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Of Business

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98 *am H*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Honoring the memory of a distinguished

6 Alaskan, the late B. D. Stewart.

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

8 A distinguished Alaskan, B. D. Stewart, 1878-1976, has died.

9 B. D. Stewart was born in Missoula, Montana in 1878 to a pioneer mission-
10 ary family. He received his mining engineering degree in 1902 from the
11 University of Montana. He subsequently worked with the U. S. Geological
12 Survey and as a mining engineer in the Pacific Northwest. He came to Alaska
13 as a consulting engineer for the Alaska-Juneau Mining Company in Juneau and
14 established his reputation as an engineer for his work on the design and the
15 construction of the main mining tunnel of the A-J mine -- an engineering feat
16 of recognized complexity at that time. Thereafter he worked as a consulting
17 engineer in the territory.

18 In 1919 the post of Territorial Mine Inspector was created and he served
19 in that position from 1919 until 1935. In 1936 the Legislature created the
20 Department of Mines, and he became the first commissioner, continuing his
21 more than 30 years of service promoting mining safety, furthering geological
22 survey work in cooperation with the federal agencies, and establishing the
23 first prospector aid program to bring financial and technical assistance to
24 miners. A recognized leader in the mining industry, B. D. Stewart retired
25 from territorial service in 1949 having served under Governors Riggs, Bone,
26 Parks, Troy and Gruening.

27 In addition to his official positions in the territory he served as
28 superintendent of the Sulzer copper mine on Prince of Wales Island during
29 World War I, worked for the establishment of the Pet 4 Naval Petroleum

1 Reserve, and the development and use of Alaskan coal resources by the mili-
2 tary bases during World War II. B. D. Stewart was an activist in community
3 and territorial affairs.

4 He was an early promoter of the concept of public planning and the
5 creation of a territorial Department of Labor. While mayor of Juneau in 1916
6 the first major school structure was built in the community and he was even
7 then promoting the construction of a Juneau-Douglas bridge. A lifelong
8 enthusiast for libraries, he was in the forefront of the community efforts
9 for public libraries in Juneau and Sitka. B. D. and Mrs. Stewart made their
10 home in Sitka beginning in 1951 and he continued his enthusiasm for public
11 service there during his retirement years. He was elected from Sitka to the
12 1955-56 Alaska Constitutional Convention where his knowledge of natural
13 resource matters was brought into play. In 1966, at the age of 88, he is
14 reported to have acknowledged that he was too old to continue shoveling snow
15 so he retired to a less rigorous clime.

16 B. D. Stewart represented the finest traditions of public service in
17 Alaska along with a pride in his profession and a zest for living. He joined
18 with others in mostly unsung efforts to build the territory and move it
19 towards statehood and the future.

20 The Legislature joins the State of Alaska in honoring the memory of
21 B. D. Stewart, a distinguished Alaskan.

22 The condolences of the Legislature are respectfully extended to
23 Mrs. B. D. Stewart, Sr. and the sons and daughters: B. D. Stewart, Jr. and
24 John E., both of Seattle, Washington; Jeanette of Portland, Oregon; Mary
25 Swithinbank of Cambridge, England; and Judge Thomas B. Stewart of Juneau.
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