

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32 am

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to a celebration of the 250th

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anniversary of the Russian discovery of

7

Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the year 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of the European  
10 discovery of Alaska by an expedition commanded by Vitus Bering; and

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WHEREAS the first documented landing of a European on Alaska soil took  
12 place at Kayak Island in the Gulf of Alaska, 65 miles southeast of Cordova;  
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WHEREAS the first European to set foot on Alaska soil was the natural-  
15 ist, Georg Wilhelm Steller; and

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WHEREAS this event, undertaken through sponsorship by the Russian  
17 government, marks the beginning of Alaska's recorded history; and

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WHEREAS the Bering Expedition Landing Site is on the National Register  
19 of Historic Places and is classified as a National Historic Landmark; and

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska recognizes the often mutually beneficial  
21 interchanges between the Russian colonists and the already existing Alaska  
22 Native population that led to the enrichment of both cultures; and

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska recognizes its Russian heritage and wishes  
24 to generate further warm relations among Alaska residents, Alaska's  
25 indigenous peoples, and its Soviet neighbors and promote cooperative ex-  
26 changes in the areas of trade, tourism, and traditional culture; and

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WHEREAS the goodwill and cultural and historical exchanges that may  
28 take place in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Russian landing in  
29 Alaska will help build strong Alaskan-Soviet ties;

1        BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is encouraged to develop a bilateral  
2 celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Russian discovery of Alaska  
3 with Governor Kobets of Magadan, Soviet Union; and be it

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

6        COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Nikolai  
7 Ivanoich Kashtikan, First Secretary, Chukotka District Communist Party,  
8 Soviet Union; Honorable Vyacheslav I. Kobets, Governor of Magadan Territo-  
9 ry, Soviet Union; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
10 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
11 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.