

BY SEN. KERTTULA, Kelly

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the issuance of a United

6

States commemorative postage stamp to

7

mark the 250th anniversary of Vitus

8

Bering's voyage of discovery and the

9

opening of Alaska to European contact.

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

11 WHEREAS 1991 marks the 250th anniversary of explorer Vitus Bering's  
12 discovery of Alaska and the opening of the state to European contact; and

13 WHEREAS during 1990 and 1991 two important museums in the Pacific  
14 Northwest, the Washington State Historical Society Museum and the Anchorage  
15 Museum of History and Art, will jointly stage the premier exhibit of the  
16 record of Russian activity in North America, covering the Bering Strait to  
17 California; and

18 WHEREAS the exhibit, entitled "Russian America: The Forgotten  
19 Frontier," will open during the summer of 1990 in Tacoma, Washington, as  
20 one of the features of the Soviet-American Goodwill Games that will be  
21 staged in Seattle; and

22 WHEREAS in the fall the exhibit will travel to Anchorage where it will  
23 be displayed through March 1991 as part of the Anchorage Museum of History  
24 and Art's observance of Vitus Bering's voyage of discovery; and

25 WHEREAS the Anchorage Philatelic Society has chosen "The Age of Dis-  
26 covery and Exploration: Alaska's Russian Heritage" as the theme for its  
27 39th Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) to be held in February 1991 in  
28 conjunction with the annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, and the exhibition  
29 will focus attention on the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's important

1 voyage; and

2 WHEREAS there has not been a philatelic observance of Vitus Bering's  
3 contribution to the opening and development of Alaska since Denmark's  
4 issuance of three commemorative postage stamps in 1941 to mark the 200th  
5 anniversary of Bering's voyage into North Pacific waters for the Russian  
6 czar and Bering's subsequent death; and

7 WHEREAS during the last decade there have been numerous postage stamp  
8 tributes to the contributions to the United States of emigrants from  
9 Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, and Ireland, but there has not  
10 been a joint American-Danish or American-Russian commemorative stamp issued  
11 to commemorate the contributions of Danish or Russian emigrants to the  
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS the last postage stamp that was issued jointly by the United  
14 States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was the Apollo-Soyuz  
15 commemorative stamp issued July 17, 1975, to mark the joint effort of the  
16 two nations in the exploration of space; and

17 WHEREAS it would be appropriate for a United States commemorative  
18 postage stamp to be issued jointly with Denmark and the Union of Soviet  
19 Socialist Republics to observe the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's  
20 notable voyage of discovery in 1741 and to recognize the unique contribu-  
21 tion of Danish and Russian emigrants to the development of the United  
22 States;

23 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
24 the United States Postal Service to issue a United States commemorative  
25 postage stamp in 1991 to mark the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's  
26 discovery of Alaska and the opening of Alaska to European contact; and be  
27 it

28 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
29 quests that a United States commemorative postage stamp be issued jointly

1 and simultaneously with commemorative postage stamps issued by Denmark and  
2 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and be it

3       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
4 quests that, if the commemorative postage stamp is issued, the United  
5 States Postal Service hold the first-day-of-issue ceremonies for the stamp  
6 at Kodiak, Alaska, near the site of the first Russian settlement in Alaska  
7 at Old Harbor.

8       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Anthony M.  
9 Frank, Postmaster General of the U.S. Postal Service; the United States  
10 Citizens Postage Stamp Advisory Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
11 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
12 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.