

Introduced: 2/11/75
Referred: Rules

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Paying tribute to the memory of

6 Dr. Orin R. Stratton.

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

8 WHEREAS the members of the Alaska Legislature pause to note the death,
9 August 20, 1974, of one of Alaska's most distinguished educational leaders,
10 Dr. Orin R. Stratton, from 1966 - 1973, President of Sheldon Jackson
11 College -- Alaska's oldest institution of higher education; and

12 WHEREAS, a graduate of Whitworth College and Teachers College at
13 Columbia University where he earned a doctorate in education, Orin Stratton
14 completed his seminary training at San Francisco Theological Seminary in
15 San Anselmo, California, held a pastorate at the United Presbyterian Church
16 in Fairview, New Jersey, then spent eight years at Hastings College, Nebraska,
17 where he served first as dean of students and professor of psychology,
18 later as head of the psychology department; and

19 WHEREAS, after Orin Stratton's arrival in Sitka to accept the Presi-
20 dency of Sheldon Jackson College, he focused on the development of the
21 college's program, by expanding its efforts in fisheries, forestry and
22 aviation; the college became a center for development of courses and materials
23 in the Tlingit language and culture; later its law enforcement program was
24 enhanced by the location of Alaska's Trooper Academy there; and

25 WHEREAS under Orin Stratton's leadership a new era began for higher
26 education in Sitka when Sheldon Jackson College and the Sitka Community
27 College were linked in a pioneering higher education consortium: the Univer-
28 sity of Alaska-affiliated college and the private college combined to
29 encourage cross-registration of students and the utilization of SJC's

1 facilities by community college faculties and programs for all Sitkans; and

2 WHEREAS Orin Stratton saw to it that Sheldon Jackson reached out to
3 surrounding villages in Southeastern Alaska with courses for teacher aides;
4 Dr. Stratton, himself, was one of those who flew regularly to Kake, Angoon,
5 Hoonah, Craig and Petersburg to teach; and

6 WHEREAS, during his near seven-year Presidency, enrollment at Sheldon
7 Jackson doubled, close ties with Alaska Methodist University were developed
8 permitting the offering of upper division courses and allowing a summer
9 school to flourish; while maintaining a financial solvency that private
10 schools and colleges elsewhere in the nation well might envy, SJC renovated
11 older buildings and culminated its building program with a new administra-
12 tion building and long-desired library, opened in 1974 and fittingly named
13 the Orin and Betty Stratton Library;

14 BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature in
15 expressing their sympathy and that of the people of Alaska to the Stratton
16 family in the time of their bereavement honor the late Orin R. Stratton
17 for his inspired stewardship as President of Sheldon Jackson College, for
18 rekindling the spirit and strength of private higher education in this state
19 at a time of great trial for private education everywhere; he led SJC through
20 transition from parochial agent to educational independence while maintaining
21 a spiritual covenant with the Presbyterian Church; despite the administrative
22 responsibilities imposed today on a college president, he never lost his
23 zest for his chosen academic discipline, psychology, or for the student
24 contact gained through the classroom experience; these are Orin Stratton's
25 living monuments in Alaska and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mrs. Betty Stratton, to their
27 sons, and to the President of Sheldon Jackson College.
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