

Introduced: 4/22/76
Made a special order of
business.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Paying tribute to the memory of Howard Rock.

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

7 WHEREAS Howard Rock, one of this state's and the nation's most distin-
8 guished Native Americans, has died; and

9 WHEREAS Howard Rock was born in Point Hope, Alaska; was raised in the
10 proud tradition of his Eskimo forefathers, Alaska's great whalers; gained his
11 Western education at schools in White Mountain, Alaska, and the University of
12 Washington; became skilled in displaying his talents in the artform of both
13 his traditional heritage and that of the Caucasian Americans and their
14 European forebearers; began a career as a commercial artist which was inter-
15 rupted by military service in World War II in both North Africa and Italy;
16 returned to Point Hope to paint the scenes of his childhood, vivid paintings
17 depicting traditional Eskimo life and the animals which share the harsh land;
18 and established himself with a respected reputation as an Alaskan artist
19 before his 50th birthday; and

20 WHEREAS, in his later years, at an age when few men would venture a new
21 and different career, Howard Rock thought instead of his people and his land,
22 and turned to the written word; in 1962 he founded the Tundra Times, a news-
23 paper destined to become, under his leadership, the principal media spokesman
24 for the Alaska Native movement, urging and inspiring many of Alaska's diverse
25 peoples to seek a resolution of the claims of Alaska's Native population,
26 which resulted in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by
27 Congress in 1971; and

28 WHEREAS, under Howard Rock's leadership, the Tundra Times has been
29 characterized by fairness and friendship for all segments of Alaska's diverse

1 peoples and cultures; and

2 WHEREAS, Howard Rock, articulating the goals and aspirations of the
3 Alaska Native people far beyond the borders of the Great Land, generated an
4 understanding of its uniqueness and of its peoples and their problems, in
5 a manner easily understood throughout the United States and much of the world;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Howard Rock lead the Tundra Times from the struggles of birth in
8 1962 to a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1975, and earned for himself well-
9 deserved recognition and many honors; and

10 WHEREAS, Howard Rock was also, in his own quiet way, a teacher of the men
11 and women who worked with him, or aided his causes, or engaged him in debate;
12 teaching through his example and concern artists, journalists, community
13 leaders, businessmen and elected officials throughout Alaska, all of whom owe
14 him a lifelong debt of gratitude; and

15 WHEREAS, Howard Rock, a good man as well as a great man, was a close and
16 trusted friend to many Alaskans;

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that in paying tribute to
18 the memory of a man who has met his last newspaper deadline and has laid down
19 his brush and palette for the last time, its members know that no resolution
20 could adequately acknowledge the contributions Howard Rock made to his native
21 state and all its people, but the Legislature acknowledges a great debt and,
22 now, a great void; in mourning his passing, we can think of no more meaningful
23 tribute to Howard than to characterize him as: leader and spokesman; painter
24 of note, journalist by choice and artist as both; a good man and a good friend
25 -- a true Alaskan.

26 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to his sister Helen Seveck of
27 Fairbanks, to his brother Eebrulik Rock of Anchorage, to his nieces Mae Jacob-
28 son of Kotzebue and Mary Dirks of Fairbanks, to his nephew Sam Nash of Point
29 Hope, to his niece Judy Nash of Point Hope, and to the Tundra Times.