

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DONLEY AND KOPONEN

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40 am S

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Designating a year of friendship with
6 Finland.

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

8 WHEREAS the first Finnish settlers arrived in North America in 1638
9 and, with other Nordic settlers, established the colony of New Sweden in
10 what is now the State of Delaware; and

11 WHEREAS many of the settlers of New Sweden were either natives of
12 Finland or natives of Sweden who spoke Finnish; and

13 WHEREAS approximately 700,000 Americans of Finnish descent are now
14 living in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS the contributions of Americans of Finnish descent to American
16 history, culture, and technology have been continuous and substantial; and

17 WHEREAS the Finnish community in Alaska has contributed to our histo-
18 ry; and

19 WHEREAS the Chief Manager of Alaska from 1840 - 1845, Arvid Adolf
20 Etolin and his wife, made significant social changes to Alaska by estab-
21 lishing a forty-bed hospital, a public library, the first Lutheran Church
22 on the Pacific Coast and the first boarding school for Native girls; and

23 WHEREAS other prominent Finns were Captain John Hampus Furuhjelm,
24 Alaska's 13th Chief Manager, William Alex Stolt, who served as Mayor of
25 Anchorage during World War II, and the last Acting Governor of the Terri-
26 tory of Alaska, Waino Hendrickson and Jalmar Kerttula, as well as many
27 other distinguished members of the Alaska Legislature; and

28 WHEREAS The Alaska-Finland Trade and Information Council was formed in
29 1984 to promote trade, commerce, and the exchange of information between

1 Alaska and Finland; and

2 WHEREAS the 99th Congress of the United States adopted Public Law 99-
3 602 which designated 1988 as the National Year of Friendship with Finland;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates 1988 as
5 the "Year of Friendship with Finland" in the state and calls upon the
6 people of the state to recognize the importance of the Finnish people to
7 the State of Alaska with appropriate ceremonies and activities.