

BY SEN. BINKLEY, Kelly

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR 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 the beach on Hog  
7 Island in the Aleutians as Arkansas  
8 Beach.

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS within days of the raid on Dutch Harbor, the Japanese occupied  
29 Attu and Kiska Islands at the western end of the Aleutian chain where they

1 remained until driven out in 1943; and

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

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

8       WHEREAS the Arkansas State Legislature adopted SCR 6 in 1989 asking  
9 the State of Alaska to recognize the accomplishments of those who left  
10 Arkansas as boys and returned as men with the 206th;

11       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska State  
12 Geographic Board explore the renaming of the beach on Hog Island as  
13 "Arkansas Beach" and proceed with the renaming.

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