

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MOYER, Foster, Boyer, Koponen, Sharp, Zawacki

Introduced: 4/2/91

Referred: House Special Committee on International Trade and Tourism, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the 50th anniversary of the Alaska/Siberia lend-lease program.

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

3 WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union cooperated to airlift supplies and aircraft as
4 part of the Allied war effort during World War II in a program known as the lend-lease program that
5 resulted in the delivery of nearly 8,000 United States combat and transport aircraft to Soviet Union pilots
6 in eastern Siberia; and

7 WHEREAS Alaska played a key role in the lend-lease program effort because President
8 Roosevelt selected Ladd Field, now known as Fort Wainwright, in Fairbanks as the point for transferring
9 the aircraft to Soviet Union flight crews; and

10 WHEREAS the 7th Ferry Group of the Air Transport Command of Great Falls, Montana,
11 organized and operated an aircraft ferry route that connected Great Falls, Edmonton, Fort St. John,
12 Watson Lake, Whitehorse, and Fairbanks; and

13 WHEREAS the lend-lease program was literally a lifesaver for thousands of Soviet Union
14 citizens, and the program helped cement the longstanding relationship between the residents of Alaska
15 and their neighbors to the West; and

16 WHEREAS, in June 1990, 27 Soviet Union World War II lend-lease program pilots and 21 other
17 Soviet Union dignitaries visited Alaska to promote goodwill between the people of Alaska and the Soviet

1 Union; and

2 **WHEREAS** a delegation of United States lend-lease program pilots plans to visit the Soviet
3 Union in July 1991 to plan for the program's 50th anniversary, which is scheduled for June 1992 in
4 Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the anniversary celebration will be organized by the Alaska/Siberia Lend-Lease
6 Reunion, which is a nonprofit veterans' corporation organized under Alaska law to promote world peace
7 through better relations between the East and the West and to encourage travel between the United States
8 and the Soviet Union; and

9 **WHEREAS** the 1992 anniversary celebration promises to be of great historical significance for
10 both the United States and the Soviet Union and a time of celebration for residents of Alaska, with
11 functions scheduled in Nome, Fairbanks, and Anchorage that are likely to attract visitors to Alaska;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the volunteers and sponsors
13 who made the 1990 visit possible, as well as those volunteers and sponsors involved in the 1991 trip to
14 the Soviet Union and in the 1992 anniversary celebration, and encourages businesses, private citizens,
15 and civic groups in Alaska to support the 50th anniversary celebration of the Alaska/Soviet Union lend-
16 lease program.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Alaska/Siberia Lend-Lease Reunion and to the
18 United States and Soviet Union sponsors of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Alaska/Siberia lend-
19 lease program.