

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE INTERIM COM-
MITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Paying tribute to the memory of William A.

6 "Bill" O'Neill.

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

8 WHEREAS all Alaskans who knew or worked with William A. "Bill" O'Neill
9 mourn the passing of this distinguished mining engineer and civic leader; and

10 WHEREAS, born November 5, 1907, in Seattle, he knew the college campus
11 of the University of Alaska, having graduated from the then Alaska Agricul-
12 tural College and School of Mines in 1934, and since became an internation-
13 ally recognized mining consultant and head of his own firm in Anchorage; he
14 died October 20, 1974, in Monrovia, Liberia, where he was serving as a
15 consultant to African Mining Partners; and

16 WHEREAS, during Bill O'Neill's 25-year tenure as a Regent of the Univer-
17 sity, a period of service that spanned the terms of four University presidents,
18 the University of Alaska expanded from a single campus at Fairbanks with a
19 student body of a few hundred to a statewide system with an enrollment of more
20 than 10,000 students studying at eight community colleges and two senior
21 colleges that have brought higher education to the people of Alaska across
22 the state, as well as numerous extension centers and research institutes of
23 national reputation; and

24 WHEREAS the physical expansion of the University of Alaska statewide,
25 the growing eminence of its faculty, their public service and research
26 accomplishments have been due in no small measure to the enthusiasm and
27 leadership exhibited by Bill O'Neill in expanding and strengthening the
28 University's role in higher education in Alaska; in recognition of this
29 achievement, he was honored by his colleagues by election to and service

1 as President of the Board of Regents from 1968 until his retirement from the
2 board in 1973; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to his long service to the state as a Regent of the
4 University, he was Vice-Chairman of the Anchorage Port Commission;

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the members, in
6 extending their deepest sympathy to his family, note the devotion of
7 William A. "Bill" O'Neill as a husband, father, and brother; and pay tribute
8 to his memory by calling attention to his record of exceptional, meritorious
9 public service which represented a dedication seldom equaled in the annals
10 of Alaska civic life.

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to his widow, Mrs. Viola O'Neill
12 to his children, William L. O'Neill of San Diego, Mrs. Richard Wien of
13 Fairbanks, Miss Maureen O'Neill of Anchorage; to his brothers, Patrick O'Neill
14 of New Canaan, Connecticut, Philip O'Neill of Sutton, Michael O'Neill of
15 Wasilla, and Francis O'Neill of San Diego; and to his sisters, Mrs. William
16 Imlach of Anchorage, Mrs. Woody Altister of Seattle, Mrs. Norm Hartung of
17 Palmer, and Mrs. Chester Clark of Ontario, Oregon.