

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 4/10/92

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the State Geographic Board to consider naming the beach on Hog Island in
2 the Aleutians as Arkansas Beach.

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

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

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

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

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

1 **WHEREAS** within days of the raid on Dutch Harbor, the Japanese occupied Attu and Kiska
2 Islands at the western end of the Aleutian chain where they remained until driven out in 1943; and

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

6 **WHEREAS** three young men from Arkansas lost their lives at Hog Island; and

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

10 **WHEREAS** the naming of the beach on Hog Island located from 53 degrees 53' 53" North, 166
11 degrees 34' 16" West to 53 degrees 53' 12" North, 166 degrees 34' 21" West as "Arkansas Beach" has
12 received the support of the Unalaska City Council, through the passage of the City of Unalaska
13 Resolution 92-28;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska State Geographic Board
15 explore the naming of the beach on Hog Island as "Arkansas Beach" and proceed with the naming.

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