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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RAY BY REQUEST

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to April 30th as a day to

6

remember the village of Katyn, U.S.S.R.

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

8 WHEREAS over 4,000 Polish officers and cadets were methodically mur-  
9 dered by what is now the Soviet KGB in the spring of 1940 at a Soviet  
10 forest village called Katyn, and many more others similarly disappeared,  
11 apparently only because of their spiritual resistance to Soviet indoc-  
12 trination; and

13 WHEREAS Katyn has become for modern Poles a sacred memory and the  
14 symbol of their oppression by the Soviet government and its satellite  
15 regime in Poland; and

16 WHEREAS the Polish government recently erected a Katyn memorial in  
17 Warsaw falsely blaming the Germans for this Soviet atrocity which the  
18 Soviet government has neither admitted nor regretted; and

19 WHEREAS the Soviet government's memorial at the site of a Belorussian  
20 village called "Khatyn" presented as the example of the hundreds of Soviet  
21 villages similarly massacred by Nazi Germans, serves to confuse and obscure  
22 the true memory of Katyn, and to thereby demoralize and demonstrate to  
23 modern Poles how easily anyone opposing the Soviet system can be murdered  
24 and forgotten; and

25 WHEREAS this cover-up attempt uses and perpetuates the Soviet atrocity  
26 at Katyn; and

27 WHEREAS in 1982, Scandinavian peace marchers had the moral courage and  
28 integrity to boycott the Soviet "Khatyn" memorial as a gesture of the  
29 external support for the Polish people without which any resistance to

1 Soviet-Bloc totalitarianism is doomed; and

2 WHEREAS various distinguished visitors to the Soviet Union, such as  
3 President Richard Nixon in 1974, and the National Council of Churches  
4 delegation in 1984, have gone to the Soviet "Khatyn" memorial with no  
5 mention being made by them or by their Soviet hosts of the Polish officers  
6 and cadets murdered at Katyn; and

7 WHEREAS Alaska's congressional delegation seems reluctant to say or do  
8 anything about this without some general expression of support for their  
9 doing so;

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that we do remember the  
11 Soviet massacre of Polish officers and cadets at Katyn and its significance  
12 for all of us; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that we do remember Reverend Popielusczko, other  
14 martyred Poles, and the attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that we declare our own solidarity with the Polish  
16 people and with their resistance to Soviet-Bloc totalitarianism; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests the  
18 Governor to declare every April 30th to be "Remember Katyn Day" until the  
19 Soviet government erects an honest memorial to the Polish officers and  
20 cadets at Katyn; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests Alaska's  
22 congressional delegation to initiate and actively support a similar United  
23 States congressional resolution to "Remember Katyn."

24 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Polish People's  
25 Republic Ambassador, Washington, D.C.; the Soviet Ambassador, Washington,  
26 D.C.; the Honorable George Schultz, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable  
27 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators; the Honorable  
28 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-  
29 gress; the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Washington, D.C.; the Polish

- 1 Cultural Society of Indiana; and to the Committee in Support of Solidarity
- 2 in New York City.