

Introduced: 5/12/76  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 149

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Congratulating Lowell Thomas, Sr., for his  
6 contribution to Alaska during 46 years of  
7 news broadcasting.

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

9 WHEREAS Lowell Thomas, Sr., father of this state's Lieutenant Governor  
10 and one of Alaska's greatest friends, recently announced that on Friday,  
11 May 14, he would end his nightly radio newscasts; and

12 WHEREAS, on September 30, 1930, Lowell Thomas, Sr., already famous as an  
13 explorer, foreign correspondent, author and lecturer, made the world's first  
14 network newscast; that 46-year span makes the Thomas news broadcasts the  
15 longest running program in radio history; and

16 WHEREAS, a noted film producer, he launched "Cinerama," the first of the  
17 wide-screen motion picture techniques which revolutionized that industry;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, since an early age and throughout his career, the "pioneer  
20 spirit" of the "Great Land" has held a special fascination for Lowell Thomas:

21 -- he has been visiting the state regularly since 1912 when he traveled  
22 from Skagway to Fairbanks by dog team;

23 -- he made the first trip by automobile over the then new Richardson  
24 Highway between Valdez and Fairbanks;

25 -- during his college years, before World War I, he gave illustrated  
26 lectures on Alaska in the lower 48 states;

27 -- he made a television documentary on Alaska with Peter Freuchen, Bernt  
28 Balchen, and Admiral Donald MacMillan; in 1957, he flew over the North Pole  
29 from Alaska to Greenland;

1 -- in 1958 he made another television documentary on Alaska, just before  
2 its admission as the 49th state;

3 -- in 1964, following the Good Friday Earthquake, he conducted radio  
4 broadcasts to raise funds for the relief of earthquake victims in Alaska;

5 -- he has declared in a recent article that Glacier Bay National Monu-  
6 ment is on his personal list of the "Seven Wonders of the World"; and

7 WHEREAS, in advising listeners of his impending "retirement" from radio  
8 newscasting, Lowell Thomas, Sr., now 84, indicated that his television  
9 series, "Lowell Thomas Remembers," an autobiography, and a forthcoming bio-  
10 graphy of General Jimmy Doolittle would keep him well-occupied until age 90;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature offer  
12 their congratulations to Lowell Thomas, Sr., America's preeminent broadcast  
13 journalist, not only for his contribution to that profession but also, most  
14 importantly, for his service to the Nation and to the State of Alaska; he is  
15 clearly one of Alaska's most enthusiastic exponents, and as such he has won  
16 the admiration and respect of every Alaskan; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that in tribute to his personal and professional  
18 achievements, in recognition of his association with this state for more than  
19 six decades, and in appreciation for his generous assistance to us in time of  
20 need, Lowell Thomas, Sr., is hereby designated an honorary resident of  
21 Alaska; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature wish  
23 Lowell Thomas, Sr., success in his future endeavors which hardly sound like  
24 "retirement"!

25 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to Lowell Thomas, Sr.  
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