proposed deactivation of the 71st Air Rescue Squadron,
8 that it finds the proposed deactivation to be the height of folly
9 and callousness, and that it urges the Administration and the
10 Congress to place the lives and safety of its citizens before the
11 needs of a balanced budget; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to
13 the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States;
14 the Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Secretary of Defense; the Hon-
15 orable James H. Douglas, Secretary of the Air Force; Major General
16 Conrad F. Necrason, Commander, Alaska Air Command; the Honorable
17 E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, Senators from
18 Alaska; and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Representative from
19 Alaska.

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