

Original sponsor: Senate Special Committee on
International Trade and Tourism

1 IN THE SENATE
2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32 (Foreign Trade)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to a celebration of the 250th
6 anniversary of the Russian discovery of
7 Alaska.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS the year 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of the European
10 discovery of Alaska by an expedition commanded by Vitus Bering; and
11 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;
13 and
14 WHEREAS the first documented European to set foot on Alaska soil was
15 the naturalist, Georg Wilhelm Steller; and
16 WHEREAS this event, undertaken through sponsorship by the Russian
17 government, stands as one of the earliest episodes in Alaska's recorded
18 history; and
19 WHEREAS the Bering Expedition Landing Site is on the National Register
20 of Historic Places and is classified as a National Historic Landmark; and
21 WHEREAS the State of Alaska recognizes its Russian heritage and wishes
22 to build on the foundation of understanding brought about by the recent
23 interchanges between Alaska residents, Alaska's indigenous peoples, and its
24 Soviet neighbors and to promote cooperative exchanges in the areas of
25 trade, tourism, and traditional culture; and
26 WHEREAS the goodwill and cultural and historical exchanges that may
27 take place in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Russian landing in
28 Alaska will help build strong Alaska-Soviet ties;
29 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 Nikolai
6 Ivanoich Kashtikan, First Secretary, Chukotka District Communist Party,
7 Soviet Union; Honorable Vyacheslav I. Kobets, Governor of Magadan Territo-
8 ry, Soviet Union; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
9 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.