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Order 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 Gold Mining Company in Juneau  
14 and established his reputation as an engineer for his work on the design and  
15 the construction of the main tunnel of the A-J mine -- an engineering feat of  
16 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 and as ex-officio Labor Commissioner from 1919 until 1935,  
20 when the Legislature created the Department of Mines. He was the first  
21 commissioner, continuing his more than 30 years of service promoting mining  
22 safety, furthering geological survey work in cooperation with the federal  
23 agencies, and establishing the first prospector aid program to bring financial  
24 and technical assistance to miners. A recognized leader in the mining  
25 industry, B. D. Stewart retired from territorial service in 1949 having  
26 served under Governors Riggs, Bone, 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 1953 and he continued his enthusiasm for public  
11 service there during his retirement years. He was elected from Sitka as a  
12 delegate to the 1955-56 Alaska Constitutional Convention where his knowledge  
13 of natural resource matters was extensively used. In 1966, at the age of  
14 88, he is reported to have acknowledged that he was too old to continue  
15 shoveling snow 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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