

1 IN THE SENATE
2
3 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
5 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
6
7 Relating to a celebration of the 250th
8 anniversary of the Russian discovery of
9 Alaska.
10
11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
12
13 WHEREAS the year 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of the European
14 discovery of Alaska by an expedition commanded by Vitus Bering; and
15
16 WHEREAS the first documented landing of a European on Alaska soil took
17 place at Kayak Island in the Gulf of Alaska, 65 miles southeast of Cordova;
18 and
19
20 WHEREAS the first European to set foot on Alaska soil was the natural-
21 ist, Georg Wilhelm Steller; and
22
23 WHEREAS this event, undertaken through sponsorship by the Russian
24 government, marks the beginning of Alaska's recorded history; and
25
26 WHEREAS the State of Alaska recognizes its Russian heritage and the
27 long history of discovery, exploration, and development of the Alaska
28 territory that it shares with the Soviet Union; and
29
30 WHEREAS the Bering Expedition Landing Site is on the National Register
31 of Historic Places and is classified as a National Historic Landmark; and
32
33 WHEREAS the State of Alaska wishes to foster warm relations with its
34 Soviet neighbors and promote cooperative exchanges in the areas of trade
35 and tourism; and
36
37 WHEREAS the goodwill and cultural and historical exchanges that may
38 take place in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Russian landing in
39 Alaska will help build strong Alaskan-Soviet ties;
40
41 BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is encouraged to develop a bilateral

1 celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Russian discovery of Alaska
2 with Governor Kobets of Magadan, Soviet Union; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the celebration will take place in 1991 to
4 commemorate the first Russian landing in Alaska at Kayak Island.

5 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Vyacheslav I.
6 Kobets, Governor of Magadan Territory, Soviet Union; and to the Honorable
7 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
8 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
9 in Congress.