

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THOMAS

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Paying tribute to the memory of Bernt

6 Balchen

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

8 WHEREAS the members of the Alaska Legislature have learned with great
9 regret of the death of Colonel Bernt Balchen, U.S.A.F. (Retired), October 17,
10 1973; and

11 WHEREAS Colonel Balchen - renowned as a skilled, versatile aviator in
12 the Arctic and Antarctic - was the first pilot to fly over both the North and
13 the South Poles as chief pilot for numerous polar expeditions; and

14 WHEREAS, a native of Norway, Colonel Balchen helped supply the Norwegian
15 underground during the Second World War; he carried out hazardous rescue
16 missions first in command of U.S. Air Force rescue services in Greenland, then
17 flew highly unorthodox, wave-level shuttles between Scotland and neutral
18 Sweden, evacuating both American airmen and fellow Norwegians; and

19 WHEREAS in 1946 Colonel Balchen became President of Norwegian Airlines,
20 parent company of the present-day Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), and in
21 1948 he was recalled to active duty with the U.S. Air Force and named com-
22 manding officer of the 10th Rescue Squadron in Alaska where he applied the
23 techniques he had perfected in polar, trans-Atlantic and World War II flying
24 achievements; and

25 WHEREAS, repeatedly honored by the aviation world, only recently Colonel
26 Balchen was elected to the Canadian Air Hall of Fame - the only non-Canadian
27 ever to be so honored, and he was scheduled to be inducted into the American
28 Air Hall of Fame in December 1973, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base;

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska that its

1 members in expressing their sorrow at the passing of this preeminent airman,
2 acknowledge with deep and abiding appreciation Colonel Bernt Balchen's
3 distinguished contribution to the science of aviation and to the development
4 of air rescue services and techniques applicable to Arctic flying so essential
5 to those who now and in the future will fly the skies of the 49th State.

6 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Colonel Balchen's widow, Mrs.
7 Audrey Schipper Balchen of Chappaqua, New York, and to his sons, Bernt
8 Balchen, Jr., of Oslow, Norway and Lauritz Balchen, of McLean, Virginia.

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