

BY SEN. BINKLEY, Kelly

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the State Geographic Board to

6

consider renaming Hog Island in the

7

Aleutians as Arkansas Island.

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

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WHEREAS the Aleutian Islands were the site of a largely forgotten
10 campaign in World War II and were considered of great strategic value to
11 both the United States and Japanese forces as occupation by either one
12 would threaten the mother country of the other; and

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WHEREAS the 206th Coast Artillery of the Arkansas National Guard was
14 deployed to the Aleutian Islands in 1941 where they carried equipment up
15 rough terrain, strung communications wire, built outposts, bunkers, and
16 dugouts and where, as one soldier so aptly put it, they "dug and dug and
17 dug," often fighting the Willawaw winds, the cold, the fog, and the chill;
18 and

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WHEREAS it was the young men of the 206th, some of whom had never
20 before been away from their homes in Arkansas, who were at Dutch Harbor
21 when the Japanese launched their raid in 1942; and

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WHEREAS the attack on Dutch Harbor has been recorded in history as
23 just an "incident" and yet it powerfully influenced the course of the war
24 by diverting Japanese forces from a planned rendezvous at Midway Island, a
25 diversion that lost for the Japanese not only the battle at Midway but also
26 the balance of power and perhaps even the war; and

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WHEREAS within days of the raid on Dutch Harbor, the Japanese occupied
28 Attu and Kiska Islands at the western end of the Aleutian chain where they
29 remained until driven out in 1943; and

1 WHEREAS Hog Island in Dutch Harbor was occupied by Battery B of the
2 206th Coast Artillery in mid-summer 1942 to improve the firing ring of the
3 entire anti-aircraft defenses and the occupation continued through the
4 period of hostilities in the Aleutians and into mid-1944; and

5 WHEREAS Hog Island derives its name from the fact that the early
6 Russian settlers kept hogs on it; and

7 WHEREAS at least three of the young men from Arkansas lost their lives
8 at Hog Island; and

9 WHEREAS the State of Arkansas passed SCR 6 in 1989 asking that the
10 State of Alaska, in recognition of the accomplishments of those who left
11 Arkansas as boys and returned as men with the 206th, rename Hog Island
12 "Arkansas Island";

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska State
14 Geographic Board explore the possibility of renaming Hog Island as
15 "Arkansas Island" and proceed with the renaming if possible.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton,
17 Governor of Arkansas; to the President of the Arkansas Senate and the
18 Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives; and to the Alaska State
19 Geographic Board.