

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Paying tribute to the memory of Robert  
6 L. Thomas.

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

8 WHEREAS the death of Robert L. Thomas, Deputy Commissioner of Education,  
9 in the midst of a legislative session where his counsel on matters of public  
10 education policy and finance was much sought after and heavily relied on,  
11 profoundly saddens his friends among the membership of the Alaska Legislature;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS in the drafting and presentation of legislation, a process in  
14 which Bob Thomas was so intimately involved on behalf of the Department of  
15 Education during each legislative session, there was no more constructive  
16 team from an executive department that was easier to work with than that led  
17 by Bob Thomas; even in disagreement with a certain policy objective, invar-  
18 iably assistance would be provided in the preparation of a needed bill or  
19 resolution; and, ultimately, as credible negotiators, there was always a  
20 possible compromise -- these sorely needed skills will be much missed in  
21 the absence of Bob Thomas; and

22 WHEREAS, a native of Oregon, he earned his Bachelor's and Master's  
23 degrees in mathematics and general studies at the University of Oregon, and  
24 a second Master's degree in general science at Oregon State University, and  
25 taught math, science and psychology in Lebanon High School, Lebanon, Oregon,  
26 before coming to Alaska to accept a position with the Department of Education;  
27 although he and his beloved wife, Doris, intended to stay but two years,  
28 they have remained 13; and

29 WHEREAS Bob Thomas felt deeply about his community and country, serving

1 them loyally and well as a member of the Assembly of the City and Borough of  
2 Juneau and as an officer in the Alaska National Guard, holding the rank of  
3 Lieutenant Colonel;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that in expressing its  
5 deep sorrow over the passing of a valued advisor and friend, the members of  
6 the legislature note with particular pride the distinguished contribution  
7 Robert L. Thomas has made in the creation, operation and administration of a  
8 sound, forward-looking system of public education in Alaska; the Juneau-  
9 Douglas community is among the most progressive of the cities of Alaska  
10 because of his service to it, and Bob Thomas's loyal devotion to Alaska, to  
11 Juneau, to his profession and to his family will be both long remembered  
12 and not easily replaced.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to his wife, Doris, and to his  
14 children.