

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the National Cemetery  
6 System.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS figures compiled by the Department of Defense for the fiscal  
9 year 1966 show that of the 4,873 servicemen who lost their lives in the fight  
10 for freedom in Vietnam during the period, 873 or 20.4 per cent were buried  
11 in national cemeteries; and

12 WHEREAS, although one in five were actually interred in national  
13 cemeteries, many more would probably have also been buried in a national  
14 cemetery had there been available space near the home of next of kin; and

15 WHEREAS over the past three years there has been a determined effort on  
16 the part of some federal agencies to sharply curtail or do away altogether  
17 with any further provision for national cemeteries; and

18 WHEREAS present day burial expenses are sufficiently high without  
19 placing on the veteran's and serviceman's dependent the added cost of pur-  
20 chasing a burial plot; and

21 WHEREAS the burial allowances of the Veterans Administration and that  
22 provided under Social Security are far too meager to provide for the last  
23 rites of most veterans and servicemen; and

24 WHEREAS it is perfectly evident that the present administration is de-  
25 termined to end the national cemetery system just as soon as present facili-  
26 ties are exhausted and this procedure is a rank departure from the long-time  
27 precedent that veterans who have served their nation in time of war are en-  
28 titled to burial sites provided by the United States government;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that we strongly urge the Congress of the United States

1 to take such action as necessary to forestall the present plans of the  
2 Bureau of the Budget and the administration, and to oppose the position of  
3 the Department of Defense which supports the administration's policy of no  
4 further expansion of the national cemetery system, with the exception of the  
5 Arlington National Cemetery, as many national cemeteries have already ex-  
6 hausted available space and several others are scheduled for closing this  
7 year; and be it

8       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense be requested to estab-  
9 lish an adequate and permanent national cemetery system to make national  
10 cemeteries available with burial spaces for all U.S. military servicemen and  
11 women who are entitled to the same, and wish to be interred there.

12       COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lyndon B.  
13 Johnson, President of the United States; the Honorable Carl Hayden, President  
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate; and the Honorable John McCormack, Speaker of the  
15 House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of  
16 Defense; the Honorable Charles L. Schultz, Director, Bureau of the Budget;  
17 and the Honorable E.L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U.S.  
18 Senators and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representative, members  
19 of the Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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