

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FULLER

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to Native allotments for

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veterans.

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

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WHEREAS Congress enacted the Native allotment program in 1906; and

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WHEREAS the program lay dormant for many years, with neither the Bureau of Indian Affairs nor the Bureau of Land Management encouraging the Native residents of the State of Alaska to apply for allotments; and

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WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management measurably changed its interpretation of the 1906 Native Allotment Act just before the enactment of the Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971; and

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WHEREAS Native residents of the State of Alaska were then able to apply for an allotment with an assurance that the application would be appropriately processed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

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WHEREAS a number of Native residents of the State of Alaska were serving in Vietnam at that time and were unable to file an application for an allotment before the deadline for applications established in that Act; and

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WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management believes that it has no authority to accept applications from Native residents of the State of Alaska who were serving with the Armed Forces of the United States in Vietnam during the period just before the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971; and

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WHEREAS ordinary principles of equity should permit an individual who was serving with the Armed Forces of the United States to qualify for a program that would have been available to the veteran but for the service

1 in the Armed Forces;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of
3 the United States is encouraged to enact legislation that would permit a
4 Vietnam veteran who was absent from the State of Alaska during the period
5 before the enactment of the settlement Act to file an application for a
6 Native allotment under the 1906 Native Allotment Act.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
8 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
9 Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representa-
10 tives; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior; to the
11 Honorable Kenneth L. Smith, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian
12 Affairs; Robert F. Burford, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and
13 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
14 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
15 delegation in Congress.